

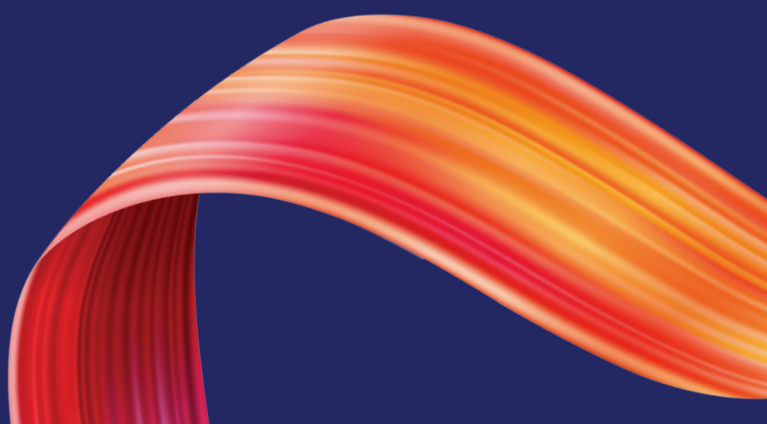


Book 2

Standing Committee Report

The Nineteenth Session of General Synod

The Anglican Church of Australia
The Nineteenth Session of General Synod
9-14 August 2026 Melbourne





The Anglican Church of Australia

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nineteenth Session of General Synod

BOOK 2

9 – 14 August 2026

Published by:

The Standing Committee of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod Office

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD

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INTRODUCTION

This book contains a report on the membership and key activities of the General Synod Standing Committee since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod in 2022.

It provides information on the work undertaken by the Standing Committee to implement the resolutions of the Eighteenth Session of General Synod and a summary of its business between May 2022 and May 2026.

Reports are provided on the activities of General Synod bodies including the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation and the General Synod Tribunals.

The Standing Committee reports on the status of General Synod legislation and its obligations to report to General Synod arising from provisions of the Financial Protection Canon, the National Register Canon and the Safe Ministry to Children Canon.

Appendices include a list of the members of the Nineteenth Session of General Synod and the program for the Nineteenth Session of General Synod as approved by the Standing Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD AND ITS COMMITTEES

Membership at the commencement of the Nineteenth Session of General Synod

STANDING COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SYNOD

Chair [ex officio]

The Rt Rev'd Dr Mark Short (Canberra and Goulburn)

The Metropolitans [ex officio]

The Most Rev'd Dr Bradly Billings (South Australia)

The Most Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO (Western Australia)

The Most Rev'd Jeremy Greaves (Queensland)

The Most Rev'd Kanishka Raffel (New South Wales)

The Most Rev'd Dr Richard (Ric) Thorpe (Victoria)

Chair of Committees [ex officio]

Dr Ian Gibson (Melbourne)

Clerical Secretary [ex officio]

The Rt Rev'd David Bassett (Perth)

Lay Secretary [ex officio]

Ms Sarah Crutch (Bendigo)

The General Secretary [ex officio]

Mrs Juliet Wenden

House of Bishops

The Rt Rev'd Peter Grice (Rockhampton)

The Rt Rev'd Peter Stuart (Newcastle)

The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill (Ballarat)

House of Clergy

The Rt Rev'd Dr Paul Barker (Melbourne)
The Rev'd Kate Beer (Melbourne)
The Ven Stephen Carnaby (Tasmania)
The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman (Newcastle)
The Rev'd Dr Andrew Ford (Sydney)
The Rev'd Lynda Johnson (Brisbane)
The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen (Gippsland)
The Rev'd Natalie Rosner (Melbourne)
The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead (Sydney)

House of Laity

Dr Timothy Arnold-Moore (Melbourne)
Mrs Carine Collins (Perth)
Ms Seak-King Huang (Melbourne)
Mrs Fiona McLean (Melbourne)
Justice Michael Meek (Sydney)
Justice Debra Mullins AO (Brisbane)
Dr Karin Sowada (Sydney)
Dr Robert Tong AM (Sydney)
One Lay Position vacant

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council

The Rt Rev'd Chris McLeod
Dr Rose Elu

General Synod Treasurer [in attendance]

Ms Gillian Harrex (Melbourne)

Changes in membership since the last Synod

in accordance with section 3 of Rule II – Standing Committee

Metropolitans

- Archbishop Phillip Aspinall SC (Brisbane) retired in February 2023. Bishop Gregory Anderson (Northern Territory) was acting Metropolitan of Queensland between the Archbishop's retirement and the consecration and installation of Archbishop Jeremy Greaves (Brisbane) in December 2023.
- Archbishop Philip Freier (Melbourne) retired in February 2025. Bishop Garry Weatherill (Ballarat) was acting Metropolitan of Victoria between the Archbishop's retirement and the consecration and installation of Archbishop Richard (Ric) Thorpe (Melbourne) in November 2025.
- Archbishop Geoffrey Smith (South Australia) retired in October 2025. Bishop Jeremy James (Willochra) was acting Metropolitan of South Australia between the Archbishop's retirement and the consecration and installation of Archbishop Bradly Billings (South Australia) in March 2026.

House of Bishops

- The Rt Rev'd Peter Grice (Rockhampton) was elected to the House of Clergy in October 2025 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Rt Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph (North Queensland) in June 2025.

House of Laity

- The vacancy in the House of Laity was not filled by the Standing Committee following the resignation of Dr Khim Harris in late February 2026.

Ex Officio

- The Rt Rev'd David Bassett was elected as Clerical Secretary at the Special Session of Synod held on 26 July 2025 to fill the vacancy left by the Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer.
- Ms Sarah Crutch was elected as Lay Secretary at the Special Session of Synod held on 26 July 2025 to fill the vacancy left by Mr Tim Reid.
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Mark Short was elected Primate in July 2025 and assumed the role of Chair on 1 November 2025 following the retirement of The Most Rev'd Geoffrey Smith.
- Mrs Juliet Wenden commenced as General Secretary in February 2026 to replace Ms Anne Hywood who retired in February 2026.

Appointment of Officers

- Ms Gillian Harrex was appointed as Honorary Treasurer in June 2025 following the resignation of Mr Keith Stephens in February 2025.

COMMITTEES OF STANDING COMMITTEE**Executive Committee**

The Most Rev'd Geoffrey Smith to October 2025 (The Primate ex officio)
The Rt Rev'd Dr Mark Short from November 2025 (The Primate ex officio)
The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill
The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman
The Rev'd Lynda Johnson
The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead
Mrs Carine Collins
Dr Ian Gibson
Mr Keith Stephens to February 2025 (Treasurer ex officio)
Ms Gillian Harrex from June 2025 (Treasurer ex officio)
Ms Anne Hywood to February 2026 (General Secretary ex officio)
Mrs Juliet Wenden from February 2026 (General Secretary ex officio)

Audit Committee

Mr David Sneesby (Chair)
Mr Michael Blaxland
The Rev'd Kirsty Brown
Mr Douglas Marr
Mr Colin Johnston
Dr Robert Tong AM

Mr William (Doug) McCluskey resigned as chair in June 2022
Mr Michael Codling resigned as chair in April 2024

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee has no current members.

Mr Andrew Stanley resigned as chair in November 2022
Mr Grant Reubenicht resigned as chair in November 2025
Ms Susan Foley resigned as a member in November 2025
Mr Andrew Frankling resigned as a member in March 2026

Remuneration Committee

The Rt Rev'd Dr Mark Short (The Primate)
Ms Gillian Harrex (Treasurer)

The Most Rev'd Geoffrey Smith (Former Primate) retired in October 2025
Mr Keith Stephens resigned as Treasurer in February 2025

Nomination and Appointments Committee

Dr Karin Sowada (Chair)
The Rt Rev'd Dr Paul Barker (from April 2025)
The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen

The Most Rev'd Dr Philip Freier retired February 2025

Legal Assistance Committee

The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman
The Rev'd Natalie Rosner
Mrs Carine Collins
Ms Seak-King Huang
The Ven Stephen Carnaby (from November 2025)

Mr Timothy Reid came off this committee in July 2026 when he ceased serving as Lay Secretary at the Special Session of Synod

ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**Between the 18th and 19th Sessions of the General Synod**

MEMBER CATEGORY	MEMBER	MEETINGS	
		Active Member	Attended ⁱ
Primate	The Most Rev'd Geoff Smith ⁱⁱ	7	7
	The Rt Rev Dr Mark Short ⁱⁱⁱ	2	2
Metropolitans	The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall AC ^{iv}	1	0
	The Rt Rev'd Dr Greg Anderson ^v	3	2
	The Most Rev'd Jeremy Greaves ^{vi}	5	4
	The Most Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO	9	5
	The Most Rev'd Dr Philip Freier ^{vii}	6	3
	The Most Rev'd Dr Richard (Ric) Thorpe ^{viii}	1	1
	The Rt Rev'd Jeremy James ^{ix}	1	1
	The Most Rev'd Dr Bradly Billings ^x	1	1
	The Most Rev'd Kanishka Raffell	9	8
Chair of Committees	Dr Ian Gibson	9	9
Clerical Secretary	The Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer ^{xi}	7	5
	The Rt Rev'd David Bassett ^{xii}	2	1
Lay Secretary	Mr Tim Reid ^{xiii}	7	7
	Ms Sarah Crutch ^{xiv}	2	2
House of Bishops	The Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Stuart	9	9
	The Rt Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph ^{xv}	7	5
	The Rt Rev'd Peter Grice ^{xvi}	2	2
	The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill ^{xvii}	9	6
House of Clergy	The Rt Rev'd Dr Paul Barker	9	9
	The Rev'd Kate Beer	9	8
	The Ven Stephen Carnaby	9	9
	The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman	9	8
	The Rev'd Dr Andrew Ford	9	9
	The Rev'd Lynda Johnson	9	9
	The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen	9	9
	The Rev'd Natalie Rosner	9	7
	The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead	9	9
House of Laity	Dr Timothy Arnold-Moore	9	9
	Mrs Carine Collins	9	8
	Dr Khim Harris ^{xviii}	8	6
	Ms Seak-King Huang	9	7
	Mrs Fiona McLean	9	9
	Justice Michael Meek	9	6
	Justice Debra Mullins AO	9	8
	Dr Karin Sowada	9	8
	Dr Robert Tong AM	9	7

Non Diocesan (NATSIAC)	The Rt Rev'd Christopher McLeod	9	8
Non Diocesan (NATSIAC)	Dr Rose Elu	9	5
General Secretary	Ms Anne Hywood ^{xi}	8	8
General Secretary	Mrs Juliet Wenden ^{xx}	1	1
IN ATTENDANCE:			
Hon Treasurer	Mr Keith Stephens ^{xxi}	6	5
Hon Treasurer	Ms Gillian Harrex ^{xxii}	2	1
Primate's Assistant	The Ven David Bassett ^{xxiii}	4	4
Primate's Assistant	The Ven Sam Goodes ^{xxiv}	3	3
Primate's Assistant	The Ven Dr Guerin Tueno ^{xxv}	2	1

ⁱ The total number of meetings recorded as attended includes meetings where a member may have apologised for half of the meeting and attended one day out of two.

ⁱⁱ Concluded term as Primate and retired as Metropolitan of South Australia in October 2025

ⁱⁱⁱ Commenced term as Primate in November 2025

^{iv} Metropolitan of Qld retired in February 2023

^v Metropolitan of Qld in 2023 (Senior Provincial Bishop)

^{vi} Metropolitan of Qld installed Dec 2023

^{vii} Metropolitan of Vic retired in February 2025

^{viii} Metropolitan of Vic installed November 2025

^{ix} Metropolitan of SA from Nov 2025 to March 2026 (Senior Provincial Bishop)

^x Metropolitan of SA installed March 2026

^{xi} Concluded term as Clerical Secretary at the Special Session of Synod held on 26 July 2025

^{xii} Elected Clerical Secretary at the Special Session of Synod held on 26 July 2025

^{xiii} Concluded term as Lay Secretary at the Special Session of Synod held on 26 July 2025

^{xiv} Elected Lay Secretary at the Special Session of Synod held on 26 July 2025

^{xv} Resigned as an elected member of the House of Bishops in June 2025

^{xvi} Elected to fill vacancy as member of the House of Bishops in October 2025

^{xvii} Also Metropolitan of Vic in 2025 (Senior Provincial Bishop)

^{xviii} Resigned as an elected member of the House of Lay in February 2026

^{xix} Retired as General Secretary in February 2026

^{xx} Commenced as General Secretary in February 2026

^{xxi} Resigned as Treasurer in February 2025

^{xxii} Appointed Treasurer in June 2025

^{xxiii} Concluded in role of Primate's Assistant in Dec 2023

^{xxiv} Commenced in role as Primate's Assistant in Jan 2024 and concluded in role of Primate's Assistant in October 2025

^{xxv} Commenced in role as Primate's Assistant in November 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD (2022)

Introduction

This report provides a list of the substantive resolutions of the Eighteenth Session of General Synod and action taken to implement them. Resolutions relating to the administration of the session, or rescinded by other resolutions, are excluded.

*Resolutions marked with an asterisk were directed, either in whole or in part, to the attention of the dioceses by circular letter dated 21 June 2022.

The resolutions are grouped by subject matter. The subjects are arranged in alphabetical order:

1. Appellate Tribunal
2. Appreciation
3. Defence Force Ministry
4. Doctrine
5. Ecumenical Relations
6. Families and Culture
7. Finance
8. First Nations Issues
9. Liturgy
10. Marriage, Human Sexuality and same-sex relationships
11. Mission and Ministry
12. Public Affairs
13. Safe Ministry
14. Standing Committee

Within each group, the resolutions are arranged in the order in which they were passed.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
APPELLATE TRIBUNAL		
R105/18	The Appellate Tribunal At the invitation of the Bishop-in-Council of the Diocese of Ballarat, the General Synod - Commends the integrity, hard work and considerable investment of time and energy by members of the Appellate Tribunal, and also the House of Bishops and the Board of Assessors, in dealing with liturgical innovations arising from the change to The Marriage Act 1961 as amended in 2017 concerning civil marriages. - Affirms our unity with Anglicans across Australia which is based on Christ's call and not our righteousness. We look for doctrinal uniformity on the basis expressed in the Holy Scriptures, the Nicene and Apostles Creeds and in the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles. Friday 13 May 2022	Correspondence sent on 7 July 2022 to: - The President and Deputy President of the Appellate Tribunal - The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall AC - The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill - The Hon Justice Clyde Croft AM; and - Mrs Gillian Davidson. Justice Debra Mullins AO apt
APPRECIATION		
R44/18 *	Broughton Publishing - Anglican Church of Australia Directory Mr Philip Gerber moving, The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey seconding Synod commends the board and management of Broughton Publishing and editor Colin Reilly on the production of the Anglican Church of Australia Directory in both print and online editions, and encourages dioceses, parishes and members of the clergy to fully support this project by offering every assistance in keeping information up to date. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to Broughton Publishing on 6 July 2022.
R53/18	Vote of Thanks – Mr Garth Blake AM SC The Most Rev'd Geoffrey Smith moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding That this Synod thanks Garth Blake for his work and leadership in safety and protection of children and vulnerable people, with the goal of creating a safe Church. Garth has also made a significant contribution with his legal knowledge and assistance as a member of Standing Committee and to this Synod over many years. Garth was the first chair of the Child Protection Unit, until the formation of the Professional Standards Commission in 2004, now constituted as the Safe Ministry Commission.	Correspondence sent to Garth Blake on 6 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	In these roles he has led the significant work in the national church in the development of legislation, understanding of the national and state requirements, and the ensuring that as a church we have recognised the need for our church to respond to past and present abuse and do all we can to protect it. Garth has also led this work in the Anglican Communion. Notably his leadership enabled us to respond positively to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and that work continues. That this Synod give thanks to God for Garth's work and service to the General Synod and the Anglican Church of Australia. Monday 9 May 2022	
R71/18	Anglican Super Mr Allan Thomson moving, Mr Malcolm Purvis seconding General Synod congratulates Anglican Super on its 60th anniversary and thanks it for reflecting our Anglican understanding in its ethical investment practices, notably against gambling, slavery and human trafficking. Wednesday 11 May 2022	Correspondence sent to Anglican Super on 6 July 2022.
R72/18	Anglican Schools Australia The Rt Rev'd Jeremy Greaves moving, the Most Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO seconding, That this Synod gives thanks for the ministry of Anglican Schools Australia as a vibrant Network of General Synod; and affirms the place of Anglican Schools in the life of our Church as agencies of education and mission. Wednesday 11 May 2022	Correspondence sent to Anglican Schools Australia on 6 July 2022.
R100/18	Dr Barry Newman BSc The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding That this Synod notes that this will most likely be the last General Synod that Dr Barry Newman BSc (Hons 1) BA (Hons 1) MSc PhD will be a representative for the Diocese of Sydney. This Synod gives great thanks for Barry's acute knowledge of the Scriptures, his great love for the atoning work of Christ, its centrality in his life, and his incredible enthusiasm for evangelistic ministry. In particular we give thanks that God's amazing grace in saving him has led to his overriding concern to share the good news of the gospel. We also give thanks for Barry's passionate approach to the business of the General Synod, particularly in pursuing	Correspondence sent to Dr Barry Newman on 6 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	faithfulness in mission, the sacraments and theological thinking. We also note his remarkable capacity to speak without notes in a structured and informative manner without becoming loquacious or verbose. Finally this Synod wishes God's every blessing on Barry, and his wife Laurie, for the future. Friday 13 May 2022	
R101/18	The Hon Peter Young AO QC Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding This Synod notes that at GS17 in 2017 the Synod resolved: "That this Synod notes that this will most likely be the last General Synod that The Hon. Peter Young AO QC will be a representative for the Diocese of Sydney. This Synod gives great thanks for Peter's encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and a deep commitment to Christ and his Church, the Anglican Church of Australia. This has been exemplified by his continuous membership of this Synod from the Sixth General Synod in 1985 to the Seventeenth General Synod in 2017, and his other national Church involvements. This Synod particularly notes his insightful time on the General Synod Standing Committee, his detailed work as the Chairman of Committees of General Synod, his perceptive work on the Church Law Commission, his Chairmanship of the National Church Constitution Commission, and of course his sacrificial service firstly as a member and then as the President of the Appellate Tribunal." This Synod: • now notes that GS18 will be the last General Synod that The Hon. Peter Young AO QC will attend as a representative for the Diocese of Sydney; • definitively reiterates the contents of the motion it passed in 2017 about Peter; • notes with sadness the recent passing of Peter's wife Pam and extends its condolences to him; and • wishes God's every blessing on Peter for the future. Friday 13 May 2022	Correspondence sent to The Hon Peter Young AO QC on 6 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R111/18	General Synod Arrangements Justice Debra Mullins OA moving, Rt Rev'd Cameron Venables seconding, The General Synod gratefully thanks – The President, Archbishop Geoff Smith, The Chair of Committees and the Deputy Chairs of Committees, for their careful carriage of the business of the General Synod; The Clerical Secretary and the Lay Secretary; The President's Chaplain; The Diocese of Brisbane for their generous assistance with local arrangements; The members of the Minutes Reading Committee; The members of the Election and Qualifications Committee; The Liturgy Committee, worship leaders and chaplains; Our Bible Reflection leaders; The Media Team; Those who have supported this General Synod through travel arrangements, event management, The RACV Resort; The General Secretary, Ms Anne Hywood, and the General Synod Office team for their work which has provided for such a smooth and successful meeting; The Primate's Executive Assistant; and all members of the General Synod. Friday 13 May 2022	
DEFENCE FORCE MINISTRY		
R95/18	Defence Chaplaincy Mr Alan Gallimore moving, The Rev'd Catherine Wynn Jones seconding The General Synod • thanks God for the wonderful ministry of Anglican Defence Chaplains undertaken in the increasingly difficult climate of growing secularism and pluralism • thanks God for the privileged position and blessed opportunity to still have Christian chaplains living among and ministering to our Defence Force personnel • notes the significant reduction in support for the Bishop provided by Australian Government Department of	Correspondence sent to Bishop Grant Dibden, Chair of the Defence Force Board on 6 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	Defence and encourages each diocese to financially support Defence Chaplaincy by collecting a congregational donation each year on Defence Sunday (the Sunday before Remembrance Day) • affirms the importance of Anglican Defence Chaplaincy as a critical element of the Church's ministry, notes the benefits to the Church of partnering with Defence Chaplaincy in gospel ministry, notes the strategic importance of having high calibre younger women and men serve as chaplains, and therefore encourages each diocese to work with the Bishop to the Defence Force in recruiting them. Thursday 12 May 2022	
R74/18 *	Rates of Suicide of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Veterans Bishop Keith Dalby moving, Bishop Keith Joseph seconding General Synod notes with concern the rates of suicide for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Veterans and accordingly commends the work of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the Interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention, and observes that these highlight the effectiveness of ADF Chaplains in suicide prevention for current serving members and families and affirms the work of ADF Chaplains particularly in the areas of suicide prevention, moral injury and spiritual wounds. General Synod also notes with appreciation the recent Federal Budget funding for a new chaplaincy support program for veterans but also views with concern the shortage of Anglican ministers available to be Australian Defence Force chaplains and veterans chaplains. In turn it is noted that this impacts adversely on the growing demand for programs to help veterans suffering moral injury and spiritual wounds which are the result of military service in peace or conflict. This Synod expresses its heartfelt thanks to the women and men of our Defence Force and their immediate and extended families for their commitment to the service of our country. We further recognise that this service often comes with deep personal, physical emotional and psychological costs that are not always visible to those around them but never the less are real and impactful on their lives and the lives of those around them. As a Synod we express our sorrow for this impact on their lives but would like to express our thanks for their service, and assurance of our prayers and support for them both at this time, and into the future.	Correspondence sent on 6 July 2022 to: • the Primate; and • Bishop Grant Dibden, Chair of the Defence Force Board. The Primate appointed an additional non-stipended Archdeacon, The Venerable Andrew Nixon, under the Bishop to the Defence Force as the point of contact between the ADF, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Church.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	Therefore General Synod calls on all diocese to commit to making churches and welfare agencies more accessible and relevant to veterans and families, and to raise up chaplains for this work; and requests the Primate to affirm and facilitate this work by appointing an additional non-stipended archdeacon under the Bishop to the Defence Force as the point of contact between the ADF, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Church. Wednesday 11 May 2022	
DOCTRINE		
R58/18	Doctrine Commission The Rev'd James Harricks moving, the Ven Kara Hartley seconding We thank the Doctrine Commission for their report on the gospel and its consequences and commend it to the General Synod as we continue to reflect on the glorious gospel of grace that indeed 'impacts the whole of life personally, corporately, and socially. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Chair of the Doctrine Commission on 21 June 2022.
ECUMENICAL RELATIONS		
R45A/18 *	Anglican Lutheran Dialogue - Perspectives on Mission The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall AC moving, The Right Rev'd John Stead seconding The General Synod (i) commends the Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue Group for <i>Perspectives on Mission</i>; (ii) notes the Doctrine Commission's advice that <i>Perspectives on Mission</i> conforms to the doctrine of this Church and that it is suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, that is as a third appendix to <i>Common Ground</i>; and adopts it for that purpose; (iii) encourages members of the Anglican Church of Australia to study <i>Common Ground</i> and <i>Perspectives on Mission</i> and to foster closer cooperation and relations with the Lutheran Church of Australia. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Chair of the Ecumenical Commission on 21 June 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
FAMILIES AND CULTURE		
R63/18 *	National Anglican Family Violence Project The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, the Very Rev'd Sandy Grant seconding The General Synod receives the reports of the National Anglican Family Violence Project commissioned by the Anglican Church of Australia Standing Committee: I. National Anglican Family Violence Research Report: for the Anglican Church of Australia II. NAFVP Prevalence Study Report, III. NAFVP Clergy and Lay Leaders Study Report, and IV. NAFVP Experience Study Report, and a) notes the 28 findings of the Research Project b) laments the violence which has been suffered by some of our members and repents of the part we have played in allowing an environment where violence went unaddressed c) requests dioceses to respond to the findings of the National Family Violence Project and to introduce and develop primary prevention strategies and pastoral responses relating to family violence. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Convenor of the Family Violence Working Group on 5 July 2022.
R64/18 *	Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia Dr Karin Sowada moving, the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen seconding The General Synod a) notes the development of the Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia as a best practice guide for the Anglican Church of Australia to prevent and respond to violence. b) notes the endorsement of the Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia by the Standing Committee c) thanks those dioceses who have adopted the Ten Commitments in their recent diocesan Synods d) encourages remaining dioceses to adopt the Ten Commitments at their coming synods. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Convenor of the Family Violence Working Group on 5 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R65/18	Families and Culture Commission Dr Karin Sowada moving, the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen seconding The General Synod, noting the results of the National Anglican Family Violence Research Project, the scope of prevention work outlined in the Ten Commitments made by the Church and the long-term nature of culture change - ratifies the new Families and Culture Commission established by the General Synod Standing Committee - confirms the functions of the Families and Culture Commission to be - to examine questions that relate to family violence affecting members of the Church, the drivers of violence and the well-being of families and women referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and to the Standing Committee, and - to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters relating to family violence affecting members of the Church, violence prevention and the well-being of families and women. - confirms that any resolutions at this Synod which referred tasks to the Family Violence Working Group will now be referred to the Families and Culture Commission. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Convenor of the Family Violence Working Group on 5 July 2022. The Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.
FINANCE		
R66/18	General Synod Finances - Reports Mr Keith Stephens moving, The Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead seconding, That the Treasurer's report on the financial position of the General Synod at 31 December 2021 be received. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the General Synod Finance and Operations Manager on 6 July 2022.
R67/18	That the audited financial statements of the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2021, as adopted by Standing Committee, be received. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the General Synod Finance and Operations Manager on 6 July 2022.
R68/18	That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2022, as approved by Standing Committee, be received. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the General Synod Finance and Operations Manager on 6 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R69/18	Resourcing the Families and Culture The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding The General Synod, noting the results of the National Anglican Family Violence Research Project, the scope of prevention work outlined in the Ten Commitments made by the Church and the long-term nature of culture change, supports the allocation of General Synod resources to meet the objectives of the Family and Culture Commission, and - requests the Treasurer to recast the General Synod budget to allocate \$52,000 to the Family and Culture Commission in the 2022 General Synod Statutory Assessment budget and \$186,000 in the 2023 budget and 2024-25 forecasts; and - requests Standing Committee to apply this funding to staffing and resourcing the Anglican Church of Australia's prevention and response to family violence affecting its members; and - requests Standing Committee to investigate opportunities for philanthropic and community funding to support the objectives of the Family and Culture Commission. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: - The Convenor of the Family Violence Working Group on 6 July 2022; and - The General Synod Finance and Operations Manager on 6 July 2022. The Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.
R92/18	General Synod Finances - Recommendations Mr Keith Stephens moving, the Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead seconding 16.3.4 That the General Synod budgets for the years ending 31 December 2022 and 2023, be varied to incorporate the Option Two proposal to fund the Family and Culture Commission by using unallocated surpluses in the Statutory Account from 2020 in 2021 and 2022 in 2023 and be approved. 16.3.5 That Synod receives the General Synod forecast budget for years ended 31 December 2024 and 2025 now incorporating the additional costs of the Family and Culture Commission as approved by Motion 16.7 and encourages Standing Committee and the Family and Culture Commission to pursue philanthropic and community funding in order to reduce Statutory Assessment in these years if possible, noting that the intention is that from 2024 the funding will be provided through statutory assessments if this is not possible. Thursday 12 May 2022	General Synod Finance and Operations Manager on 6 July 2022. The Families and Culture Commissions Report in found in Book 4.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
FIRST NATIONS ISSUES		
R83/18	Family Violence and First Nations Communities The Right Rev'd Chris McLeod moving, Dr Rose Elu seconding The General Synod, noting the new Federal Government draft national plan to end violence against women and children that prioritises two five-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plans, requests the Families and Culture Commission to continue to monitor this development, to work with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC), the Church's First Nations leaders and relevant diocesan teams to assist them to develop family violence prevention resources appropriate for their context and to report back to the next General Synod. Wednesday 11 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: - The Convenor of the Family Violence Working Group on 5 July 2022; and - NATSIAC on 6 July 2022. The Families and Culture Commissions Report in found in Book 4.
R98/18	National Aboriginal Bishop and the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph moving, The Right Rev'd Chris McLeod seconding That this General Synod requests the Standing Committee to consider provision for a full stipend and travel allowance for the National Aboriginal Bishop and the National Torres Strait Islander Bishop and to bring a proposal to the next General Synod for implementation. Friday 13 May 2022	Correspondence sent to NATSIAC on 6 July 2022. Legislation and funding proposals being brought to GS19 are reported in Book X Finance Report and Book X Bills
LITURGY		
R45/18	Australian Anglicans Worship The Ven Dane Courtney moving, The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith AM seconding Synod expresses its thanks to the Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock and Broughton Publishing for providing the important resource Australian Anglicans Worship, which offers a commentary on A Prayer Book for Australia and related liturgical material together with suggestions about how it may be creatively used and commends this publication to all who plan and lead services in our churches. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent on 26 June 2022 to: - Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock; and - Chair, Broughton Publishing.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
MARRIAGE, HUMAN SEXUALITY AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS		
R81/18	Definition of Unchastity The Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead moving, Ms Seak-King Huang seconding Pursuant to the authority recognised in s.4 and s.26 of the Constitution, to “make statements as to the... discipline of this Church”, and in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule V, the General Synod states that it continues to hold the historic view that unchastity means sexual intimacy outside a marriage relationship, defined in the <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> as the union of one man and one woman, in accordance with Jesus’ teaching about marriage in Matt 19:4-5. Wednesday 11 May 2022	
R82/18	Safe Churches The Right Rev'd Peter Lin moving, The Rev'd Kate Beer seconding General Synod— 1. Deplores and condemns any behaviour that is disrespectful, hurtful, intentionally insensitive, bullying or abusive, and recognises and rejoices in the image of God as reflected in every human being, regardless of race, social circumstances, creed or sexual identity, and apologises to and seeks forgiveness from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) persons whom we have treated in this way. 2. Commits itself to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, so that our churches and ministries are welcoming, safe and respectful of all people. Wednesday 11 May 2022	
R97/18	Affirming Singleness The Rev'd Dr Danielle Treweek moving, The Rev'd Dr Rhys Bezzant seconding General Synod— 1. Notes that <i>Faithfulness in Service</i> was adopted by the General Synod in 2004 “as the national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and lay church workers” (Resolution 33/04). 2. Notes that in <i>Faithfulness in Service</i> clergy and church workers are called to take “responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining chastity in singleness	

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	and faithfulness in marriage” (FIS 7.2). Affirms that singleness is, like marriage, an honourable state for God’s people, in which the fullness of God’s blessings may be enjoyed. Singleness is highly commended in Scripture (1 Cor 7:8, 32-38; Matt 19:10-12). Thursday 12 May 2022	
R108/18	Exemptions Clauses for Religious Bodies The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead Moving, The Rev'd Natalie Rosner seconding General Synod— 1. Notes that Australia’s obligations under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to uphold freedom of religion is, in part, acquitted by means of legislative exemption clauses for religious bodies. 2. Notes that these exemption clauses only apply where “an act or practice [conforms] to the doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings of that religion” or words to that effect. 3. Notes the 2020 Majority Opinions of the Appellate Tribunal (Wangaratta and Newcastle references) distinguish between “doctrine” in the technical sense in which that word is used in our Constitution (where it is limited to those matters that which are required of necessity to be believed for salvation) and “doctrine” in the broader sense in which it is used in the Church. 4. Recognises that, for the avoidance of doubt, it is expedient to affirm that past statements of the General Synod about the church’s “doctrine” of marriage use the word in this broader sense, and therefore that these statements continue to describe the “doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings” of our church. 5. Continues to affirm that marriage according to the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church of Australia is the voluntary union of one man and one woman arising from mutual promises of lifelong faithfulness. The doctrines, tenets, beliefs and teachings of our Church are expressed in the authorised liturgies of our church and there is currently no liturgy for the solemnisation of a same-sex marriage. Friday 13 May 2022	

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
MISSION AND MINISTRY		
R42/18	Mission to Seafarers The Right Rev'd John Stead moving, The Right Rev'd Gary Nelson seconding That General Synod - receives the report of the Mission to Seafarers - recognises and seeks to include the celebration of Sea Sunday annually as a way to support the ministry of the Mission to Seafarers and highlight the plight of Seafarers - calls on the Federal and State Governments to take seriously its responsibility under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and fully fund shore-based Seafarer welfare centers - respectfully requests the Primate to convey the above terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister and Federal Transport Minister and Shadow counterparts. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent on 5 July 2022 to: - The Mission to Seafarers - Prime Minister - Transport Ministers – Federal and State - Shadow Transport Minister – Federal and State.
R49/18 *	Ministry Wellbeing and Development: Policy Guidelines and Resources The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, The Right Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts seconding The General Synod notes: - Royal Commission recommendations 16.4, 16.44 and 16.45 for national mandatory standards for professional development, professional/pastoral supervision and performance appraisals; and - the endorsement of the <i>Ministry Wellbeing and Development: Policy, Guidelines and Resources</i> document by the Standing Committee and encourages dioceses to fully implement the policy and guidelines to enhance the wellbeing and professional development of clergy and some paid church workers. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: - Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022; and - Chair, Mission and Ministry Commission on 21 June 2022.

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R61/18	Great Commission The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant moving, The Right Rev'd Rick Lewers seconding General Synod submits to the universal authority in heaven and earth given by God to the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we recommit to the 'Great Commission' he has given to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded us. Synod also recalls that the first and key mark of the Anglican Consultative Council's Five Marks of Mission is "To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom", and that the second Mark is to "To teach, baptise and nurture new believers". Therefore, Synod laments the lack of attention we have given in the ordering of our business towards encouraging evangelism and disciple-making. However, Synod commends Anglican organisations such as ABM (the Anglican Board of Mission), the Defence Force Board with its Anglican Chaplains, the Mission to Seafarers, BCA (the Bush Church Aid Society) and NATSIAC (the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council) for how central or important "preaching" or "proclaiming" the gospel of Christ is to their stated missions. We also affirm the observation made (Book 4, p 4-175) by the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force (DFATF), in the context of addressing the serious lack of financial sustainability of many dioceses and so encouraging the possibility of combining of 'back office' functions, that "... with a growing church, many of the financial concerns that DFATF and others have been attempting to address would be ameliorated or disappear. Hence the strategic priority of the Church should be on most effectively sharing the gospel and nurturing the faithful with a view to increasing Church membership." We urge the Standing Committee and its Commissions to keep obedience to the first and primary mark of mission firmly in view, even when the particular matters in front of them are not directly related to gospel proclamation. Lastly, Synod acknowledges that the primary carriage of obedience to Christ's Great Commission lies not with Commissions, Agencies or Synods but with local churches. So as members of the same, we rededicate ourselves in personal faith and obedience to the Lord Jesus for the varied parts we can play in evangelism and disciple-making. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: • All General Synod Commissions on 21 June 2022; and • The ABM, Defence Force Board, Mission to Seafarers, Bush Church Aid and NATSIAC on 6 July 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R80/18 *	Viability of Regional Dioceses The Right Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph moving, The Right Rev'd Dr Greg Anderson seconding This General Synod Recognising the financial stress and administrative strain placed on regional and rural dioceses due to the legacy of historic sexual abuse claims, the rising cost of insuring property and ministry operations, and the increased workload from centrally-mandated ministry programs: requests that the Standing Committee, with the support of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force determine how the Metropolitan Dioceses could take on greater responsibility for supporting ministry in all the dioceses of their respective Provinces including but not limited to policies, processes, administration, registries, insurance, safe ministry training and audit, redress and continued presence in regional and rural ministries. Wednesday 11 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Convenor, Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force on 23 June 2022. Bills before GS19 found in Book X Bill address this resolution. See also Appendix 1, Section 4 of this book.
R109/18	30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women The Right Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph moving, Justice Debra Mullins AO seconding That Synod notes that: this year marks the 30th anniversary of the ordination of the first women priests in the Anglican Church of Australia and that by the end of 1992 92 women had been ordained priests Australia wide – '92 in 92'; Currently, according to the Anglican Church Directory 2020/21 there are 3831 clergy of whom 888 (23%) are women. Of this number there are 7 bishops, 397 active priests, 171 active deacons, 66 whose position is not specified and 247 who are retired; and acknowledges the important contribution ordained women have made and continue to make to worship, ministry and leadership in the Anglican church. and notes further that this year will be a time for observance of this anniversary across the nation; and that 2 of the original 92 in 92: the Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, the Archbishop of Perth and the Right Reverend Kate Prowd, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne are members of this Synod. Friday 13 May 2022	

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
PUBLIC AFFAIRS		
R54/18	Jobseeker The Rev'd Prof Peter Sandeman moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding The General Synod – 1. Notes that: - More than a million people across Australia live on government payments that do not cover the cost of housing, food, transport and healthcare. - The next generation is paying the price of poverty. Over one million children live in households reliant on JobSeeker. Living on JobSeeker is the biggest contributing factor behind growing up in poverty. - The Government has previously briefly raised the rate of JobSeeker above the poverty line, lifting hundreds of thousands of people out of poverty. It has the power to do this again. 2. Calls for: - An immediate raise to the rate of JobSeeker above the poverty line. - An independent Social Security Commission with the power to set government payments, to make sure payments never again fall below the poverty line. - Redesign of the Jobactive System to encourage more effective participation in job search and training, and also to recognise better the legitimate contributions made by those receiving JobSeeker benefits who engage in formal volunteering or providing unpaid care. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: - Chair, Public Affairs Commission on 21 June 2022; - Minister for Social Services on 5 July 2022; and - Shadow Minister for Social Services on 5 July 2022.
R55/18 *	Climate Change – Call to the Church Leave was granted by Synod to move the motion in an amended form. The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, The Ven Tiffany Sparks seconding That this Synod, A. Noting: Resolution A17:05 of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) 2017, in which the ACC recognised that there is a Climate Emergency and called on member churches to respond in ways that are 'a living testament to our faith';	Correspondence sent to Chair, Public Affairs Commission on 21 June 2022.

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	2. Resolution A17:06 of the ACC 2017, in which the ACC called upon member churches to work towards building climate resilience; 3. That the 2020 meeting of the General Synod of The Church of England (C of E) called on 'all parts of the C of E ... , to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target'. 4. With concern, the lack of progress in the Anglican Church of Australia in reporting on the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 and reporting on the calculation of emissions as requested in R62/17. B. Recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and a fundamental injustice, which ultimately stems from rebellion against our Creator and his commands to humans regarding stewardship of his world. C. Trusts Jesus Christ as ultimate reconciler of all things in creation, through his blood shed on the cross and looks with hope to his promise of a renewed creation. D. Encourages consideration of the actions involving worship, mission, advocacy, and community participation commended to the Church in ACC 2017 Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06. E. Encourages the Diocese and Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia to work towards net zero carbon emissions by 2040, and to consider faster reductions where possible. F. Urges the Dioceses and Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia to: 1. Strengthen their efforts to report on the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007; 2. Submit their best estimates of carbon emissions on an annual basis to The Standing Committee to enable us as a Province to track our progress toward net zero carbon emissions; and 3. Embrace the actions commended to the Church through ACC 2017 Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06, considered the most appropriate to their contexts. Monday 9 May 2022	

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R59/18	Aged Care and Disability Care The Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Stuart moving; the Very Rev'd Katherine Bowyer seconding This General Synod in response to the findings of the Aged Care Royal Commission and in response to community concerns about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and in response to issues being raised in the Disability Royal Commission calls on the incoming Commonwealth Government to develop and communicate a strategic roadmap for improvement to Aged Care and Disability Care which implements the findings of the Aged Care and Disability Royal Commissions, enables providers of Aged Care and Disability Care to have long-term confidence about sufficient funding for the provision of services, and assures people receiving support of the integrity of these systems. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: • Chair, Public Affairs Commission on 21 June 2022; • Minister for Health and Aged Care on 5 July 2022; and • Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care on 5 July 2022
R60/18	Federal Gambling Reform The Rev'd Dr Michael Bird moving, The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant seconding The General Synod notes that the Bible says "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God" (Proverbs 14.31). Therefore it joins the Alliance for Gambling Reform in calling on the next federal Parliament: - to ban all sports gambling advertising on TV, radio and online, (or at least before 10.00pm at night); - to complete legislative changes to ban the use of credit cards for gambling, including online, directly or through third party payment systems like digital wallets; - to expand the national consumer protection framework to regulate casinos and online gambling at a national level, for example by creating a national casino regulator and an online gambling ombudsman; - to ban donations from any gambling license holder, including Board or committee members of gambling license holders, or their peak bodies to political parties and candidates. The General Synod requests the General Secretary to communicate the terms of the resolution to the national Leaders of all political parties represented in the federal Parliament before the imminent federal election, and to ensure that all members and senators of the newly convened Parliament are advised of the terms of this resolutions as soon as possible after the election is declared. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent to all Members and Senators of Federal Parliament on 5 July 2022. Correspondence sent to the Prime Minister regarding gambling advertising in September 2024.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R62/18	State and Territory Gambling Reform The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant moving, the Rev'd Dr Michael Bird seconding The General Synod notes that Australia has the world's worst rate of gambling losses per capita, with poker machines causing the significant majority of those losses, being home to less than half a percent of the world's population but with 20 percent of its pokies. The General Synod also notes that the Bible reminds rulers to "Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:9). Therefore, in light of the enormous losses on poker machines, General Synod urges all State and Territory parliaments, to consider urgently: - implementation of \$1 bet limits on all poker machines (recommended by Productivity Commission); - implementation of a cashless gaming smart card system (commended by the Bergin Inquiry); - more extensive compulsory shut down periods for all poker machines, for example between midnight and 10am, and; - as an immediate initial step, mandating that all future electronic gaming device technology (including the gaming devices themselves and any gambling card technology) be capable of implementing such measures. The General Synod requests the General Secretary to communicate the terms of this resolution to the Premiers and Opposition Leaders of each State and Territory Parliament. Tuesday 10 May 2022	Correspondence sent on 5 July to: • all State and Territory Premiers and Opposition Leaders; and • the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.
R78/18	Climate Change – Call on Australian Governments The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey seconding Noting: A. Australia's endorsement of the 2015 UN Paris Climate Change Agreement (COP21) and in particular the global framework to avoid dangerous climate change caused by emissions of greenhouse gases by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. B. Australia's pledge to the 2021 UN Glasgow Conference (COP26) to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, and the endorsement of this pledge by both the Coalition government at the time of the Conference and the Australian Labor Party then in Opposition.	Correspondence sent on 5 July 2022 to the Minister and Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

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	C. That all Australian sub-national governments have also endorsed the goal of net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier. D. That all levels of Australian government apart from WA and NT have committed to interim reductions by 2030. E. That urgent action to keep the 1.5C goal alive was called for at COP26 with 190 countries pledging to rapidly phase down their use of coal – a pledge that was not adopted by Australia. F. That while Australian greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity generation sector are declining, in all other sectors including transport, agriculture and resource extraction emissions continue to increase consistent with a 3C warming scenario if other countries followed similar policies and emissions trajectories. G. That climate change is the most pressing security issue for the Pacific Island countries, communities and peoples, and the latest IPCC report confirms the urgency for global, national and local climate actions; and H. The Pacific Island countries are among the least responsible for global warming and biodiversity loss, and are amongst the world's most vulnerable, facing the severest consequences that will continue to worsen in years to come. The impacts of disasters such as cyclones and contaminated groundwater due to flood risk and sea level rise inundation, are already taking a toll on the Blue Pacific, coral reefs, and fish stocks and in the households of families who lack the means to move to safer ground. This Synod: 1. understands the theological value of the natural world as a divine blessing intended by God to flourish and to be shared in harmony by human communities, and recognises that this blessing has been spoiled and abused by human greed and carelessness; 2. recognises God's sovereign and good superintendence of his creation and acknowledges human responsibility for our stewardship of it; 3. trusts Jesus Christ as the ultimate reconciler of all things in creation, through his blood shed on the cross and looks with hope to his promised renewed creation; 4. nevertheless, laments the suffering already being endured across the world by communities facing drought, water insufficiency, loss of arable lands, destructive fire events, cyclones, floods and rising sea levels, and the increasing challenges caused by	

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	rising global temperatures, air pollution and loss of biodiversity which will be borne disproportionately by the poorest of the world's poor; 5. calls on the Australian Government, the community and all people of faith, to support Pacific and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in their call for urgent reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases by (i) accepting that climate change is a pressing human security challenge; (ii) recognising the long-term activism of both Pacific national and Christian leaders on addressing climate change globally; (iii) requesting the largest emitters and contributors, including Australia, act immediately to meet the Paris global warming target; and (iv) providing financial support to assist affected Pacific and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to adapt and protect their lands, islands, lives and futures. (v) encouraging Australian research into, and generous foreign aid for, mitigation, adaptability and resilience measures, especially in developing nations, because many of the impacts resulting from the changing climate are locked in for centuries (as the IPCC notes). Wednesday 11 May 2022	
R88A/18	Religious Discrimination and Religious Freedom The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead moving, Dr Renae Barker seconding General Synod 1. Expresses its disappointment that there is still no federal legislation prohibiting religious discrimination, and that it continues to be lawful to discriminate against people on the basis of their religious belief or activity in some States in Australia. 2. Calls on the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to commit to their commitment to religious freedom as set out in international law including Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. 3. Reaffirms General Synod Resolution 110/2010, and thereby calls on the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to take all practical steps necessary to ensure that the following six freedoms are protected in Australia within the constraints of the	Correspondence sent to: • Public Affairs Commission on 21 June 2022; and • Federal, State and Territory Attorneys-General on 22 August 2022.

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	civil and criminal law generally applicable and consistent with Australia's obligations under international law: - freedom to manifest a religion through religious observance and practice; - freedom to appoint people of faith to organisations run by faith communities; - freedom to teach and uphold moral standards within faith communities; - freedom of conscience to differentiate between right and wrong; - freedom to teach and propagate religion; and - freedom of a person to change their religion. 4. Affirms that no Anglican school seeks, or intends to seek, the right to expel students or otherwise disadvantage members of their school communities on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, laments the harm caused both among our school communities and the wider community by the propagation of the suggestion to the contrary and confirms the ongoing commitment of Anglican Schools to the inclusion, pastoral care and support of all members of their school communities. 5. And therefore, calls upon the government formed after the next federal election to give priority to the passage of a national legislation prohibiting religious discrimination, and to do this in such a way that does not harm other people, including LGBTQI+ members of their school communities, or to polarise the wider community on these issues. 6. Requests the General Secretary to communicate this resolution to Federal, State and Territory Attorneys-General. Thursday 12 May 2022	
R99/18	Coal-fired Power Stations Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Dr David Phillips seconding This General Synod: - notes that currently Australia has 24 coal-fired power stations but is not planning to design, construct or commission any new ones; - expresses great concern and its abject dismay that: - The Philippines currently has 19 coal-fired power stations and is building 60 more, a total of 79; - South Korea currently has 58 coal-fired power stations and is building 26 more, a total of 84;	Correspondence was sent on 6 July 2022 to the European Union and the Government leaders of Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, Turkey, India and China. Correspondence was sent to Japan on 24 August 2022.

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	• South Africa currently has 79 coal-fired power stations and is building 24 more, a total of 103; • Japan currently has 90 coal-fired power stations and is building 45 more, a total of 135; • Turkey currently has 56 coal-fired power stations and is building 93 more, a total of 149; • the European Union currently has 468 coal-fired power stations and is building 27 more, making a total of 495; • India currently has 589 coal-fired power stations and is building 446 more, a total of 1,035; and • China currently has 2,363 plants and is building 1,171 more, a total of 3,534; c) calls upon each of the aforementioned countries or unions to immediately cease and desist the design, construction or commissioning any new coal-fired power stations; and d) requests the Standing Committee to consider how best to communicate in the strongest possible terms the above call to immediately cease and desist the design, construction or commissioning any new coal-fired power stations to the President (or equivalent) of each of the aforementioned countries or unions Friday 13 May 2022	
R103/18	Ukraine The Rev'd Patrick Cole moving, Acting Justice Richard Refshauge seconding That General Synod - deplores the clear and flagrant breach of international law by the Russian government invading Ukraine and also the crimes against humanity and war crimes that have been and are being allegedly committed there; - condemns the actions of President Vladimir Putin of Russia in initiating and continuing the war against the democratically elected government of Ukraine and the slaughter and dispossession of the people of Ukraine; - expresses its support and prayers for the people of Ukraine and the extraordinary suffering that they are experiencing in so many ways and assures them of the love and sympathy of this Church for them in their plight; - calls upon our Christian brothers and sisters of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian Protestant	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Public Affairs Commission on 21 June 2022.

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	Churches to use their voices and influence to oppose the continued deaths, destruction, displacement and dispossession of the people, the homes and the country of their neighbour, Ukraine and their fellow Christians; and e. commends those priests and laity of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian Protestant Churches who have called upon their Church leadership and the Russian state leadership to condemn and desist from this invasion and war. Friday 13 May 2022	
R104/18	Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility The Right Rev'd Chris McLeod moving, The Rev'd Professor Peter Sandeman seconding The General Synod a) supports raising the age of Criminal Responsibility from 10 to 14 years; b) asks the President to write conveying the resolution and support for it to the Federal Attorney-General and the Meeting of Attorneys-General. Friday 13 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Federal, State and Territory Attorneys-General on 5 July 2022.
R107/18	Euthanasia Karin Sowada moving, Denise Cooper-Clarke seconding General Synod 1. Reaffirms its principled opposition to euthanasia or physician assisted suicide as a. a threat to the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable in our society; b. it overturns the ethics of medicine and healthcare; c. it undermines the need to provide adequate and appropriate palliative care to all Australians, irrespective of who they are or where they reside; d. it is opposed by all faiths that share the belief that life is sacred; and e. it undervalues the positive contribution vulnerable or terminally ill people may make in the lives of others. 2. Strongly opposes all existing or proposed legislation that imposes on faith-based organisations opposing euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, a legal obligation to facilitate, support or permit euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, as an assault on religious freedom. 3. Commends Victoria and Western Australia for recognising institutional conscientious objection	Correspondence sent to the Premier of NSW and Leader of the Opposition of NSW on 5 July 2022.

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	grounds, and permitting faith-based organisations to choose to neither facilitate nor support nor permit euthanasia or physician assisted suicide. 4. Calls on the NSW Parliament to oppose the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 and if that is not possible, to amend Part 5, Division 2 of the Bill, to permit faith-based organisations who oppose euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, to refuse, on the grounds of institutional conscientious objection, to participate in, facilitate or permit euthanasia or assisted suicide in or at their premises or facilities or services in any way. Friday 13 May 2022	
SAFE MINISTRY		
R43/18 *	Directors of Professional Standards Mr Lachlan Bryant moving, Justice Debra Mullins AO seconding This General Synod: - Affirm the importance of all Dioceses in the national church having robust child protection and professional standards systems in place for the safety and wellbeing of church members. - Encourage all Dioceses to have or appoint a Director of Professional Standards who is able to fully participate in the Network of Directors of Professional Standards and to be properly resourced to undertake their role, including the provision of skilled professional supervision. - Encourage all Dioceses to do their utmost to prioritise the support and resourcing of the office of their Professional Standards Director commensurate to the importance of their work in child protection and professional standards. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022.
R46/18	Safe Ministry - Child Safety Regulatory Environment Ms Audrey Mills moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding The General Synod, in the light of developing child safety regulatory requirements of States and Territories, requests the Standing Committee to establish a group to: - review the compliance, audit and reporting obligations of dioceses under the <i>Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017</i> in light of the child safety regulatory requirements imposed on those dioceses by the laws of State and Territories applicable to them; - provide recommendations as to whether, and if so how,	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022. The Child Safety Regulatory Review Working Group was convened and met twice in 2023. The work stalled when the GSO's policy and project officer resigned in 2023. The

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	the requirements of the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 might be changed for dioceses now subject to a regime imposed by a State or Territory with requirements covering the same subject matter; c. provide recommendations as to whether, and if so how, to exempt from compliance with the obligations in the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 to dioceses subject to equivalent statutory requirements imposed by a State or Territory; d. report to the Standing Committee at least twelve months prior to the Nineteenth Session of General Synod; e. present for the approval of the Standing Committee instructions for any legislation to be drafted by the Church Law Commission for consideration at the Nineteenth Session of General Synod. The group will consist of the follow persons appointed by the Standing Committee in consultation with the Safe Ministry Commission: i. a chair; ii. two representing dioceses in jurisdictions where there are statutory regulatory frameworks relating to child safe standards; iii. one from another Christian denomination with experience in undertaking child safety audit processes; iv. one from the wider community with experience in child safety audit processes and who is not currently providing services as an employee or contractor to the Anglican Church of Australia or its dioceses; v. four members of the Safe Ministry Commission. Monday 9 May 2022	vacancy was not filled as the Standing Committee removed approval for the position of project officer in the GSO staffing structure in 2024. As such the Working Group has been unable to make progress.
R47/18	Safe Ministry Priorities Ms Audrey Mills moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding The General Synod requests the Safe Ministry Commission: a) to measure and review the Church's progress towards being a child safe institution in light of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and report to the Standing Committee; b) continue to report to the Standing Committee on the Church's progress towards responding to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022. The Safe Ministry Commission's Report is found in Book 4.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
	to any further actions to be taken; c) in consultation with diocesan safe ministry authorities to develop a clear, accessible and child-focused complaint handling policy which addresses the guidelines provided in the National Office for Child Safety Complaint Handling Guide, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee; d) to report to the 19th General Synod as to the progress of the Church in the development and implementation of safe ministry policies and structures; e) to review <i>Faithfulness in Service</i>: - in consultation with the Family & Domestic Violence Working Group to examine whether amendments should be made to respond to family and domestic violence; and - to examine whether amendments should be made to safeguard adults at risk - in the light of the statutory regulatory frameworks relating to child safe standards and report to the Standing Committee with any proposed amendments. Monday 9 May 2022	
R48/18 *	Persons of Concern Video The Right Rev'd Dr Greg Anderson moving, The Right Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts seconding The General Synod: - notes the endorsement of the Persons of Concern video by the Standing Committee; and - requests the Safe Ministry Commission to consult with dioceses to seek feedback regarding the usage and usefulness of the resource. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022.
R50/18 *	Safe Ministry Resource – Providing pastoral support to people affected by sexual abuse The Rev'd Prof Peter Sandeman moving, The Right Rev'd Greg Anderson seconding The General Synod: - notes the endorsement of the <i>Providing pastoral support to people affected by sexual abuse: Guidance for clergy and church workers in the Anglican Church of Australia</i> resource by the Standing Committee; and - encourages dioceses to make this resource available to clergy and church workers providing pastoral care to enhance the pastoral care of those who have been affected by sexual abuse. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R51/18	National Council of Churches – Safer Churches Conference The Right Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding The General Synod commends the National Council of Churches in Australia for organising the Safer Churches Conference on transforming the culture of safeguarding within Australian churches, and supports ongoing joint action by member churches and other participating Australian churches to promote the welfare and safety of all people within their communities. The General Synod requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to: - the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022; and - The Secretary, National Council of Churches Australia on 6 July 2022.
R52/18	Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission – Guidelines Ms Audrey Mills moving, The Ven Arthur Copeman seconding This General Synod welcomes the <i>Guidelines to enhance the safety of all persons – especially children, young people and vulnerable adults – within the provinces of the Anglican Communion</i> approved by the Anglican Consultative Council in May 2019 and asks the Safe Ministry Commission to review the guidelines and report to the Standing Committee on any steps necessary to implement them. Monday 9 May 2022	Correspondence sent to the Chair, Safe Ministry Commission on 17 June 2022.
R88/18	Issues arising from the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022 Justice Debra Mullins AO moving, Dr Carolyn Tan seconding That the General Synod refers the issues raised by the Bill for the Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022 that were not enacted by the General Synod back to the Standing Committee to undertake wider consultation with the Bishops, Diocesan Registrars and the Episcopal Standards Commission on the circumstances that may result in the Episcopal Standards Commission deciding not to investigate information or refraining from further investigation of the information. Wednesday 11 May 2022	Standing Committee established the Episcopal Standards Process Review Reference Group which has led to draft legislation to GS19.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
STANDING COMMITTEE		
R73/18	Thanks for Preparation of Bills for General Synod Mr Robert Wicks moving, the Rev'd Nigel Fortescue seconding The General Synod – - recognises the significant amount of work involved in the preparation of bills for this General Synod session, and gives thanks for all those involved in this process, - notes that a number of bills promoted to this session provide for amendments to be made to principal canons and, in some cases, the proposed amendments are complex, and - requests, in relation to bills promoted to future sessions which provide for complex amendments to a principal canon, the Standing Committee prepare a version of the principal canon with the proposed amendments shown in marked form to assist General Synod members understand the effect of the amendments and more fully engage in the process of considering them. Wednesday 11 May 2022	Documents showing marked-up versions of the principal Canons were available on the GS19 Portal ten weeks prior to GS19.
R89/18	Location of next General Synod Dr Laurie Scandrett moving, Mr Kimberly Smith seconding This General Synod requests the Standing Committee give serious consideration to holding the next General Synod at a suitable but economically priced location in a regional Diocese. Thursday 12 May 2022	Standing Committee took this into consideration when deciding upon the location for GS19.
R93/18	Accessible Online Synod The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mr Steve Lucas seconding That this Synod requests the Standing Committee to develop the reasonably required measures, including legislation, to enable greater accessible participation, including online and in-person attendance in meetings of the General Synod, particularly by persons unable to attend or participate physically in, such meetings by reasons such as disability, disease or illness, medical condition or injury and that any legislation required be presented to a special session of General Synod, held by video conference, at least one year before the next ordinary session of General Synod. Thursday 12 May 2022	A Special Session of Synod was held in July 2025 which resolved to allow video conferencing to be available for General Synod members unable to attend a session of General Synod in person, in specified circumstances.

Res No	Resolution Text	Action
R102/18	Statutory Assessment The Rev'd Gavin Poole moving, The Rev'd Simon Roberts seconding This General Synod - thanks the treasurer and staff for the clear and comprehensive financial reports in Book 3 and is grateful for the transparent and well managed accounts of the Anglican Church of Australia; and - requests Standing Committee to return to the practice of sending the budget to dioceses months prior to each General Synod, giving opportunity for comment and to include such feedback in the report to General Synod. Friday 13 May 2022	GS19 Financial Reports will be made available on the GS19 Portal months prior to the start of GS19.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FROM NOVEMBER 2022 TO MAY 2026

INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the business conducted by the Standing Committee since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod (GS18).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998 requires the Standing Committee to identify the specific strategic issues to be addressed in the period prior to the next session.

At its November 2022 meeting the Standing Committee reviewed the GS18 resolutions and resolved to confirm the following five strategic priorities:

- The work of evangelism in the National Church
- Diocesan co-operation and working together more effectively, including a sharing of resources to ensure ongoing viability and reduction of duplication
- A ministry of national reconciliation
- Resourcing the National Aboriginal Bishop and future resourcing of a National Torres Strait Islander Bishop
- Climate change, including Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Blue Pacific engagement, and support for local churches in crisis.

Evangelism in the National Church

In response to resolution R61/18 *Great Commission* the Standing Committee requested the Mission and Ministry Commission to develop a plan for a coordinated national, parish-based outreach program of evangelism for implementation from Easter 2025.

The Mission and Ministry Commission proposed the program **Hope25** which was endorsed by the Standing Committee. The program included:

- A year of resource development and prayer from Pentecost 2024
- A season of prayer and preparation in Lent 2025
- A season of proclamation at Easter 2025.

The Standing Committee allocated project funding in the years 2023 to 2025 and the program attracted an additional \$135,000 in Diocesan contributions and in-kind support which enabled the development of a range of digital and other resources which were well received and supported by dioceses.

At the end of 2025, the Standing Committee requested the Mission and Ministry Commission in 2026 to oversee continued resourcing of evangelism across the ACA using any unexpended Hope25 funds, and to develop and present a report to General Synod 19 which celebrates Hope25 and informs the Synod of the learnings from undertaking such a national evangelism project.

The report to General Synod of the Mission and Ministry Commission, including the detailed implementation of Hope 25, is in Book 4.

Diocesan Co-operation and Resource Sharing – Future Structures of the Anglican Church of Australia

At its November 2023 meeting the Standing Committee received reports addressing the financial stress experienced by various dioceses. At that time, the Bishop of the Diocese of North Queensland was reporting forecasted financial difficulties in the Diocese of North Queensland as a result increasing sexual abuse redress claims. Subsequently, the diocese was unable to meet its financial commitments to the national Redress Scheme and applied to the Queensland Supreme Court for the appointment of a receiver in August 2025.

The Standing Committee acknowledged the importance of crisis action planning and developing an agreed response in circumstances where a diocese becomes financially unviable and requires support.

For details of the extensive work carried out by both the Executive Committee of the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee on this issue please refer to Appendix 3 at the end of this section.

A Ministry of National Reconciliation

The Standing Committee noted the Commonwealth Government's intention to conduct a referendum on the Voice to Parliament between October and December 2023 and requested the Public Affairs Commission to work with NATSIAC to implement part 4 of the General Synod resolution R28/17, requiring the development of resources, including summaries and theological reflections, for use by Anglican parishes, schools and organisations.

In November 2023, following the failure of the referendum, the Standing Committee received a "Call to Action" from NATSIAC. At that meeting the Standing Committee:

- a. committed to continued consultation and collaboration with NATSIAC to make the Nineteenth Session of General Synod a focus of reconciliation*
- b. committed to bringing a bill to amend the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia to recognise the First Nations peoples and acknowledge their contribution to the Australian Church*
- c. committed to the development of a process of truth telling for the Anglican Church of Australia to help us engage with the story of our engagement with First Nations peoples and to provide opportunities for apology, lament and repentance including at the next session of General Synod.*

The Public Affairs Commission (PAC), worked closely with NATSIAC to identify and progress priority issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministries at GS19.

NATSIAC valued the concept of recognition in the ACA Constitution but expressed the view that recognition would be demonstrated through appropriate resourcing to enable and support First Nations ministries.

Two priorities were identified.:

1. Appropriate national resourcing for NATSIAC and the National Aboriginal Bishop and Torres Strait Islander Bishop and recognition of the National Aboriginal Bishop and Torres Strait Islander Bishop as Bishops Assisting the Primate
2. Review of the NATSIAC structure - including a provincial structure to better facilitate local ministries

The PAC was asked to continue consulting with NATSIAC on the priorities that were identified, including developing a program of fundraising to grow the Indigenous Ministry Endowment Fund. Standing Committee member, the Rev'd Kate Beer was appointed as a consultant to the Church Law Commission to assist it in its engagement with the Public Affairs Commission, NATSIAC and other stakeholders as principles and instructions were developed for possible amendments to the NATSIAC Canon.

The Chair of PAC, Bishop Matt Brain, and Rev'd Kate Beer (consultant to CLC) attended the NATSIAC Gathering held in Cairns in October 2025. NATSIAC provided feedback on the priorities for inclusion in the legislation and as a result of that feedback received, the second of the two priorities that were identified above regarding the NATSIAC structure is not being pursued and that the NATSIAC Canon should remain as it is and the discretion inherent in it be used to allow provincial and diocesan works to be further trialled.

At its meeting in November 2025, the Standing Committee noted the feedback received from the Gathering and requested the Church Law Commission to finalise the necessary bills for presentation to GS19 to bring into effect the changes required to the Constitution and NATSIAC Canon to recognize the First Nations Bishops. The review of the structure of NATSIAC will be held over until GS20 as further consultation was required.

Resourcing the National Aboriginal Bishop and Torres Strait Islander Bishop

In response to resolution R98/18 the Standing Committee identified the resourcing of the National Aboriginal Bishop and the Torres Strait Islander Bishop as a strategic priority, noting that the resolution required the Standing Committee to "bring a proposal to the next General Synod for implementation".

The Standing Committee sought input from NATSIAC on the role and responsibilities of full-time funded roles and input from Diocesan bishops on issues associated with the ministry of the National Aboriginal Bishop and National Torres Strait Islander Bishop. The Executive Committee was asked to develop recommendations on how a commitment to ongoing resourcing of the National Aboriginal and National Torres Strait Islander Bishops could be confirmed in the Constitution and Canons of the ACA and/or by resolution of the General Synod.

The Public Affairs Commission also put together a proposal regarding funding and the ABM has also commenced an initiative to assist with ongoing funding.

In November 2025, the Standing Committee resolved to recommend an allocation in the 2027 Budget forecast to fully fund the ministry of the First Nations Bishops and committed to engaging with ABM and other such agencies and entities as will assist in growing the capacity for Indigenous episcopal ministry to be endowed in perpetuity. The allocation of General Synod funds will be considered as part of the General Synod budget approval process at GS19.

Climate Change

The Standing Committee requested the Public Affairs Commission to collate information on existing resources in dioceses and to recommend and/or develop additional resources to assist dioceses and parishes to implement the recommended actions outlined in ACC2017 Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06 and commence the Anglican Communion Forest Project.

No further work has been done by Standing Committee or its Commissions in response to Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06 prior to GS19.

GOVERNANCE

Diocese of North Queensland – Risk Management and Contingency Planning and appointment as a Provisional Missionary Diocese

During 2023, the Bishop of North Queensland alerted the Standing Committee to the financial strain affecting the Diocese of North Queensland as a result of obligations to meet payments for historical sexual abuse to the National Redress Scheme.

The Standing Committee appointed the Executive Committee to work with the Diocesan leadership to develop risk management and contingency plans to ensure the financial viability and ongoing ministry in the diocese. This is in addition to the more general extensive work carried out in relation to the strategic priority outlined under the section “Strategic Issues” under the heading “Diocesan Co-operation and Resource Sharing – Future Structures of the Anglican Church of Australia”.

During 2024, the Standing Committee approved and paid for the engagement of legal and financial advisers to develop a plan to review access to diocesan assets to meet National Redress Scheme obligations.

In November 2024 the Standing Committee approved an application from the Diocese of North Queensland for recognition as a Provisional Missionary Diocese in accordance with the provisions of the *Missionary Dioceses Canon 1977*. This status provides that the Diocese is exempted from paying Statutory assessments for a period of three years.

In 2025 the Diocese of North Queensland defaulted on its commitment to make regular monthly payments to the Commonwealth Government to meet its obligations to the National Redress Scheme. These payments were met by the Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited (ARNRSL), in accordance with the guarantee arrangement between the ACA and the National Redress Scheme. The Diocese of North Queensland is obligated to repay these funds to ARNRSL.

The Standing Committee monitored this situation carefully given the risk that ARNRSL may have insufficient funds to meet the Diocese of North Queensland's ongoing payment scheme and would need to loan funds from the General Synod. The Standing Committee authorised that reserve funds held by the General Synod could be accessed for a loan for this purpose if required. The Standing Committee commissioned an actuarial study to identify the size of the potential liability should the diocese not be able to meet its NRS liabilities to determine the impact it may have on the General Synod's commitment to loan funds.

The Diocese of North Queensland appointed independent legal advisers and subsequently applied to the Supreme Court of Queensland to have receivers appointed in August 2025.

The Standing Committee has continued to receive reports on the financial status of the Diocese of North Queensland through the receivers. At June 2026, ARNRSL was continuing to pay the diocese's monthly obligation and loan funds from the General Synod were approved.

Diocese of Southern Cross

In 2022, the Diocese of Southern Cross Limited established new churches, some of which were led by members of clergy formerly licensed in dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Standing Committee sought legal advice on the status of the Diocese of Southern Cross, in regard to its relationship with the Anglican Church of Australia and any subsequent implications for the General Synod.

The Standing Committee received and noted the legal advice that the Diocese of Southern Cross Limited was a church not in communion with the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Standing Committee noted the decision of the Board of the Long Service Leave Fund to approve the application from the Diocese of Southern Cross Limited to join the Fund as a participating organization. This enabled clergy, who were no longer licensed in the ACA to continue to receive long service leave recognition.

Sessions of General Synod

The Standing Committee reviewed the operations of GS18 and confirmed arrangements for GS19.

The Standing Committee monitored the implementation of resolutions and legislation passed at GS18 through reporting of the Commissions, Task Forces, Networks, Working Groups and other General Synod bodies.

Policies

The Standing Committee established or revised the following General Synod policies:

- Legal Assistance Policy – revised November 2025 – removed section 5(b) of the policy requiring certification from two senior lawyers “*that the Respondent has reasonable prospects of success in his or her defense*” prior to the Legal Assistance Committee confirming a grant or loan in accordance with the policy.
- General Synod Bodies Policy and Protocol – adopted April 2024 – established to confirm the process for appointments to General Synod bodies and to incorporate and replace the then existing Gender Balance in Membership of General Synod Bodies policy.
- Appointments to General Synod Bodies - Policy and Protocol – revised April 2025 and May 2026 - amended clause 21, relating to the number of members of Standing Committee to be appointed to each Commission and clause 7 to increase the membership of the Nominations and Appointments Committee to 4, including that the Chair is to be an Executive Committee member.
- Anti-Racism Policy and Commitment of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia – approved April 2025 – Dioceses encouraged to give effect to this policy.
- General Synod Investment policy statement – revised in April and November 2024 – amended on the recommendation of the Investment Committee to reflect the revised structure of General Synod accounts.
- General Synod Privacy Policy – revised November 2024 – amended to comply with updated privacy regulations.
- Template for Reports on Attendance at Meetings and Conferences Funded by General Synod – adopted November 2024 and revised in April 2025 - to be used by individuals when reporting to Standing Committee on the outcomes of international and domestic meetings and conferences following their attendance.
- General Synod Financial Principles Distribution policy – revised April 2024 – amended to provide for the treatment of accumulated surpluses.
- International Travel Policy – revised April 2023 - amended the provisions related to the class of air travel for long haul flights considering the health and welfare of General Synod travellers and in response to the increased fares for international travel.
- Code of Conduct for Standing Committee – approved November 2023.

Reporting

The Standing Committee received annual and other reports required under the provisions of the *Financial Protection Canon 1995* and the *Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998*.

General Synod Office

The Executive Committee of the Standing Committee received reports from the General Secretary on the operation and resourcing of the General Synod Office.

The Standing Committee approved the relocation of the General Synod Office 189 Kent Street, Sydney to 323 Castlereagh Street, commencing in October 2025 providing better quality accommodation at a reduced annual cost as a result of a reduction in floorspace required due to a decrease in staff number and storage and meeting room requirements.

Gender balance in membership of General Synod bodies

In May 2018 the Standing Committee appointed five of its members to form a committee prepare policies and procedures to meet the gender equalisation target outlined in R25/17 *Equal Representation of Women*.

In May 2019 the Standing Committee approved the resulting *Gender Balance in Membership of General Synod Bodies policy*. The policy established a Nominations and Appointments Committee as a permanent Standing Committee sub-committee.

The policy was amended and renamed in April 2024 to the *Appointments to General Synod Bodies Policy and Protocol*. The Policy was again amended in April 2025 and most recently in May 2026 to increase the membership of the Nominations and Appointments Committee from 3 to 4 with a member of the Executive Committee to be the Chair. The Policy is attached at Appendix 1 to this section.

In developing the original policy, the committee formed a view that equal representation does not necessarily require a strict 50:50 balance on every committee. Most Synod bodies have less than 10 members, so the difference of a single member either way can exaggerate the statistical difference.

To pursue the principle of equal representation, the policy sets a target of 40:40:20 gender representation: 40 per cent women, 40 per cent men, and 20 per cent discretionary, with a commitment to achieving a gender balance overall.

The policy applies to membership of all General Synod bodies, whether members are appointed by Standing Committee or the Primate on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, or elected by General Synod.

Where the policy applies, vacancies on General Synod bodies are referred to the committee. A woman must be nominated where possible for any vacancy on a General Synod body if women comprise less than 40 percent of the current membership. The committee reviews any nominations provided and may identify additional nominees to meet gender balance and diversity targets. It then provides advice to the Standing Committee.

The policy requires reporting to Standing Committee once a year and at each General Synod session on the representation of women on General Synod bodies elected by General Synod, or appointed by the Standing Committee.

The committee is to develop and implement a process to identify and encourage women to stand for elected positions at General Synod. It is also required to report to each General Synod session on the application of the policy.

The table below shows the gender balance on General Synod bodies at May 2026:

Group Name	Females	Males	Total	Female ratio		
Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)	3	0	3	100%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Nominations and Appointments Committee	2	1	3	67%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Ecumenical Relations Commission	2	1	3	67%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Safe Ministry Commission	5	3	8	63%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Legal Assistance Committee	3	2	5	60%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Families and Culture Commission	4	3	7	57%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Liturgy Commission	5	4	9	56%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Public Affairs Commission	4	4	8	50%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Mission and Ministry Commission	4	4	8	50%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Episcopal Standards Commission	3	3	6	50%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Panel of Electors of the Primate	14	16	30	47%	Elected	General Synod
Church Law Commission	5	6	11	45%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Doctrine Commission	4	5	9	44%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Executive Comm of Standing Committee	4	5	9	44%	Elected	Standing Committee
Appellate Tribunal - Board of Assessors	3	4	7	43%	Elected	General Synod
Broughton Publishing	3	4	7	43%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Defence Force Board*	3	4	7	43%	Elected	General Synod
Episcopal Standards Board - Panel for	5	7	12	42%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Standing Committee of General Synod	13	19	32	41%	Partially elected	General Synod
The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation (The Corporate Trustees)	2	3	5	40%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force	4	6	10	40%	Appointed	Primate on SC advice
Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited	2	3	5	40%	Appointed	Appointed by Gov Mbr – confirmed by Exec
Special Tribunal Panel	3	5	8	38%	Elected	General Synod
Long Service Leave Board	2	6	8	25%	Elected	General Synod
Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Ltd	2	6	8	25%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Audit Committee	1	5	6	17%	Appointed	Standing Committee
Appellate Tribunal	1	6	7	14%	Elected	General Synod
Investment Committee*	0	0	0	-%	Appointed	Standing Committee
TOTALS	106	135	241	44%		

In summary - of the total 27 General Synod bodies that have members:

- 22 have 40% or more women members
- 1 has between 30–39% women members
- 2 have between 20–29% women members
- 2 have between 1–19% women members

The overall representation of women on General Synod bodies is 44%. The target of 40:40:20 representation has been met - 81.5% of bodies (22 out of 27) meet or exceed the target. Membership of 8 of the 27 bodies listed above is confirmed by election at General Synod.

These bodies have been highlighted in blue. Of these 8, 5 of them meet or exceed the 40% target and all have at least 1 female member. This is a vast improvement as the report for GS18 noted that only 1 of the 8 elected bodies, the General Synod Standing Committee, had more than 40% women members.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION**Meetings and Events**

The Standing Committee approved travel for delegates attending the following Anglican Communion events:

Lambeth Conference – Steward, Canterbury, July 2022

Mr Lindsay Murgha

Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission – Jordan May 2022, during the Lambeth Conference September 2022; United Kingdom March 2023; Sri Lanka January 2024, Kenya May 2025, Sri Lanka January 2026

Mr Garth Blake

Anglican Communion International Commission for the Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue – Jerusalem October 2022; Jerusalem October 2023, Boston October 2024, September 2025, Wales September 2025.

Archbishop Phillip Aspinall

The Standing Committee received reports from delegates attending the following Anglican Communion events:

Anglican Consultative Council-18 – Ghana, March 2023

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman, Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, Justice Debra Mullins, Ms Anne Hywood

Anglican Communion - Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Church – Virginia USA, October 2023

Rev'd Raewynne Whitely

CCEA (Council of the Church in East Asia), Hong Kong, October 2023

Archbishop Geoff Smith, Primate

International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission – Rome, January 2024

Bishop Peter Stuart

International Anglican Liturgy Conference – Seoul, South Korea, February 2024

Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith OAM, Rev's Dane Courtney, Dean Chris Chataway

Primates' Meeting – Rome, April 2024

Archbishop Geoff Smith, Primate

Anglican Communion - Women in the Frontline Melanesia Regional Gathering – Solomon Islands, September 2024

Mrs Ruth Christiansen

Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission Conference – Bulawayo, Zimbabwe 6-10 September 2024

Mr Garth Blake and Ms Audrey Mills

Council of the Church of East Asia (CCEA) General Assembly – Philippines October 2024
Archbishop Geoff Smith - Primate, The Venerable Megan Curlis-Gibson and Ms Lilly Bures

*Conference for the Provincial Lead Bishops of the Anglican Communion Science Commission
- Virginia USA, October 2024*
Bishop Matt Brain

Anglican Communion Commission on Evangelism and Discipleship – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2024
Archdeacon Arthur Copeman

Council of the Church of East Asia (CCEA) – Bishops' Meeting and Youth Gathering – Malaysia, August 2025 (CCEA reimbursed)
Archbishop Geoff Smith – Primate, Ms Lily Bures and Ms Elissa Controneo

Anglican Communion Interfaith Commission Meeting– Kuching Malaysia, October 2025
Bishop Hans Christiansen

Consecration of the Archbishop of Canterbury- United Kingdom, March 2026
Bishop Mark Short, Primate

FONO, Meeting of the Primates and Provincial Secretaries of the Anglican Church of Australia, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Anglican Church of Melanesia, Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- Honiara Solomon Islands 2023
- Cairns Australia 2024,
- New Plymouth New Zealand 2025
- Port Vila Vanuatu, April 2026

Archbishop Geoff Smith, Primate, Ms Anne Hywood, General Secretary, then Mrs Juliet Wenden from February 2026

Appointments to Anglican Communion Bodies

The Standing Committee noted the following appointments, endorsed by the Primate:

Anglican Church of Australia representative on the Anglican Communion's Commission for Theological Education
Rev'd Dr Raewynne Whiteley

Anglican Communion Provincial Coordinator – Environmental Network (ACEN)
Dr Philip Hughes

International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM)
Bishop Peter Stuart

Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith & Order (IASCUFO)
Bishop Richard Treloar

Anglican Communion Interfaith Commission
Bishop Hans Christiansen

Provincial Lead Bishops of the Anglican Communion Science Commission
Bishop Matt Brain

The Standing Committee noted the continuing appointments of retired bishops of the ACA, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury:

Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD)
Archbishop Phillip Aspinall AC

Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC III)
Archbishop Philip Freier – Co-Chair

The Standing Committee made the following appointments to Anglican Communion bodies:

Anglican Consultative Council
Rev'd Kate Beer – clergy representative, term expiring at the conclusion of the Twenty First meeting of the ACC

Archbishop of Canterbury visit

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Australia with his wife and senior leadership team from 4-18 October 2022. He visited the Dioceses of Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Grafton and North Queensland. The visit was coordinated by Ms Anne Hywood, General Secretary, and supported by the participating dioceses.

Relationship with the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (ACANZP)

The Primates of the ACANZP invited members of the Standing Committee of the ACA to meet to resolve relationship strain, which had been developing since April 2018, between the ACA and ACANZP.

The key issue which resulted in strain had been the decision of the ACANZP General Synod in May 2018 to approve a process which would allow the possibility of a blessing of a same-sex union. The GSSC subsequently passed a motion expressing distress at and disagreement with this decision. The ACANZP Primates were offended by this motion as well as by the involvement of a few ACA Bishops in the consecration of Bishop Jay Behan to the Church of Confessing Anglicans in Aotearoa New Zealand (CCAANZ) in Christchurch and the offence caused by some visiting Bishops in observing cultural protocols.

A delegation, made up of the Primate, Archbishop Geoff Smith, Bishop Chris McLeod, the Rev'd Kate Beer and Dr Ian Gibson, met with the ACANZP in April 2023. The visit was greatly appreciated by the hosts and resulted in restoration of the relationship of trust between the churches.

The delegation also met with the Church of Confessing Anglicans in Aotearoa New Zealand (CCAANZ).

DOCTRINE

The Standing Committee referred the following issues to the Doctrine Commission. and received reports:

The Diocese of Brisbane forwarded its Report and Study Guide on the Filioque clause in the Nicene Creed, dated 9 August 2022, to the Standing Committee for information.

The Standing Committee requested a response to the Report from the Doctrine Commission, Liturgy Commission and Ecumenical Relations Committee.

The report of the Doctrine Commission on this issue was received and noted in November 2022.

No other substantial matters were referred to, or initiated by, the Doctrine Committee during this period.

The Doctrine Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

First Nation Ministry Issues – Strategic Priorities

The Standing Committee requested the Public Affairs Commission to work cooperatively with NATSIAC on a number of issues impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry in the ACA. These were of such importance that they were identified as strategic priorities leading up to GS19.

The role of the Public Affairs Commission in the work towards a *Ministry of National Reconciliation* and *Resourcing the National Aboriginal Bishop and future resourcing of a National Torres Strait Islander Bishop* has been reported in the section of this summary under the heading of *Strategic Priorities*.

In addition the Standing Committee received reports from the Public Affairs Commission on the following issues:

Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024

The Public Affairs Commission provided a submission dated 18 April 2024 to the Commonwealth Government's Senate Committee Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

The Public Affairs Commission and NATSIAC provided a joint submission, dated 18 April 2023, to the Commonwealth Government's Inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum: Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023.

The Standing Committee received a resource prepared by the Public Affairs Commission in preparation for the Commonwealth Government's Referendum on the Voice to Parliament:

"Understanding and responding to the referendum to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice – Resources for Use by Anglican Parishes, Schools and Organisations".

The Standing Committee requested that the resource be circulated to Diocesan Bishops and Registrars, recommending that the resource be made available to parishes, and to the Anglican Schools Association, recommending that the resource be made available to Anglican schools. It was also circulated to all General Synod bodies for information and application as required.

The Standing Committee authorised the publication of the resource on the General Synod website at the page dedicated to [The Voice to Parliament](#).

The Standing Committee noted the submissions made by the Public Affairs Commission to parliamentary committees and government agencies and authorised the publication of them on the General Synod website at <https://anglican.org.au/our-work/social-issues-public-affairs/>

Submissions to parliament and government agencies by the Public Affairs Commission include the following explanatory introductory note:

"The Public Affairs Commission (PAC) is a body set up, amongst other matters, to respond to aspects of public affairs as referred by the Primate, Standing Committee or General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia (ACA) or initiated by the PAC. The views expressed in this submission are only the views of the PAC and should not be taken to reflect the opinion of the ACA, the Primate, the Standing Committee, or any of the Dioceses."

Refugee and Migrant Working Group

In July 2023, the Standing Committee resolved to disband the Refugee and Migrant Working Group and allocate responsibility for responding to issues related to migrant and refugees to the Public Affairs Commission.

Government Legislation Review relating to Gambling Advertising

The Standing Committee noted the correspondence of the Public Affairs Commission to the Prime Minister, dated 5 September 2024, on the Commonwealth Government Legislation Review relating to Gambling Advertising.

ABS Review – Census 2026 Religious Affiliation Question

On behalf of the ACA the General Secretary provided submissions to the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2024 on a proposal to review the religious affiliation question in the 2026 Census.

The ACA opposed a proposal to remove Anglican and other faiths as selective options and to move to free text insert in response to the question, on the basis that it would remove the capability for comparative statistics over time. In response to the submission from the ACA, and other faith groups, the ABS resolved to continue with the question in its existing format.

The Public Affairs Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Evangelism in the National Church - Strategic Priority

In response to General Synod resolution R61/18 *Great Commission*, the Standing Committee requested the Mission and Ministry Commission to develop a coordinated national, parish based outreach program of evangelism for implementation from Easter 2025.

This was of such importance that it was identified as a strategic priority leading up to GS19.

The success of the program Hope 25 has been reported in the section of this summary under the heading of *Strategic Priorities*.

During the course of the project the Standing Committee authorised the employment of a part time project officer and encouraged dioceses to participate in workshops and activities and provide funding to extend the activities undertaken by the project manager.

The Standing Committee received regular reports on progress of Hope 25 between 2023 and 2025 and commended the Commission on its achievement.

Wellbeing Policy for Professional Development, Professional Supervision and Ministry Review

At the 2022 General Synod, members voted to adopt The Wellbeing Policy for Professional Development, Professional Supervision and Ministry Review (The Policy). The policy was drafted by the Safe Ministry Commission, in response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to child sexual abuse in 2017 and was considered a vital part of demonstrating the church's desire to improve practice in response to the findings of the commission. The Mission and Ministry Commission were subsequently asked by Standing Committee to monitor the implementation of the policy and to report back to the next meeting of General Synod.

The Mission and Ministry Commission conducted qualitative research surveys of all Dioceses in 2022 and 2026 to glean the information. This led to the formation of the motion coming to GS19 regarding ongoing resourcing, roll out and monitoring of this policy.

The Mission and Ministry Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.

CHURCH LAW

In addition to requests to prepare draft legislation for General Synod, the Standing Committee referred the following issues to the Church Law Commission and received reports:

- report on the Church Law Commission's response to the revision of the [Principles of Canon Law Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion](#)
- response to the Diocese of Brisbane's Report and Study Guide on the Filioque clause in the Nicene Creed.

Amendments to the General Synod Presence Canon 2022

The Standing Committee requested the Church Law Commission to prepare a bill to amend the General Synod Presence Canon 2022 to implement General Synod resolution 93/18 to enable greater accessible participation in General Synod sessions, noting that any legislation required would be presented to a special session of General Synod, held by video conference, at least one year before the next ordinary session of General Synod.

The Standing Committee confirmed a Bill for the General Synod Presence (Amendment) Canon 2024 to be presented at the Special Session of General Synod held on 26 July 2025. The Bill was passed and amendments to the canon confirmed.

First Nations Ministry – Strategic Priorities

The Church Law Commission worked alongside the Public Affairs Commission and NATSIAC to advise on legislative amendments to meet the recommended outcomes of the strategic priorities of “A ministry of national reconciliation” and “Resourcing the National Aboriginal Bishop and future resourcing of a National Torres Strait Islander Bishop”.

The Church Law Commission presented Standing Committee with draft bills to amend the constitution and canons to achieve the recommended outcomes which included introduce a new governance structure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry in the ACA.

Authentication of canons

The Standing Committee authorized the authentication of Canons and Rules passed at the Eighteenth Session of the General Synod in 2022, and the Canon passed at the Special Session of Synod in July 2025, by the affixing of the official seal of the General Synod in accordance with s24 and s25 of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Assent or adoption of canons

The Standing Committee received annual reports on diocesan assent or adoption of canons passed at GS16, GS17 and GS18. See Section 12 of this report.

GS19 legislative program

The Standing Committee has endorsed a legislative program of bills for canons and rules, prepared or reviewed by the Church Law Commission, for presentation to GS19. The bills are presented in Book 1.

The Church Law Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.

LITURGY

The Standing Committee referred the following issues to the Liturgy Commission and received reports:

A new Liturgical Psalter – Pilot Project

In 2022, the Standing Committee approved and funded a pilot project to develop a new Liturgical Psalter for the Anglican Church of Australia. In 2024 the Liturgy Commission advised that the original intention of the project could not be realised and that the project would be continued independently by the Rev'd Dr Matthew Anstey. The Standing Committee resolved that any publication of the final work acknowledge the initial funding and support provided by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia.

International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC)

The Standing Committee made funds available to subsidise the attendance of Commission representatives at the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) meeting in 2024. The Standing Committee received a report from members of the Liturgy Commission on their attendance at the IALC held in Seoul, South Korea in February 2024.

Nineteenth Session of General Synod

The Standing Committee asked the Commission to coordinate the worship program at GS19.

The Liturgy Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4.

FAMILIES AND CULTURE

At GS18 the General Synod resolved to allocate funds from the Statutory Account from 2023 to 2025 to support the development of a program of diocesan resources to facilitate a greater understanding of and response to family violence.

Following GS18 the Standing Committee approved the appointment of the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen as National Program Manager, Families and Culture Commission.

The Standing Committee received regular reports from the Family and Culture Commission on its work program from 2023 to 2025, including reports on its fundraising initiatives including DV Sunday which was implemented in parishes in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

The Standing Committee considered an application from the Families and Culture Commission to extend the funding from the Statutory Account to enable the continuing employment of the National Program Manager into 2026. The Standing Committee confirmed that General Synod had allocated funds for a three-year period to establish resources that could be built upon by Dioceses to continue the work initiated by the Commission.

The Standing Committee authorised the carry-over of unspent funds to enable the continuation of the role of National Program Manager in 2026. From January 2026, the National Program

Manager is no longer an employee of the General Synod but a licensed member of clergy seconded to support the work of the Commission.

The Family and Culture Commission's report to General Synod is in Book 4. It provides details of the activities and resources developed through the funding allocation from 2023 to 2025.

SAFE MINISTRY

The Standing Committee referred the following issues to the Safe Ministry Commission and received reports:

Implementation of Royal Commission Recommendations

The Safe Ministry Commission continued to respond to the recommendations contained in final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Faithfulness in Service

The Safe Ministry Commission provided a recommendation to the Standing Committee to update Faithfulness in Service, the national code of conduct for clergy and lay workers, to update definitions and include a new section expanding upon conduct associated with family violence.

In response to the first revised draft, the Standing Committee requested that further work be undertaken to revise Faithfulness in Service as a whole to make it as clear, succinct and user-friendly as possible, and to distinguish between which conduct expectations are mandatory and which are aspirational.

Standing Committee has the authority to approve amendments to Faithfulness in Service and at November 2025, received a revised submission from the Safe Ministry Commission following consultation with the Church Law Commission and other interested parties.

After the Commission considered feedback from the Standing Committee following the Committee's November 2025 meeting, the revised Faithfulness in Service was sent out for Diocesan consultation in March 2026 with comments requested by 22 May 2026. At the time of writing this report, the Safe Ministry Commission is considering the comments received from Dioceses and it is expected that a revised Faithfulness in Service will be presented to the November 2026 meeting of the Standing Committee for approval.

In April 2025 the Standing Committee received a report from the General Secretary on the Diocesan variations of Faithfulness in Service and requested that it be circulated to Diocesan bishops for their information.

Anglican Communion Safe Church Guidelines

The Standing Committee received a report from the Safe Ministry Commission confirming that the safe ministry processes in the ACA comply with the Anglican Communion Safe Church Guidelines. This review was requested in response to GS resolution R52/18 at GS18 in 2022.

Safe Ministry Training Benchmarks

The Standing Committee received recommendations from the Commission on the updated Safe Ministry Training Benchmarks at its meeting in November 2025. The revised Benchmarks were circulated for Diocesan comment in March 2026, the same time as the revised Faithfulness in Service. It is expected that a report on the comments received will be provided to the Standing Committee at its meeting in November 2026.

Safe Ministry Audits

The Standing Committee received audit reports as required by the safe ministry audit provisions in the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017.

Audits were completed in 2025 for:

- Diocese of Armidale
- Diocese of Perth
- Diocese of Bunbury
- General Synod Office

Audits were completed in 2026 for:

- Diocese of Tasmania
- Diocese of Newcastle

The completed audits have been published on the General Synod website [here](#).

National Register

The Standing Committee received operational reports and approved and received annual audits of the National Register's operation for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The Standing Committee has authority to amend the protocols attached to the National Register Canon 2007 and develop policies and procedures in relation to its responsibilities under the protocols. Amendments to National Register protocols are to be tabled at the next General Synod session. There have been no amendments to the protocol since GS18.

The Standing Committee established a National Register Working Group, to identify and address strategic and operational issues associated with the effective functioning of the National Register. The General Synod Office is investigating updated software and processes to address the issues identified in response to user feedback.

EPISCOPAL STANDARDS

The Standing Committee received annual reports from the Episcopal Standards Commission and reports from the General Secretary on approval for the commission to incur expenditure in relation to its duties.

Since GS18 two matters have been referred to the Episcopal Standards Board and the determinations have been published on the General Synod website. These matters are discussed further in section 11 of this book.

Review of Episcopal Standards Processes in the ACA

The Standing Committee supported the Primate's recommendation to initiate a review of the episcopal standards processes in the ACA and agreed to appoint a review group to:

- a) review the effectiveness of the structures in place to deliver episcopal standards processes in the ACA, and
- b) recommend improvements to current processes in regard to:
 - accessibility and communication
 - independence and accountability
 - transparency and reporting
 - timeliness, efficiency and effectiveness
 - procedural fairness for all stakeholders
 - consistency
 - pastoral care of complainants and respondents

A review reference group was established in the second half of 2023 and undertook a consultation process with Dioceses and stakeholders during 2024.

In early 2025 the Standing Committee noted the consultation responses and endorsed the review group's recommendations to redesign the process requiring the repeal of existing episcopal standards legislation and amendments to associated legislation.

Dioceses were consulted on the draft bills in early 2026 and in May 2026, the Standing Committee confirmed bills to be presented at GS19 in response to the feedback received.

Appointment of Episcopal Standards Director

Since GS18 the Standing Committee has appointed the following persons to the office of Episcopal Standards Director on either an ongoing or interim basis:

Mr Martin Drevikovsky (Interim) – May 2023 – April 2024, February 2025 – April 2025

Mr Kevin Tang – May 2024 – January 2025

Ms Anna Davidson – May 2025 – November 2025

Mr Douglas Greaves – December 2025 - present

GENERAL SYNOD BODIES**Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited**

The Commonwealth Government established a National Redress Scheme (NRS) for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in 2018. The Standing Committee supported the establishment of the Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited (ARNRSL) to facilitate Anglican dioceses, schools and agencies participating in the National Redress Scheme and becoming members of ARNRSL.

The Standing Committee received regular reports from ARNRSL on Anglican participation in the Scheme and the number of determinations of liability for abuse across dioceses, schools and agencies.

ARNRSL provides a guarantee to the Commonwealth Government to meet payments should any of its members default on its payment obligations to the NRS.

The Standing Committee received reports on ARNRSL's engagement with its member, the Diocese of North Queensland, following the diocese's default on NRS payments.

The report of ARNRSL's to General Synod is provided in Book 4.

Anglican Board of Mission – ABM

The Standing Committee confirmed a number of appointments to the Board of ABM in accordance with the provisions of the ABM constitution.

The Standing Committee noted with appreciation, the establishment by ABM of the *Bishop Arthur Malcolm First Nations' Bishops Endowment Fund* to provide long term resources to fund the ministry of the ACA's National Aboriginal Bishop and Torres Strait Islander Bishop.

The report of the Anglican Board of Mission is provided in Book 4.

Australian College of Theology – ACT

The Standing Committee supported a new governance structure for the Australian College of Theology which removed its reporting obligations to the General Synod.

Accordingly, the *Australian College of Theology Canon 2007* will be repealed at GS19.

Broughton Publishing

The Standing Committee received annual reports from Broughton Publishing and appointed Directors to the Board of the company as requested.

The report of Broughton Publishing is provided in Book 4.

Defence Force Board

The Standing Committee received regular reports from the Defence Force Board. The report of the Defence Force Board is provided in Book 4.

Long Service Leave Fund

Each year the Standing Committee has confirmed the annual rates for the Notional Stipend, Sabbatical Allowance and participant contribution rate.

The Standing Committee has supported the Long Service Leave Board's proposal to amend the *Long Service Leave Canon 2010*. A *Bill for the Long Service Leave (Amendment) Canon 2026* has been prepared for presentation at GS19. The bill is presented in Book 1.

The report of the Long Service Leave Board is provided in Book 4.

National Home Mission Fund (NHMF)

The Standing Committee Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the fund and disbursement of grants.

Since 2015 there has been no advertising or promotion of the fund. It continues to attract donations from parishes and individuals at a reducing rate.

The National Home Mission Fund has disbursed the following grants to dioceses since GS18:

Year	Income	Grants	
2022	\$5,147	\$5,200	Each year grants have been distributed equally to the Dioceses of Riverina, Willochra, North West Australia and the Northern Territory
2023	\$5,702	\$5,100	
2024	\$3,145	\$5,020	

Given the diminishing financial support, the Standing Committee received a report on the operation of the fund and whilst acknowledging the long and successful work of the fund it regretfully authorised the suspension of the Fund's operations from 31 December 2025.

NATSIAC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council)

Standing Committee's engagement with NATSIAC since GS18 has been considered a strategic priority.

A detailed report of the issues addressed as strategic priorities is provided earlier in this report.

The Standing Committee received an operational report, including financial audited accounts from NATSIAC on an annual basis.

At the end of 2025, the Standing Committee responded positively to a request from NATSIAC that the financial management arrangements for NATSIAC be revised and authorised the General Synod Office to commence discussions on providing financial management services to NATSIAC while allowing NATSIAC to retain independent decision-making authority.

The report of NATSIAC is provided in Book 4.

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH

The Standing Committee appointed persons to represent the Anglican Church of Australia at ecumenical forums and events, on the recommendation of the Ecumenical Relations Commission, and received reports from attendees.

Attendance at International Ecumenical Events

World Council of Churches Central Committee – Geneva, June 2022

Archbishop Phillip Aspinall AC

World Council of Churches 11th Assembly – Germany, September 2022

Archbishop Phillip Aspinall AC, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, Ms Ruth Brigden

Christian Conference of Asia 15th General Assembly – India, October 2023
Bishop Peter Stuart

Christian Conference of Asia – Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence – Thailand, November 2024
Bishop Genieve Blackwell

National Ecumenical Activities

NCCA – National Council of Churches

The Executive of Committee of the Standing Committee endorsed the nomination of Mrs Juliet Wenden as a Director of NCCA Ltd in March 2026.

The National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) 11th Forum – Adelaide, June 2024

Attended by Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, Mrs Anne Hywood, Bishop Peter Stuart (Chair of the Ecumenical Relations Commission), Rev'd Canon Naomi Cooke and Ms Alison Preston

The delegates from the ACA made a valuable contribution to the development work providing direction to the NCCA on how it may serve its members. As one of the larger member churches of the NCCA, the Forum provided the opportunity to influence the direction of the NCCA.

A key benefit was the opportunity to network with members of 12 Australian Christian churches and learn of ecumenical commitment and activities in other churches in Australia. It was valuable that Bishop Peter Stuart (Chair) and Dean Naomi Cooke, (member) of the General Synod Ecumenical Relations Commission had the opportunity to engage with the representatives in attendance.

PCC - Pacific Conference of Churches

The ACA was granted membership of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) at their 12th Assembly in Noumea, New Caledonia in November 2023 and Bishop Chris McLeod was appointed the ACA's representative.

In February 2026 Standing Committee appointed one Aboriginal and one Torres Strait Islander representative, being Rev'd Shannon Smith and Dr Rose Elu, as ACA delegates representing the ACA at PCC activities at the April 2026 conference held in Fiji.

FINANCE

The Standing Committee and its Executive monitored and approved financial reports and budgets based on the forecasts approved at the Eighteen Session of General Synod.

The Standing Committee received and authorised the signing of the audited accounts for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The Standing Committee received and noted reports from and minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee and the Investment Committee.

Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force (DFATF)

The Standing Committee appointed Ms Jenny Dawson as Chair of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force following the resignation of Mr Mike Codling just before his death.

The Standing Committee received annual reports on the financial health of Dioceses following desk top reviews undertaken by the members of DFATF with the cooperation of the Dioceses.

The Standing Committee invited DFATF to provide advice on the Diocese of North Queensland Risk Management and Contingency Plan and to have input to the work undertaken on the Futures Structures of the ACA.

The Standing Committee Financial Report is provided in detail in Book 3.

GENERAL SYNOD OFFICE**Staff Members**

General Secretary	Mrs Juliet Wenden
Finance and Operations Manager	Ms Tracey Longfield
Executive Officer	Mrs Kim Kemp
Office Coordinator	Mr Matthew Robson
Management Accountant	Mr Jofrey Valendez
Accountant	Mrs Renee Tudehope

The staffing numbers in the General Synod Office reduced over the period from 7.7 FTE employees in November 2022 to 6 FTE employees in November 2025. The reduction is due to a review of the structure resulting in staff redundancies and the consolidation of duties across a smaller number of full-time employees.

Appointments

Mrs Juliet Wenden commenced in the role of General Secretary on 9 February 2026 following the retirement of Ms Anne Hywood.

Ms Tracey Longfield commenced in the role of Finance and Operations Manager on 7 August 2023 following the resignation of Ms Bernadette Bateman.

Mr Matthew Robson commenced in the role of Office Coordinator on 17 October 2023.

Resignations / Redundancies

Ms Meenal Selvaratnam, Safe Ministry and Redress Manager (which also encompassed policy and project functions) resigned in May 2022.

Ms Liz Lyne commenced in the role of Policy and Project Officer (which included the administrative functions of the National Redress Scheme) on 1 March 2023 and resigned on 30 November 2023. The Project and Policy Officer vacancy was not filled as the Standing Committee removed approval for that position in the GSO staffing structure in 2024. The functions relating to the day to day administration of the Anglican participation in the National Redress Scheme were incorporated into the role of Office Coordinator.

The position of Long Service Leave Manager, held by Ms Shirall Mayers, was made redundant in December 2022. Administration support to the Long Service Leave fund was impacted by the introduction of new software and online client systems. Continuing functions were incorporated into the responsibilities of existing finance team members.

The position of Administrative Assistant, held by Mrs Minna Magoulas, was made redundant in March 2023. The functions relating to administrative assistance were incorporated into the newly created position of Office Coordinator.

Mr Sidney Pelcz, National Register Officer (who was employed one day a week) resigned in July 2024. The functions of this role were incorporated into the role of Office Coordinator.

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen was employed by the General Synod as National Program Manager for the Families and Culture Commission from 10 July 2023 to 31 December 2025. She is continuing in the position into 2026 under new arrangements as a seconded member of clergy reporting directly to the Family and Culture Commission and is therefore no longer an employee of the General Synod.



Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

Appointments to General Synod Bodies - Policy and Protocol

Approved by Standing Committee on 12-13 April 2024 (SC2024/1/51)

Amended by Standing Committee on 11-12 April 2025 (SC2025/1/19)

Amended by Standing Committee on 1-2 May 2026 (SC2026/1/64)

The Standing Committee has the authority to appoint persons to General Synod bodies or recommend appointments to be made by the Primate.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee (NAC) is a committee of the Standing Committee with responsibility for identifying and recommending nominees for the Standing Committee to consider for appointment or to recommend to the Primate for appointment.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Appointments Policy and Protocol is to ensure a diverse and effective range of appointments are made in a fair and transparent process when identifying and recommending individuals for appointment or reappointment by the Standing Committee and Primate to General Synod bodies.
2. This policy addresses:
 - a) Supporting documentation and checks required of nominees
 - b) Protocols to guide the appointment process
 - c) Criteria to be applied by the NAC
 - d) Targets for gender balance in membership of General Synod bodies
 - e) Standing Committee representation on Reference Commissions
 - f) Terms of appointment
 - g) Advising nominees of the outcome of Standing Committee's consideration
 - h) Reporting

Scope

3. This policy applies to membership of all General Synod bodies, whether members are appointed by Standing Committee or by the Primate on the recommendation of the Standing Committee. This policy outlines the default approach to be followed where there are no specific guidelines on a particular appointment governed by a Rule or Canon of the ACA which must be followed.
4. This policy does not apply to:
 - a. the election or appointment of General Synod representatives by diocesan synods
 - b. elections conducted at sessions of General Synod in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the ACA
 - c. the appointment of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC) representatives by diocesan bishops
 - d. the appointment of members to General Synod bodies by the House of Bishops or diocesan bishops
 - e. a request to the Primate from the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion (or delegate) to endorse an invitation to a bishop of the ACA to become a member of an Anglican Communion body.

Nominations and Appointments Committee (NAC)

5. The NAC is a permanent committee of Standing Committee which was established in 2019 to identify suitable nominees for appointment to General Synod bodies in accordance with the gender balance targets established in the *Gender Balance in Membership of General Synod Bodies Policy*, the provisions of which are now incorporated into this policy.
6. The NAC's broader function is to identify suitable nominees for the Standing Committee to appoint or recommend to the Primate for appointment.
7. The NAC shall have four members, to be drawn from Standing Committee membership, one of whom (being the Chair) is a member of the Executive Committee, and none of whom is a Chair of a Reference Commission.
8. The General Synod Office will refer all vacancies to be filled in accordance with this policy to the NAC.
9. The NAC will operate in accordance with this policy and protocol.

Criteria to be applied by the NAC

10. The NAC will give consideration to the skills and experience profile required on each body.
11. The NAC will take into account diversity considerations, including gender, age, ethnicity, cultural background and regional participation.
12. The NAC is responsible for the application of the target for gender balance in membership of General Synod bodies when identifying nominees for recommendation.

Co-Opting Members to Reference Commissions

13. Section 15 of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998 provides that a Reference Commission may co-opt additional members according to conditions laid down by the Standing Committee. This policy provides that additional members may be co-opted for a determined period of time, to assist in furthering specific projects, with the approval of the Executive Committee or the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee may delegate its authority to agree the appointment of co-opted members by a Reference Commission.

Targets for gender balance in membership of General Synod bodies

14. A target toward gender balance in membership of General Synod bodies was established by the Standing Committee in response to the General Synod resolutions GS85/07 and GS25/17. (See Appendix A). The target was confirmed by Standing Committee resolution SC2019/01/08.
15. This policy notes that the General Synod resolutions GS85/07 and GS25/17 support the principle of equal representation of women. This policy recognises that equal representation does not necessarily require a strict 50:50 balance on everybody, as this is not possible for a body with an odd number of committee members. Most General Synod bodies have less than 10 members, so the difference of a single member either way can exaggerate the statistical difference.

16. To pursue the principle of equal representation on General Synod bodies, this policy applies a target of 40:40:20 gender representation: 40 per cent women, 40 per cent men, and 20 per cent discretionary, with a commitment to achieving a gender balance overall.
17. The NAC is required to nominate a woman for appointment to a vacancy on a General Synod body if women comprise less than 40 percent of the current membership. Where the committee is unable to confirm the nomination of a woman willing to serve in the role, the NAC can nominate a man to fill the vacancy and advise the Standing Committee of the non compliance with this policy.
18. The committee will develop and implement a process to identify and encourage women to stand for elected positions at General Synod.
19. The General Secretary will report to Standing Committee at least once a year on progress against the gender balance target in two categories:
 - a. General Synod bodies elected by General Synod
 - b. General Synod bodies appointed by Standing Committee.
20. At each General Synod session, the Standing Committee will report on the application of this policy and progress against the gender balance target in two categories:
 - a. General Synod bodies elected by General Synod
 - b. General Synod bodies appointed by Standing Committee.

Standing Committee Representation on General Synod Reference Commissions

21. Following each General Synod, the Standing Committee will appoint to each Reference Commission six members, at least one of whom is a member of the Standing Committee. The General Secretary will invite the newly elected Standing Committee members to express interest in serving on a Reference Commission and provide this information to the NAC.
22. Additional members may be appointed by the Standing Committee, either at the time of making the appointments following each General Synod or subsequently, either temporarily or for the whole period until the next General Synod, to enable the Reference Commission to undertake the work required of it by the General Synod or the Standing Committee.

Supporting documentation and checks required by NAC before recommending nominees to the Standing Committee

23. The General Synod office is to review the Rule or Canon under which the appointment is made and advise the NAC of particular requirements or conditions relating to that appointment that need to be satisfied.
24. Before being recommended for appointment or reappointment, all nominees are to be screened against the National Register and the result of that check is to be reported to Standing Committee as required by the *Standing Committee Procedure - National Register Screening*.
25. Nominees for appointment to bodies which meet the definition of a safe ministry role or a professional standards role are required to comply with screening and training requirements in accordance with the safe ministry standards in the *Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017*.

26. Nominees for appointment to the position of director of an incorporated body require a nominee to hold a Directors Identification Number (DIN) before an appointment can be confirmed.
27. The General Synod Office will advise the NAC of any other relevant regulatory or compliance requirements relating to appointment to a vacant position.
28. NAC is to obtain resumes from all nominees recommended for appointment to General Synod bodies.
29. A resume is not required from nominees who are being recommended for reappointment. Resumes are not provided to the Standing Committee but are held on record by the General Synod office. A nominee's resume will be made available to any Standing Committee member on request.

The Appointment Process

30. The General Synod Office will refer vacancies to be filled to the NAC and provide advice on the membership composition of the General Synod body which has the vacancy and any conditions that need to be satisfied to confirm an appointment under a Rule or Canon of the ACA and any other regulatory compliance requirements.

Where a vacancy has arisen due to the term of a member expiring

31. The NAC will request advice from the Chair/Convenor of the body on whether a member whose term is expiring wishes to be considered for reappointment. If it is the Chair whose term is expiring, they will be asked to confirm that they are willing to continue to serve, either in the role of Chair or as a continuing member.
32. If the member whose term is expiring wishes to be considered for reappointment, the Chair/Convenor is requested to confirm support or not for the reappointment. The Chair/Convenor will be asked to consider the contribution the member has made to the body, the mix of skills and diversity currently serving on the body and the length of time the member seeking reappointment has served on the body.
33. The NAC will determine whether the member should be nominated for reappointment based on the advice it receives and confirmation that the nominee satisfies all conditions of appointment.
34. If NAC resolves to recommend a member for reappointment it will advise the member and the Chair/Convenor that they have been nominated for reappointment subject to confirmation by the Standing Committee.
35. If the NAC resolves not to recommend the member for reappointment it will advise the member and the Chair/Convenor that the appointment has not been recommended to the Standing Committee.

Vacancies where an individual is not seeking reappointment

36. The NAC is to invite the Chair/Convenor of the body that has a vacancy to consult with the members of that body to identify possible nominees for appointment and provide the NAC with any potential nominee's resume.

37. If the NAC identifies additional nominees for consideration it is required to consult with the Chair/Convenor of the body on the suitability of their appointment.
38. The NAC must receive confirmation that all nominees under consideration have consented to their name being presented to the Standing Committee for appointment.
39. The NAC will determine whether a person should be nominated for appointment based on an assessment of the mix of skills and diversity currently serving on the body and confirmation that the nominee satisfies all conditions of appointment.
40. When the NAC resolves to recommend a person for appointment it will advise the person that they have been nominated subject to confirmation by the Standing Committee.
41. If the NAC resolves not to recommend a person for appointment, who has consented to being nominated, it will advise the person that their appointment has not been recommended to the Standing Committee on this occasion.

Terms of Appointment

42. The NAC may make a recommendation to Standing Committee on the term of an appointment, subject to any conditions contained in the Rule or Canon governing that appointment which may limit the length of the term to be served or require the member to resign at a certain age.
43. This policy does not determine a limit on the number of terms of appointment which can be served by an individual member. When considering filling vacancies on General synod bodies the NAC will take into account the value of refreshing the membership of the body in consultation with the current Chair/Convenor.

Appointment and Election Processes at Standing Committee

44. The Standing Committee will consider the recommendations of the NAC and will confirm appointments, or recommendations on appointments by the Primate, by resolution.
45. The Standing Committee may resolve to confirm an appointment by election when more than one nominee is submitted for appointment to a General Synod body if the decision to appoint cannot be resolved following discussion.

Advising Nominees of Standing Committee's Decision

If a Person is Appointed/Reappointed

46. If the appointment is made by the Primate, the General Synod Office will arrange for a letter of appointment from the Primate. If the appointment is made by the Standing Committee a letter of appointment will be provided by the General Secretary.
47. The new member will be advised of:
 - a) details of their appointment and the body on which they will serve
 - b) the Rule or Canon under which they have been appointed,
 - c) the name of the Chair/Convenor and other members of the body
 - d) the term of their appointment.
48. A copy of the appointment letter sent to the person appointed is to be provided to the Chair/Convenor of the body for their information.

If a Person is not Appointed/Reappointed

49. Where the Standing Committee resolves not to accept the recommendation of the NAC, the General Secretary is to write to unsuccessful nominee advising them of the decision.

50. The General Secretary is also to advise the Chair/Convenor of the relevant body

51. The General Secretary will inform the NAC of the Standing Committee's resolution in response to their report.

Resolution of Dispute

52. Any issues raised about the implementation of this policy should be referred in the first instance to the General Secretary.

APPENDIX A

- **Resolution of the Fourteenth Session of General Synod (GS85/07)**
That this General Synod in responding to ACC Resolution 13.31 requesting member churches to work towards the goal of equal representation of women in decision making at all levels:
 - a) *recognises and celebrates the giftedness of women and the multitude of ministries in which they participate;*
 - b) *requests Standing Committee of General Synod to apply the principle of equal representation of women in its appointments to Commissions, Task Forces, and Working Groups wherever legislatively and practically possible and to report progress to ACC14 in 2009; and*
 - c) *encourages each diocese to adopt this principle in elections and appointments and report progress to General Synod Standing Committee by the end of 2008.*

- **Resolution of the Seventeenth Session of General Synod (GS25/17)**
 - 1. *Notes with disappointment that the resolution of the 2007 fourteenth Session of General Synod in regard to the equal representation of Women on General Synod Bodies (GS85/07) has not been effectively implemented, with equal representation of women on only three of the General Synod's current 27 Bodies.*
 - 2. *Requests the next General Synod Standing Committee to*
 - a) *Re-commit to the principle of equal representation of women in membership of its bodies and to ensure that this goal is met the Standing Committee agree to a target that all General Synod bodies (General Synod commissions, task forces and working groups) have 50% equal representation of women in their membership by 1st December 2019 wherever legislatively and practically possible.*
 - b) *Apply the principle of equal representation of women in membership of organisations where Standing Committee make appointments to other bodies wherever this is legislatively and practically possible.*
 - c) *Review annually the progress of this target.*
 - 3. *Encourages each diocese to adopt the target of 50% equal representation of women in elections and appointments wherever legislatively and practically possible and to report back to the next General Synod.*
 - 4. *Requests Standing Committee to report progress on this matter to the 18th Session of General Synod.*

DIOCESAN ADOPTION OF FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

Summary at December 2024

This table provides diocesan responses against the November 2016 version of Faithfulness in Service when a review was undertaken in December 2024.

Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
Adelaide	Yes	-
Armidale	Yes with amendments	Section 2 <i>Amended definition of “church worker” - “a diocese of a diocesan synod” replaced by “a diocese or a diocesan synod”</i> <i>Amended definition of “emotional abuse”: “in any way that could reasonably” replaced by “in any way that could reasonably”</i> Section 4 Clause 4.3 - “The issues of Children and Sexual Conduct are addressed in Sections 3 and 5 respectively” replaced by “The issues of Children and Sexual Conduct are addressed in Sections 5 and 7 respectively”. Clause 4.35 subsection Risks associated with using technology in communication: “may communicate using” replaced by “often communicate using” Section 5 Clause 5.16 - The two paragraphs beginning “Grooming actions are designed...” and “All Australian jurisdictions have...” relocated to after the section Characteristics and effects of child abuse rather than being a ‘break out’ in the middle of it. Clause 5.42 - subsection Disciplining children. Trailing “and” removed from the 4th last and 3rd last bullet points. Clause 5.46 subsection - Risks associated with using technology in communication with children: “may communicate using” replaced by “often communicate using”. Section 8 Clause 8.5 “tax avoidance” replaced by “tax evasion”.

Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
Ballarat	Yes with amendments	Section 7 Clause 7.2 amended to: Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining faithfulness in marriage. Church workers including clergy who are in a monogamous relationship with another person will maintain a commitment to faithfulness in that relationship. <i>(Amended and adopted by Bishop-in-Council – 23 February 2021)</i> 7.4 replaced with: You are not to engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature. Church workers including clergy will maintain a commitment to faithfulness, in marriage, and the ideal of chastity in singleness. Church workers including clergy who are in a monogamous relationship with another person will maintain a commitment to faithfulness in that relationship. <i>(Amended and adopted by Bishop-in-Council – 23 February 2021)</i>
Bathurst	Yes	-

Bendigo	Yes with amendments	It has been modified only to the extent necessary for consistency in terms with the Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016 of the diocese. Front Page: Modified (11.4.2017) for the Diocese of Bendigo to operate in conjunction with its Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016. <i>Approved by the Bishop of Bendigo acting with the advice and consent of the Council of the Diocese (11.04.17).</i> Section 1 <i>The diocesan version of Faithfulness in Service has amended the paragraphs in the original and added diocesan specific material linking FIS to the Professional Standards Act:</i> This Code (in its original form) was first adopted by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in 2004 as the national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers. It has since then been amended from time to time by the Standing Committee of the General Synod. It is important that this Code be understood by clergy and church workers. Each diocese will need to ensure that its clergy and church workers are trained in the Code and its application to personal behaviour and pastoral ministry. Clergy and church workers undertaking pastoral ministry will need to apply the standards and guidelines of this Code in their specific circumstances. Diocesan note: This Code, modified as here set out, has been approved by the Bishop of Bendigo acting with the advice and consent of the Council of the Diocese, and modified only to the extent necessary to achieve consistency in terms with the Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016 of the Diocese (the Act). The code sets out standards of conduct expected of a Church worker and is relevant in determining whether the conduct of a person renders them unfit to hold a role office or position or fit subject subject to any condition or restriction. A Church worker must familiarise themselves with the Code: s16 of the Act. A prescribed Church worker (clergy and certain specified lay leaders) must make a report to the Director of Professional Standards if they believe on reasonable grounds that a person has suffered harm or is at risk of harm as a result of misconduct by another Church worker and have no reason to believe that the Director is aware of those facts: s17 of the Act. A failure to comply is a relevant factor in determining the fitness or otherwise of that Church worker for any role office or position.
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		Section 2 <u>Bullying</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'bullying' replacing it with:</i> “bullying” means repeated behaviour directed to a person or persons— (a) which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would expect to victimise, humiliate, undermine or threaten the person or persons; and (b) which creates a real risk to the health and safety of the person or persons but does not include excluded conduct; <u>Church Authority</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'church authority' replacing it with:</i> church authority has the meaning in the Act <u>Church Body</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'church body' replacing it with:</i> Church body includes a parish, vicar, rector, parish council, the Dean or Chapter of the Cathedral, a school affiliated with the Church, Anglicare Victoria and any other body corporate, organization or association that exercises ministry within, or on behalf of, the Church <u>Church Worker</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'church worker' replacing it with:</i> church worker has the meaning in the Act <u>Director of Professional Standards</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'Director of Professional Standards' replacing it with:</i> Director of Professional Standards has the meaning in the Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016. <u>Emotional Abuse</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'emotional abuse' replacing it with:</i> emotional abuse means— (a) subjecting a person to excessive and repeated personal criticism; (b) ridiculing a person, including the use of insulting or derogatory terms to refer to that person; (c) threatening or intimidating a person; (d) ignoring a person openly and pointedly;
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		(e) behaving in a hostile manner or in any way that could reasonably result in another person feeling isolated or rejected; or (f) any other act or omission in relation to a person which has caused, or is likely to cause physical or mental harm including self harm but does not include excluded conduct; <u>Harassment</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'harassment' replacing it with:</i> harassment means unwelcome conduct, whether intended or not, in relation to a person in circumstances in which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated that the other person would be offended, humiliated or intimidated but does not include excluded conduct.⁴ <i>This amendment includes the footnote:</i> 4 The language of the definition reflects both s92 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) and s22A of Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW). Cf also the Sex Discrimination Act (1984), s28A. <u>Neglect</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'neglect' replacing it with:</i> "neglect" means the failure of a parent or guardian to provide a child the basic necessities of life where the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm to his or her wellbeing or development; <u>Physical Abuse</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'physical abuse' replacing it with:</i> "physical abuse" means any intentional or reckless act, use of force or threat to use force causing injury to, or involving unwelcome physical contact with, another person but does not include lawful discipline by a parent or guardian. <u>Sexual abuse of a child</u> <i>Amended the clause under the sub-heading 'sexual abuse of a child', deleting the material following the first paragraph. It now reads:</i> sexual abuse of a child⁵ means the use of a child by another person for his or her own sexual stimulation or gratification or for that of others. <u>Sexual assault</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading 'sexual assault' replacing it with:</i>
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		“sexual assault” means any intentional or reckless act, use of force or threat to use force involving some form of sexual activity— (a) against an adult without their consent or a reasonable belief⁶ in their consent; or (b) against a child; <i>This amendment includes the footnote:</i> 6 Whether a belief is reasonable depends on the circumstances. See Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) section 37G <u>Sexual harassment</u> <i>Amended the clause under the sub-heading ‘sexual harassment’, deleting the material following the first paragraph. It now reads:</i> sexual harassment⁸ means: • an unwelcome sexual advance, or an unwelcome request for sexual favours, to the other person, or • other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in relation to the other person, in circumstances in which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated that the other person would be offended, humiliated or intimidated. <u>Spiritual abuse</u> <i>Removed the clause under the sub-heading ‘spiritual abuse’ replacing it with:</i> “spiritual abuse” means the mistreatment of a person by actions or threats directed specifically to that person and justified by appeal to God, faith or religion, which mistreatment has caused, or is likely to cause physical or mental harm including self harm but does not include excluded conduct. <u>The Act</u> <i>added the clause under the sub-heading ‘the Act’:</i> “the Act” means the Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016 of the Diocese. Section 3 <i>Added clause 3.6:</i> Diocesan note: 3.6 The code sets out standards of conduct expected of a Church worker and is relevant in determining whether the conduct of a person renders them unfit to hold a role office or position or fit subject to any condition or restriction: s14(2) of the Act. Note: Renumbering and formatting amendments have also been made due to the changes outlined above.
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Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
Brisbane	Yes with Amendments	Modified as follows (26 June 2022): Section 7: <i>Clause 7.2 Amended to read as follows:</i> Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct. <i>Clause 7.4 amended to read as follows:</i> Your sexual behaviour should be characterized by faithfulness and integrity.
Bunbury	Yes with amendments	Adopted on 8 October 2022 Section 7 Amended Clause 7.2 - placing a full stop after 'taking responsibility for their sexual conduct' and removing the words, 'by maintaining chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage'. Replacing clause 7.4 with the following: 'Your sexual behaviour should be characterised by faithfulness and integrity'
Canberra and Goulburn	Model for development of diocesan code of conduct	In accordance with adoption of the Safe Ministry to Children Canon in 2018, the Diocese adopted Section 5 of Faithfulness in Service (FiS) in whole and Sections 1, 2, and 3 as they apply to Section 5. The Diocese promulgates this version of FiS as the Diocesan Code of Conduct for Safe Ministry to Children. It is available on the Diocesan Website (Policies and Protocols - Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn) The diocese has also adopted an alternative code of conduct for all Church Workers titled Diocesan Code of Good Practice which was implemented in 2003 (latest revision was 2013). Child related Church Workers receive training in this Code of Conduct as part their Safe Ministry training.

Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
Gippsland	Yes with amendments	Modified as follows: Section 7 Added Diocesan preamble to this section: <i>Clauses 7.2 and 7.4 of Faithfulness in Service are to be understood and applied in the context that a member of the clergy or church worker who is in a committed and monogamous relationship with another person is not to be regarded as being in breach of Clauses 7.2 and 7.4 only because that relationship does not have the status of a marriage solemnised according to an Anglican marriage rite; Faithfulness in Service (November 2016 version) is otherwise affirmed and adopted as the Code of Conduct for observance by Clergy and Church workers in the Diocese. (Faithfulness in Service was qualified by this paragraph when adopted by the Diocese of Gippsland as the Code of Conduct for observance by Clergy and Church workers in the Diocese.)</i>

Grafton	Yes with Amendments	Adopted with amendments on 29 August 2024 Modified as follows: Section 2 Definition of child amended: <i>child in New South Wales means anyone under the age of 16.</i> Definition of child abuse amended: <i>child abuse means the following conduct in relation to a child or young person:</i> • <i>bullying;</i> • <i>emotional abuse;</i> • <i>harassment;</i> • <i>neglect;</i> • <i>physical abuse;</i> • <i>sexual abuse; or</i> • <i>spiritual abuse.</i> Definition of grooming amended: <i>grooming refers to actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of engaging and influencing an adult, young person or a child for the purpose of sexual activity. In the case of sexual abuse of a child or young person, an offender may groom not only the child or young person, but also those close to them, including their parents or guardians, other family members, clergy and church workers. Grooming can include providing gifts or favours to the child or young person or their family.</i> Definition of neglect amended: <i>neglect means the failure to provide the basic necessities of life where a child or young person's health and development are placed at risk of harm. It includes being deprived of:</i> • <i>food;</i> • <i>clothing;</i> • <i>shelter;</i> • <i>hygiene;</i> • <i>education;</i> • <i>supervision and safety;</i> • <i>attachment to and affection from adults; and</i> • <i>medical care.</i> Dot point 3 of the definition of prohibited material amended: <i>any substance or product whose supply to or use by children is prohibited by law, this may include alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs and gambling products.</i>
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		Definition of sexual abuse of a child amended: sexual abuse of a child or young person means the use of a child or young person by another person for his or her own sexual stimulation or gratification or for that of others. It includes: • making sexual advances using any form of communication; • exposing oneself indecently; • having or attempting to have vaginal or anal intercourse; • penetrating or attempting to penetrate a child or young person's vagina or anus with an object or any bodily part; • kissing, touching, holding or fondling or attempting to kiss, touch, hold or fondle a child or young person in a sexual manner; • staring at or secretly watching a child or young person for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification; • making any gesture or action of a sexual nature in a child or young person's presence; • making sexual references or innuendo in a child or young person's presence using any form of communication; • discussing or inquiring about personal matters of a sexual nature with a child or young person; • possessing, creating or exposing a child or young person to child exploitation material of a sexual nature; • exposing a child or young person to any form of sexually explicit or suggestive material including clothing with sexually explicit images or messages; • giving goods, money, attention or affection in exchange for sexual activities with a child or young person; • giving goods, money, attention or affection in exchange for images of a child or young person for the purpose of sexual gratification of themselves or others; • encouraging, or forcing or attempting to encourage or force a child or young person: - to sexually touch or fondle another person; - to perform oral sex; - either to masturbate self or others, or to watch others masturbate; and - to engage in or watch any other sexual activity. Section 3 Section 3.9 amended: If you know or have reason to believe that another member of the clergy or another church worker has failed to meet a standard of this Code, other than for child abuse (the reporting
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		<i>of child abuse is addressed in paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15) you should:</i> Footnote added to dot point 2 in Section 3.9: <i>1 The Professional Standards Ordinance 2004 and associated protocol and GEN-007 Handling Suspected Misconduct apply in the Diocese of Grafton.</i> Section 4 Section 4.6 amended: <i>The Confessions Canon 1989 (as amended) or the proviso to Canon 113 of 1603 is in force throughout the Church. These Canons make provision for the confession of sins to clergy and for the confidentiality of this confession. As a consequence of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, General Synod changed the Confessions Canon in September 2017. A priest hearing private confession is now mandated to report admissions of child sexual abuse to the relevant authorities. If you are a member of the clergy, you should be aware of the scope of, and your obligations under, the applicable Canon. For example, absolution is not automatic and may be withheld. You may require of the person making the confession of sins some appropriate action of contrition and reparation before you give them absolution.</i> Section 4.29 amended and a footnote added: <i>You may have a legal obligation to report criminal offences to the applicable civil authorities² (the issue of child abuse is addressed in Section 4). You may be subpoenaed to produce documents or to attend court to give evidence, or both. In some States or Territories, clergy may be able to claim privilege from producing documents and/or disclosing information obtained in a confession referred to in paragraphs 4.25 to 4.27.</i> <i>2. There are a number of mandatory reporting requirements in force in NSW which make it an offence to conceal (ie, not report) a child abuse offence or any serious indictable offense. (sec 316 of the NSW Crimes Act 1900).</i> Section 5 Footnote added to dot point 1 of Section 5.8: <i>3 The Child Safe Standards are the primary framework that guide child safe practice in the Diocese. (Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021)</i> Footnote added to dot point 2 of section 5.8: <i>4 Adults who work or volunteer in child-related work in NSW must have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC). The Diocese must verify the WWCC details and keep records of anyone employed or volunteering in child-related work. (Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012).</i>
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Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
		Footnote added to dot point 3 of section 5.8: <i>GEN-006 Background Checks and Minimum Training Standards for Community Protection applies in the Diocese.</i> Section 5.10 amended: <i>You are not to abuse children.</i> Footnote added to section 5.13: <i>6 GEN-015 Safe Ministry in a parish where there is a risk of sexual abuse by a Person of Concern applies in the Diocese.</i> Section 7 Section 7.2 amended to be consistent with section 7.4: <i>Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct by maintaining faithfulness and integrity in their sexual behaviour.</i> Clause 7.4 “You are to be chaste and not engage in sex outside of marriage and not engage in disgraceful conduct of a sexual nature” replaced by “Your sexual behaviour should be characterised by faithfulness and integrity” Footnote was added to section 7.4: <i>Amended by decision of Synod 2007.</i>

Melbourne	Yes with amendments	Modified as follows: Section 1 Added Diocesan note: <i>This Code, modified as here set out, has been approved by the Archbishop of Melbourne acting with the advice and consent of the Council of the Diocese, and modified only to the extent necessary to achieve consistency in terms with the Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016 of the Diocese (the Act).</i> <i>This Code was modified in August 2021 to make clear that section 5 no longer applies, as it has been superseded in the Diocese by the Code of Conduct for Child Safety and Wellbeing and that have been approved by the Council. These documents build on the text from section 5 but augment it to meet Victorian Government requirements.</i> <i>The code sets out standards of conduct expected of a Church worker and is relevant in determining whether the conduct of a person renders them unfit to hold a role office or position or fit subject to any condition or restriction.</i> <i>A Church worker must familiarise themselves with the Code: s16 of the Act.</i> <i>A prescribed Church worker (clergy and certain specified lay leaders) must make a report to the Director of Professional Standards if they believe on reasonable grounds that a person has suffered harm or is at risk of harm as a result of misconduct by another Church worker and have no reason to believe that the Director is aware of those facts: s17 of the Act.</i> <i>A failure to comply is a relevant factor in determining the fitness or otherwise of that Church worker for any role office or position.</i> Section 2 Definitions amended for consistency with Melbourne's Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016 and Victorian legislation. Section 3 Added Diocesan note: <i>3.6 The code sets out standards of conduct expected of a Church worker and is relevant in determining whether the conduct of a person renders them unfit to hold a role office or position or fit subject to any condition or restriction: s14(2) of the Act.</i> Amended (& new numbering) to comply with Victorian legislation: <i>3.10 If you know or have reason to believe that another member of the clergy or another church worker has failed to meet a standard of this Code, other than for child abuse (the reporting of child abuse is addressed in the Diocese's Code of Conduct</i>
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Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
		for Child Safety and Wellbeing and the Child Safety and Wellbeing Reporting Procedure) you should: • If you know or reasonably suspect a person has not suffered harm or is not at the risk of harm, approach the member of the clergy or church worker and identify the concern; or • If you know or reasonably suspect a person has suffered harm or is at the risk of harm, report this to the Director of Professional Standards. If in doubt seek advice from a colleague or supervisor or the Director of Professional Standards without identifying the member of the clergy or church worker. 3.11 If you know or reasonably suspect that another member of the clergy or another church worker has not followed a guideline of this Code, you should approach the member of the clergy or church worker and identify the concern. If you consider that the member of the clergy or church worker is persisting in disregarding the guideline without good reason and a person has suffered harm or is at the risk of harm, you should report this to the Director of Professional Standards. If in doubt seek advice from a colleague or supervisor or the Director of Professional Standards without identifying the member of the clergy or church worker. Section 4: Amended: 4.29 You may have a legal obligation to report criminal offences to the applicable civil authorities (the issue of child abuse is addressed in the Diocese's Code of Conduct for Child Safety and Wellbeing and the Child Safety and Wellbeing Reporting Procedure). You may be subpoenaed to produce documents or to attend court to give evidence, or both. In some States or Territories, clergy may be able to claim privilege from producing documents and/or disclosing information obtained in a confession referred to in paragraphs 4.26 to 4.28. Section 5: This section 5 no longer applies as it has been superseded by Melbourne's Code of Conduct for Child Safety and Wellbeing that has been approved by its Archbishop in Council. This document builds on the text from section 5 but augments it to meet Victorian legislation. The Code of Conduct is available on the Diocese's website at Safe Ministry Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (melbourneanglican.org.au) Section 5 in Melbourne's Faithfulness in Service is greyed out with a watermark saying "Superseded by Code of Conduct for Child Safety and Wellbeing".

Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
Newcastle	Model for development of diocesan code of conduct	Response from Diocese: The Diocese of Newcastle notes that Faithfulness in Service adopted by the Standing Committee is a model code of conduct. The responsibility for determining the Code of Conduct to have force in the Diocese is the responsibility of the Diocesan Council. Exercising that responsibility, the Diocesan Council uses the model as a guide but has adapted it because of continued review of safeguarding practice in the Diocese. This has led to changes in the definitions, sections 3, 5 and 7. In addition the Diocese has passed a Reporting of Crime policy. The Diocese's current code can be found here - https://www.newcastleanglican.org.au/standards-for-clergy-and-church-workers-and-safe-ministry-screening/
North Queensland	Yes	-
North West Australia	Yes	-
Northern Territory	Yes	-
Perth	Yes with amendments	Section 7 Clauses 7.2, 7.4 and 7.7 were amended by Perth Diocesan Synod on 5 October 2024 as set out below: Clause 7.2 amended to: <i>"Sexuality is a gift from God and is integral to human nature. It is appropriate for clergy and church workers to value this gift, taking responsibility for their sexual conduct."</i> Clause 7.4 replaced with: <i>"Your sexual behaviour should be characterised by faithfulness and integrity."</i> Clause 7.7 amended to: <i>"You should avoid situations where your conduct breaches the standards of sexual conduct in this Code."</i>
Riverina	Model for development of diocesan code of conduct	The Diocese adopted Faithfulness in Service in the first instance and then adopted a 'Code of Conduct' at its Synod in 2021 that was built around several documents including Faithfulness in Service. The Diocesan version of Faithfulness in Service can be found here: https://anglicanriverina.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CLEAN.pdf.
Rockhampton	Yes	-

Sydney	Yes with amendments	Adopted on 25 October 2004 – last amended 11 September 2023 Section 2: The diocesan version of Faithfulness in Service has removed/amended the following sub-clauses to this section: • Definition of ‘Director of Professional Standards’ – ‘Director of Professional Standards’ replaced with ‘Director of Safe Ministry’ • Definition of ‘professional supervision/consultation’ – ‘professional supervision/consultation’ and ‘professional supervision’ replaced with ‘pastoral supervision’. Section 3: The diocesan version of Faithfulness in Service has removed/amended the following sub-clauses to this section: • Subclause 3.9 – ‘Director of Professional Standards’ replaced with ‘Director of Safe Ministry’ • Subclause 3.10 – ‘Director of Professional Standards’ replaced with ‘Director of Safe Ministry’ Section 4: The diocesan version of Faithfulness in Service has removed/amended the following sub-clauses to this section: • Subclause 4.3 – ‘Sections 3 and 5’ replaced with ‘Sections 5 and 7’ • Subclause 4.19 – ‘professional supervision’ replaced with ‘pastoral supervision’ • Subclause 4.23 – ‘professional supervision / consultation’ replaced with ‘pastoral supervision’ • Subclause 4.24 – ‘professional supervision / consultation’ replaced with ‘pastoral supervision’ • Subclause 4.35 under subheading ‘Risks associated with using technology in communication’ – ○ ‘may’ replaced with ‘often’, and ○ list of examples expressed as single sentence instead of bullet points Section 5: The diocesan version of Faithfulness in Service has removed/amended the following sub-clauses to this section: • Subclause 5.13 – ‘Director of Professional Standards’ replaced with ‘Director of Safe Ministry’ • Subclause 5.16 – paragraphs on grooming moved to the end of the subclause (after ‘Characteristics and effects of child abuse’ subsection)
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Diocese	Adopted?	Variance / Other comments
		- Subclause 5.18 – after the bullet point list, ‘paragraphs 5.19 and 5.47’ replaced with ‘paragraphs 5.19 to 5.47’ (italics added for emphasis) - Subclause 5.20 – ‘Director of Professional Standards’ replaced with ‘Director of Safe Ministry’ - Subclause 5.42 – repeated final dot point removed (‘you make a record of the circumstances of the incident and discipline’). - Subclause 5.46 under subheading ‘Risks associated with using technology in communication’ – ‘may’ replaced with ‘often’, and - list of examples expressed as single sentence instead of bullet points.
Tasmania	Yes with Amendments	Section 2 Amended to add: <i>Marriage</i> means “a lifelong partnership uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body to the exclusion of all others” (Page 658 of the Prayer Book of Australia, Second Order of Marriage).
The Murray	Yes	Adopted on 26 May 2018
Wangaratta	Yes with amendments	Adopted on 1 May 2006 – last amended on 23 July 2019: Section 7: Clergy Code of Conduct change re relationships permitted That Bishop in Council - Affirms its commitment to the maintenance of professional standards in the Diocese including with regard to the personal conduct of clergy and church workers. Affirms the need for codes of conduct for personal conduct that represent the standards expected and required by the diocese. Subject to the additions set out further in this resolution, under section 7 of the Professional Standards Act 2010 approves Faithfulness in Service as in force from time to time and the Code of Good Practice for Clergy 2019 as codes of conduct for observance by all clergy and church workers in the diocese. Adopts the following additional provisions to be regarded as incorporated into Faithfulness in Service: <i>Clauses 7.2 and 7.4 of Faithfulness in Service are to be understood and applied in the context that a member of the clergy or church worker who is in a committed and monogamous relationship with another person is not to be regarded as being in breach of clauses 7.2 and 7.4 only because that relationship does not have the status of a marriage solemnised according to an Anglican marriage rite.</i>
Willochra	Yes	-

Diocesan Co-operation and Sharing – Future Structures of the Anglican Church

INTRODUCTION

This paper has been prepared for the General Synod by the Executive Committee of the Standing Committee of General Synod.

It has these purposes:

- to describe the work that has been done to implement resolution 80 of the 18th General Synod;
- to note the modest but significant constitutional amendments proposed as a result of this work;
- to report on the various other and more extensive proposals that have not gained sufficient support to be brought to GS19;
- to provide a context to motion on this topic before this Synod;
- to identify some of the overarching issues that will continue to limit what is possible in addressing the matters referred to in resolution 80/18.

RESOLUTION 80/18 AND THE RESULTING WORK

At GS18 the following resolution was passed:

Recognising the financial stress and administrative strain placed on regional and rural dioceses due to the legacy of historic sexual abuse claims, the rising cost of insuring property and ministry operations, and the increased workload from centrally-mandated ministry programs: requests that the Standing Committee, with the support of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force determine how the Metropolitan Dioceses could take on greater responsibility for supporting ministry in all the dioceses of their respective Provinces including but not limited to policies, processes, administration, registries, insurance, safe ministry training and audit, redress and continued presence in regional and rural ministries.

R80/18

Initial work by DFATF

The Standing Committee of General Synod (**Standing Committee**) had for some time been discussing the importance of crisis action planning – especially due to the cost of settling sexual and physical abuse claims – and of being prepared to respond if a diocese had its financial viability threatened. In response to resolution 80/18, the Standing Committee identified this as a strategic priority. As a first step, it sought to understand the extent to which the provinces were able to support a diocese in distress, and their level of crisis management readiness to respond to non-viable diocese.

The resolution was referred to the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force (**DFATF**) in order to gain an understanding about the level of provincial preparedness to manage a financial crisis should it arise, including the extent to which any crisis management might involve cooperation between dioceses within a province.

DFATF then designed and distributed a survey to all 23 Dioceses in June 2023. All Dioceses responded. The resulting report provided a valuable perspective on the current financial

health of the Anglican Church in Australia and its readiness to deal with expected or potential financial crises.

DFATF has for many years provided the Standing Committee with regular reports on the financial health of Dioceses, and the findings of the survey were consistent with those reports. They confirmed that the provinces of NSW and Queensland/Northern Territory have the Dioceses with the most immediate concern for their financial viability. Three Dioceses (Bathurst, North Queensland and Riverina) considered they were already, or might become, financially unviable within the next 3 years; and two others (Northern Territory and Rockhampton) believed that they could be in such a situation within 3-5 years.

The most pressing concern for the Standing Committee was the Diocese of North Queensland, due to the immediacy of its challenges, the possible size of its future claims obligations and uncertainty surrounding how those claims would be settled, and the potential financial and reputational impacts on the broader Anglican Church of Australia.

Another 55% of Dioceses indicated that a large unexpected financial expense requiring payment in the next 2 years would create stress, but that they should be able to manage their financial commitments. This included three of the Metropolitan Dioceses (Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth).

Six Dioceses anticipated that they may need to request financial support from another Diocese within their province (Bathurst, Riverina, North Queensland, Northern Territory, Central Queensland and North West Australia), and two of these were already receiving financial support from other Dioceses.

Just over 50% of the Dioceses indicated that they could not or would not provide any type of support to another Diocese within their province. There were no Metropolitan Dioceses in this group. Of the remainder, 15% said they could not provide financial support but were prepared to provide administrative and ministry support, for example, through sharing corporate services; and roughly 30% were prepared to also provide financial support.

As at November 2023 the level of conversations amongst Dioceses concerning inter-provincial collaboration appeared limited or basic, except for where there was already support occurring.

Approximately half of the Dioceses reported that they already had in place documented and approved crisis management plans, and a further third expected to develop a plan for approval in the near term. It appeared to be beneficial to offer guidance in this space, and DFATF delivered a presentation and discussion on crisis management planning at the Registrars' Conference in Canberra in November 2023.

Standing Committee – November 2023

At its November 2023 meeting the Standing Committee had before it a number of reports addressing the financial stress currently, and forecast to be, experienced by Dioceses. It was acknowledged that the current governance structure of the ACA provides limited opportunities to support Dioceses in difficulty. At the same time, changes in demographics, church membership, the church's position in the community had occurred since the mid-20th century, while the cost and sophistication of Diocesan operations had also increased.

In response to these reports, the Executive Committee of Standing Committee (**Executive Committee**) was tasked by the Standing Committee to develop recommendations on the future shape of the Structure of the Anglican Church of Australia. In particular:

- to develop a complete picture regarding those dioceses that are likely to be in distress over the next 5 years
- to make recommendations that address the full range of implications at a national church level including possible reshaping of the Australian Diocesan structure
- to bring to the next meeting of Standing Committee a list of specific matters over which it needs to adopt a position.

Executive Committee – February 2024 and Standing Committee April 2024

The Executive Committee extended its February 2024 meeting by half a day in order to do the work asked of it. It developed seven options to be considered at the next meeting of the Standing Committee. They were:

- A. Status quo
- B. Status quo with right to intervene and/or support
- C. Status quo with temporary dual episcopacy
- D. Status quo with non-territorial diocese
- E. Status quo with national home mission diocese(s)
- F. More provincial - state-based provinces
- G. More provincial – elective provinces

At the Standing Committee meeting in April 2024 the Standing Committee worked in small groups to assess each of these models. In order to structure the discussion in each group and to allow the work of different groups to be compared, they were given 18 criteria, covering four broad topics: finance, solvency and secular law; functioning as a diocese in mission and administration; moral and Anglican responsibilities; likelihood of the model being trusted and durable.¹

The assessment in each case was whether against the relevant criterion the model would be advantageous, neutral or contra-indicated. The outcome is in Table 1.

From the table it was clear that only Models C and F satisfied sufficient criteria to warrant further consideration, and each was therefore further progressed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO FACILITATE OPTIONS C AND F

At its meetings April and November 2024 the Standing Committee considered constitutional amendments to enable, or reduce the impediments to, options C and F.

In the case of Model C, the constitutional amendment proposed by the Standing Committee is now in Bill 08 for GS19. It would insert into the Constitution a provision allowing a Diocesan Bishop to be elected the bishop also of another diocese in the same province with the consent both of the bishop's own diocese and a majority of Diocesan bishops within the province.

¹ The 18 criteria were: Financial viability; Managing outstanding financial liabilities; Managing National Redress Scheme liabilities; Sustainability given increasing financial and compliance demands; Single entity at State level for interaction with State government; Efficiency in responding to secular laws and government requirements; Viable and effective episcopal leadership; Viable and effective governance and administration; Satisfying the minimum expectations for being a diocese; Mission; Social licence; Moral obligations generally; Moral obligations to victims of abuse; Maintaining an Anglican presence; Consistency with Anglican ecclesiology and organizing principles; Trust in the design; Trust in practice (during implementation and ongoing); Robustness and durability

The Future Shape of the Anglican Church of Australia

	Illustrative models:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
		Status quo	Status quo with right to intervene and/or support	Status quo with temporary dual episcopacy (with or without other forms of intervention and support)	Status quo with non-territorial diocese	Status quo with national home mission diocese(s)	More provincial - state-based provinces	More provincial – elective provinces	
CLUSTER 1	Criteria for evaluation:	Current independence – the diocese is the organisational unit of this Church –limited formal mechanisms for support or intervention (eg, Provisional Missionary Diocese)	Retain current independence, but with rights conferred by General Synod for specific forms of support (eg, loans or lines of credit from statutory fund; paying for diocesan staff) or intervention (eg imposing a management committee)	Current constitutional arrangements left intact, but with the same person able to be the Diocesan bishop of two or more dioceses.	Some dioceses could be formed from parishes, church plants, chaplaincies, church agencies and other entities choosing to come together as a diocese.	In parts of Australia where local Anglicans cannot be part of a functioning dioceses, there would instead be a mission diocese under the episcopacy of a national mission bishop. National financial support provided and funded through Statutory Assessment (change to s32 of Constitution required)	Rebalance provincial and diocesan responsibilities, with management of real property, finance, insurance, stipends and employment managed at a provincial level and Diocesan bishops and councils focus on ministry and mission. (Assumes right balance of consultation with diocesan councils on decisions affecting church planting and closure, etc).	Rebalance provincial and diocesan responsibilities (Provincial finance and administration provincial, Diocesan mission and ministry) but Dioceses choose their own “cluster”. (Would need default—eg, with metropolitan diocese in the Diocese’s state, absent some other choice.)	
		1.1 Financial viability							
		1.2 Managing outstanding financial liabilities							
		1.3 Managing NRS liabilities							
		1.4 Sustainability given increasing financial and compliance demands							
		1.5 Single entity at State level for interaction with State government							
		1.6 Efficiency in responding to secular laws and government requirements.							
		2.1 Viable and effective episcopal leadership							
		2.2 Viable and effective governance and administration							
		2.3 Satisfying the minimum expectations for being a diocese							
		2.4 Mission							
		3.1 Social licence							
		3.2 Moral obligations generally							
		3.3 Moral obligations to victims of abuse							
		3.4 Maintaining an Anglican presence							
		3.5 Consistency with Anglican ecclesiology and organizing principles							
CL. 4	4.1 Trust in the design								
	4.2 Trust in practice (during implementation and ongoing)								
	4.3 Robustness and durability								

Colour Code: Green/Acceptable Grey/Neutral Red/Unacceptable

While such an amendment is arguably unnecessary for the intended purpose, a constitutional amendment would put the matter beyond doubt and remove any inhibition on legal or ecclesiological grounds.

In the case of Model F, the ACA Constitution already allows changes in the composition of provinces and in the constitution of provinces, but those changes must be approved by General Synod. Model F was envisaged as allowing the transfer of functions from individual dioceses within a province to the province as a whole.² This might be done administratively or in other ways outside the Constitution, but if the outcome were best achieved through changes to a provincial constitution (such as by giving additional legislative powers to the Provincial Council), there is a significant impediment. At present, a provincial constitution can only be changed with the ratification of General Synod, which could mean a delay of up to 4 years. And if further refinements were required, the Province then has to wait another four years for the next General Synod.

Bill 06 was developed to address this impediment, by allowing the Standing Committee (by super-majority) to ratify alterations to a provincial constitution. Similarly, Bill 05 allows the Standing Committee (again requiring a super-majority) to reconfigure provincial structures.

SEEKING SOMETHING MORE

Although these constitutional amendments permitted the structural changes described in Models C and F, the Standing Committee, aware both of the larger challenge presented by Resolution 80/18 and the growing seriousness of the problems presented by the Diocese of North Queensland, continued to look for something more in relation to what might be done when Dioceses moved towards non-viability.

At its November 2024 meeting, the Standing Committee asked the Executive Committee to develop proposals to facilitate the immediate and ongoing financial management and provision of mission and ministry in situations where a Diocese has ceased to be viable or appears to be at risk of ceasing to be viable, including the assumption of debt and options where diocesan merger is not presently a possibility.

The Executive Committee extended its June 2025 meeting to devote an entire day to an in-depth workshop to review the work undertaken to date in the context of a national church response to Dioceses in financial difficulty — at the point of collapse, in transition, and on an ongoing basis — in order to develop the required narrative and recommended options on the way forward. Following that meeting, the Executive circulated a paper to Standing Committee members outlining a possible approach. Seven members provided comments.

² Such responsibilities might include:

- the purchase, sale, and management, of property;
- insurance;
- managing, responding to, settling, making payments in respect of legal claims brought against one of the dioceses or in which it is a party;
- the province assuming the debts of a Diocese in the province;
- entering into contracts and other legal arrangements with third parties on behalf of the province or a diocese in the province, or with a diocese;
- representing the Province or the Dioceses of the Province to secular authorities;
- establishing and administering rules, systems and institutions in relation to the safety of those participating in the life of the church and in relation to professional standards;
- mission, ministry, coordination and representation in relation to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

After consideration of members' comments, the Executive Committee presented a detailed discussion paper and proposals to the Standing Committee at its November 2025 meeting. As already noted, these proposals covered how the church at a national level (both through the Standing Committee, but also provincially) might have a role in processes when a Diocese was clearly at risk, during a phase of transition to whatever might represent a future to mission, ministry and church organization in its territory, and establishing and maintaining an alternative approach when necessary. From the responses of members and from the discussion by the Standing Committee it emerged clearly that the Standing Committee would not be able to agree on any approach that would result in legislation being presented at GS19 in August 2026.

The Standing Committee did agree that these principles apply when Diocesan viability:

- a. the moral obligation to facilitate the settlement of all genuine sexual abuse claims;
- b. maintenance/growth of ministry and mission across all dioceses;
- c. protection of the reputation of the Anglican Church of Australia

The Standing Committee also considered the outline of a process, developed in the course of the meeting, for it to become aware through self-reporting when a Diocese's viability was at risk, with its responses then matched to whether the Diocese could be assisted to recover or whether it might cease to be able to function. It decided to test that process, at a conceptual level, with Dioceses.

A consultation paper was then sent to all Dioceses in January 2026 to seek their reaction to this process at an in-principle level. Submissions were received from 10 Dioceses. Again it was clear that there was no likelihood of broad support for the Standing Committee having a role within the framework of an agreed process when Dioceses were known to be at risk.

In these circumstances, the Standing Committee agreed with a proposal from the Executive Committee to put into an ordinary motion to GS19 some of what might have been, but was not being, proposed as legislation. The full text of its resolution is:

The Standing Committee:

1. *received the report of the General Secretary dated 16th April 2026*
2. *recommended to General Synod the bills for the constitutional amendments already considered at its April 2025 and November 2025 meetings*
3. *agreed to report to the General Synod the extensive work undertaken in response to the General Synod resolution GS80/18 (Viability of Regional Dioceses) since 2022*
4. *agreed to move at the Nineteenth Session of General Synod the following motion:*

Diocesan Financial Self-Assessment

That this General Synod:

- a) *receives the report of Standing Committee on steps taken in response to the General Synod resolution GS80/18 (Viability of Regional Dioceses)*
- b) *notes that the recent consultation with individual dioceses has shown that the Standing Committee has been unable to find new or improved mechanisms to address these issues at a national level that would be broadly supported*
- c) *notes that one of the few existing mechanisms to assist a Diocese experiencing financial difficulties is found in the Missionary Dioceses Canon 1997, which allows a Diocese to apply to the Standing Committee to be declared a Provisional Missionary Diocese and be exempt from paying fixed assessments to General Synod for a period of no more than 3 years, subject to the satisfaction*

of certain financial requirements

- d) recommends that where a vacancy in the See occurs, a Diocese does not proceed with the election or appointment of a new Bishop unless and until a financial self-assessment has been prepared that provides a comprehensive and realistic appraisal of its financial position over the next five years, including an estimate of the liabilities that are reasonably likely to arise from Redress claims and civil claims, and that demonstrates that the Diocese has the capacity to fund the remuneration and associated costs of the Bishop for at least the next 5 years without the need to sell church property assets, and allowing for the discharge of all of its Redress and other civil liabilities*
- e) recommends that the above-mentioned requirement be included in the legislation of each Diocese that regulates the appointment of a new Bishop*
- f) recommends Dioceses as soon as they become aware that they are likely to cease being viable within the next 5 years, to initiate a process either to return the Diocese to viability (in consultation with the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force or otherwise), to appoint an administrator, to seek to amalgamate with another Diocese or to wind up the Diocese*
- g) informs Dioceses that a Diocese's compliance with General Synod's recommendations in items d to f above will be a factor for Standing Committee to consider when determining an application by that Diocese to be declared a Provisional Missionary Diocese, or for other assistance*

SC2026/1/14

Constitutional Amendment – section 45A

In the course of all this work it was noticed that in 2007 General Synod had enacted the Constitution Amendment (Provinces and Dioceses) Canon 2007. This Canon, if adopted, would add a section 45A to the Constitution allowing a diocesan Bishop or administrator, with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council and the approval of the Metropolitan and the Primate, to make administrative arrangements for the emergency administration of that diocese.

That amending Canon did not receive the necessary adoptions to come into effect, possibly because the same Canon would have amended the Constitution in other ways that did not find favour with the requisite number of Dioceses.

That amendment to add section 45A is brought back to GS19 as a stand-alone amendment (Bill 07).

OVERARCHING ISSUES

None of this work has been in vain. To the contrary, it is now possible to see more clearly some of the factors that make responses at a national or provincial level to the imminent or prospective financial failure of a Diocese improbable. This is despite the wide recognition, stated again and again at General Synods for the past 20 or 30 years, of what was covered in DFATF's reports early in this paper: that possibly 25% of our 23 Dioceses are currently at risk, and that changes in demographics, church membership, the church's position in the community that had occurred since the mid-20th century, coupled with increases in the cost and sophistication of Diocesan operations, make this a real and present issue for the Church.

To assist GS19 and those who may again in the future be asked to seek possible approaches, some of these factors should be mentioned.

Unwillingness to assume the debts or potential liabilities of other dioceses

In many, if not all, cases where a Diocese is brought to the brink of insolvency, it is because of what was done by within its geographical territory in the historic past by Anglican clergy, Anglican church leaders and laity in Anglican institutions in many cases now dead.

The commonest view appears to be that it is the responsibility of that Diocese alone to find the funds to meet the church's legal and moral obligations to the victims of that historic wrongdoing—meaning, the present church leaders, clergy and laity.

Perceptions regarding the polity of the Anglican Church of Australia

For some the Anglican Church of Australia is an entity in its own right, with functions and responsibilities at a national level that are exercised in conjunction with those of its constituent Provinces and Dioceses.

For others, the Anglican Church of Australia, while it has some distinct roles, functions and responsibilities within Australia and the Anglican Communion, should not be seen as having any overall status or agency beyond what is given to it by its 23 Dioceses.

For others again, the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia should be seen as something akin to a treaty or compact entered into by its constituent Dioceses with only those functions and responsibilities that are granted to it by the Constitution itself or by the General Synod with the assent of those Dioceses.

These different conceptions of the Anglican Church of Australia lead to fundamentally different answers about the appropriate extra-Diocesan or national church response to a Diocese at risk.

Trust and suspicion

Anecdotal evidence is that proposals for processes to support Dioceses at risk, even with safeguards and permission-giving by affected stakeholders, are evaluated in terms of how they might be leveraged to the detriment of the Diocese. If that is true, it would suggest that there is a lack of trust amongst those collectively responsible for leading the Anglican Church in Australia.

External legal context

All dioceses function both under ecclesiastical law and under secular law. Most or all dioceses rely on Corporations Law, the law of trusts, or legislation of their State or Territory in order to function. As a result, while as an ecclesial entity a diocese will be subject to ecclesiastical law, as a legal person for the purposes of secular law it will be governed by secular law, leaving little opportunity for external intervention in the affairs of that legal person.

This situation has several implications. First, even if external intervention is in some way possible, those involved may become shadow directors, or become fixed with the fiduciary and other duties of directors or trustees in a situation where (by definition) there may be insolvency. Secondly, a diocese may deliberately structure itself in order to take itself as far as possible away from church law and governance and towards legal autonomy under secular law. Thirdly, following from the second point, increasing the opportunity for the Anglican Church of Australia at a national level to intervene in the affairs of insolvent dioceses may create an incentive for the Church to become an even looser federation of autonomous entities than it already is.

Conclusion

The issues that led to Resolution 80/18, to the work done since then, and to this paper are significant and inescapable. The fundamental challenges to finding possible responses are not technical questions of design and engineering, but those relating to the more fundamental issues such as those just referred to.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION CANON 1995

This report has been prepared pursuant to section 3(6) of the Financial Protection Canon 1995 which provides:

The Standing Committee will, in its Report to each session of General Synod, include a list of the organisations which have been required to submit a report under this section and include such comments or report as the Standing Committee considers appropriate.

The following Organisations are required to report annually in accordance with s2 of the Financial Protection Canon 1995:

- Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Limited;
- Anglican Redress (National Redress Scheme) Limited;
- Broughton Publishing Trust;
- Defence Force Board and AMOS Foundation;
- Long Service Leave Fund; and
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council;

The Australian College of Theology Limited was removed from the list of Organisations required to report annually in May 2022, after adopting a new Constitution establishing a new governance structure. This change altered its relationship with the Anglican Church of Australia, resulting in it no longer being required to report in accordance with s2 of the Financial Protection Canon 1995.

The General Synod Audit Committee was nominated by the Standing Committee (in 2018) as the body to review the audited financial statements of Organisations, certified under s2 of the Financial Protection Canon 1995, and to report to the Standing Committee, commencing from the 2018 reporting year.

Since 2022, the Standing Committee has received all reports required in accordance with the Financial Protection Canon.

NATIONAL REGISTER CANON 2007

The National Register is a register of abuse incidents maintained in accordance with the National Register Canon 2007 and is a tool to assist with the screening of ministry appointments.

This report has been prepared pursuant to section 17 of the National Register Canon 2007 which provides:

The Standing Committee shall prepare a report on the operation of this Canon for each ordinary session of General Synod which shall include:

- a) any protocol under this Canon which the Standing Committee has approved or revised, and*
- b) any other decision under this Canon which the Standing Committee has made, since the last ordinary session of General Synod.*

National Register Audit

The National Register Canon 2007 provides that an annual audit report of the operation of the National Register to verify compliance with the Canon and the protocols under the Canon for each calendar year shall be published on the General Synod website. Reports from 2022 to 2024 are available at

<https://anglican.org.au/our-work/professional-standards-commission/national-register/>

National Register statistical information at 31 December 2025

Number of persons on the National Register

491 persons were listed on the National Register (477 in 2024).

The net increase of 14 persons from 2024 arose from 14 new persons added onto the Register. One person was added and removed in the 2025 year.

Number of incidents on the National Register

641 incidents had been entered against 491 persons (627 against 477 in 2024).

The net increase of 14 incidents from 2024 arose from 14 new incidents added onto the Register and one incident added and removed on the 2025 year.

Number of requests for information

Requests for information can only be submitted by authorised persons. Authorised persons are defined in section 11 of the canon:

'Access to and disclosure of Information in the National Register shall, subject to sections 12 and 13, be limited to the following authorised persons:

- a) a diocesan bishop or delegate;*
- b) the Bishop to the Defence Force or delegate;*
- c) a Director of Professional Standards;*
- d) the General Secretary;*
- e) any person within the General Synod Office whose duties include assisting the General Secretary in maintaining the National Register; and*
- f) such other persons as may be determined by the Standing Committee by a two-thirds majority;*

who agree to abide by the protocols under this Canon approved by the General Synod, or the Standing Committee by a two-thirds majority.'

9,265 information requests were processed in 2025 (10,356 requests in 2024). Over 2025, information requests declined 9.57% on the previous year.

Number of requests for information made where information on the National Register matched a request

There were 5 full matches of information requests to National Register records made by system users (13 matches in 2024).

These matched requests were received by 3 different diocesan users. Of these 5 matches, the matched reasons given were for:

- abuse and allegations of abuse (1)
- application for appointment to a position within the diocese (3)
- application for issue of a license within a diocese (1)

Number of requests for own information/access received from persons in respect of whom information exists on the National Register

The General Synod Office received no (0) request for own information and/or information on who has had access to that same information (1 request in 2024).

Number of requests for amendments to own information

No (0) requests were received by the General Synod Office in 2025 to amend/remove information on the National Register (No requests in 2024).

Frequency of use by individual dioceses

The National Register Officer (NRO) provides statistical reports on access to the National Register by authorised users, recording the number of searches and the management of new and existing records.

As some Directors of Professional Standards have responsibilities for more than one diocese it is difficult to provide an accurate breakdown by diocese. The following information gives an indication of some provincial collaborative groupings.

Diocese/Organisation	Records management (new and amendments)		Requests for information ¹	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Sydney	11	6	620	496
Newcastle	0	0	598	341
Grafton	0	0	21	35
Armidale	0	0	17	10
Riverina	0	0	0	0
Ballarat	0	1	57	51
Perth, Bunbury	0	0	143	157
Tasmania	0	0	693	653

Diocese/Organisation	Records management (new and amendments)		Requests for information ¹	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Queensland	1	0	2,574	2,809
- Brisbane	-	-	-	-
- Rockhampton	-	-	-	-
- North Queensland	-	-	-	-
Kooyoorra Ltd	2	44	3,327	3,645
- Melbourne	-	-	-	-
- Bendigo	-	-	-	-
- Gippsland	-	-	-	-
- Wangaratta	-	-	-	-
- Adelaide	-	-	-	-
- The Murray	-	-	-	-
- Willochra	-	-	-	-
Safer Communities	1	0	1,129	2,130
- Canberra & Goulburn	-	-	0	0
- Bathurst	-	-	0	0
- Northern Territory	-	-	0	0
- North West Australia	-	-	0	0
General Secretary / NRO ²	N/A	N/A	86	29
Total	15	51	9,265	10,356

¹ Figures include all authorised users within the diocese/province indicated as serviced by the same Director of Professional Standards.

² The General Secretary/NRO is not authorised to create new records on the Register. The Requests for Information primarily relate to appointment to General Synod bodies.

AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL REGISTER PROTOCOLS

The Standing Committee by a two-thirds majority may revise any protocol or make any additional protocol under the *National Register Canon 2007* where it is necessary or convenient to carry out or give effect to the Canon (section 16).

The Standing Committee has not amended the National Register Protocol for Access to and Disclosure of Information in the National Register since the Eighteenth session of General Synod.

**PROTOCOL FOR ACCESS TO AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER****Part 1 General***Title*

1. The Protocol may be cited as the “Protocol for access to and disclosure of Information in the National Register 2007”.

Part 2 Access by authorised persons*Acknowledgment and agreement of authorised persons*

2. The General Secretary must not allow an authorised person other than himself or herself to have any access to Information in the National Register unless he or she has received a signed document in the form of the acknowledgement and agreement at the end of this Schedule from the authorised person. The General Secretary must sign this form of acknowledgement and agreement before undertaking any responsibility under this Canon. The acknowledgement and agreement will remain in force unless withdrawn or the signatory ceases to be an authorised person.

Register of authorised persons

3. The General Secretary must maintain a register of the name, contact details, and the period of access to the National Register, of each authorised person.

Record of reason for access

4. Each time an authorised person has access to Information in the National Register relating to a member of the clergy or lay person (other than the General Secretary, or any person within the General Synod Office whose duties include assisting the General Secretary in maintaining the National Register), he or she must declare to the General Secretary the reason for the access, and the Church authority to which the Information will be disclosed.

Log of access by authorised persons

5. The General Secretary must maintain a log of each access recording the name of the authorised person and the member of the clergy or lay person, the details on the declaration relating to the access, and the date of access.

Access by and disclosure to third parties under compulsion of law

6. Subject to this Protocol, an authorised person may only give access to, and disclose, Information in the National Register relating to a member of the clergy or lay person to a person if compelled by law to do so.

Non-disclosure of information where there is a police request

- 6A.¹ An authorised person who has access to Information in the National Register in respect of which there is a notation of a police request must not disclose the existence or substance of the Information to the person to whom the Information relates.

Part 3 Access and disclosure by a Diocesan Representative*Ordination, the issue of a licence or appointment to a position within the diocese*

7. Where a Church authority proposes to ordain, or issue a licence to, or to appoint to a position within the diocese, a member of the clergy or lay person, the Diocesan Representative, where required to by the procedures of the Church authority, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy or lay person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the Church authority.

Application for ordination, the issue of a licence or appointment to a position within the diocese

8. Where a member of the clergy or lay person applies for ordination, or the issue of a licence, or appointment to a position within the diocese, the Diocesan Representative, where required to by the procedures of the Church authority, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy or lay person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the Church authority.

Invitation to apply for ordination, the issue of a licence or appointment to a position within the diocese

9. Where a Church authority invites a member of the clergy or lay person to apply for ordination, or the issue of a licence, or appointment to a position within the diocese, and the member of the clergy or lay person expresses interest in making an application, the Diocesan Representative, where required to by the procedures of the Church authority, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy or lay person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the Church authority.

Part 4 Access and disclosure by the Defence Force Representative

10. The Defence Force Representative, where required to by the Primate or the Bishop to the Defence Force, is authorised to have access to and disclose any Information in the National Register relating to a member of the clergy or lay person in the same circumstances as a Diocesan Representative.

¹ Inserted at the Sixteenth Session of General Synod 1 July 2014.

Part 5 Access and disclosure by a Director of Professional Standards*Abuse and allegations of abuse*

11. Where a Director of Professional Standards receives information relating to sexual misconduct or child abuse or alleged sexual misconduct or child abuse by a member of the clergy or a lay person, he or she is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy or lay person. The Director of Professional Standards is authorised to disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to an Investigator, Determiner or other applicable Church authority.

Appointment of persons to professional standards roles

12. Where a Church authority proposes to appoint a member of the clergy or lay person to or in a professional standards role, and the member of the clergy or lay person has expressed interest in accepting the appointment, the Director of Professional Standards, where required by the relevant procedures for the appointment of persons to professional standards roles, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy or lay person. The Director of Professional Standards is authorised to disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the person expressing interest in the appointment, and the Church authority.

Election of bishop

- 13.² Where a member of the clergy accepts nomination, or expresses interest in accepting nomination, for appointment as a bishop, or has been so nominated and consents to a search of the National Register for Information relating to the nominee, the Director of Professional Standards, where required to by the procedures of the diocese for the election of a bishop, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy. The Director of Professional Standards is authorised to disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to each member of the clergy accepting nomination or expressing interest in accepting nomination, and the Church authority or nomination committee.

Election of persons by a Church authority

14. Where a Church authority holds an election for which members of the clergy or lay persons are candidates, the Director of Professional Standards, where required to by the procedures of the diocese for the conduct of elections, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the candidates. The Director of Professional Standards is authorised to disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the candidates, and the Church authority.

²

Amended by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2010/1/54.

Consecration of bishop

15. Where a person in priest's orders is to be consecrated bishop:
- (a) the Director of Professional Standards of the diocese for or in respect of which the consecration is to take place; or
 - (b) the Director of Episcopal Standards in any other case; is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the person. The Director of Professional Standards is authorised to disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the person to be consecrated and the Metropolitan, Primate or other bishop as the case requires.

Disclosure to third parties where there is consent

16. A Director of Professional Standards is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to a member of the clergy or lay person and disclose in writing whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to a third party, where he or she has received the consent in writing of the member of the clergy or lay person. The Director of Professional Standards must take reasonable steps to check the postal or electronic address of the third party before sending a letter containing the disclosure to the third party at that address.

Disclosure to third parties where necessary to protect persons from the risk of abuse

17. A Director of Professional Standards is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to a member of the clergy or lay person and disclose that Information to a third party, where he or she reasonably believes that disclosure is necessary to protect the third party or any other person from the risk of abuse by the member of the clergy or lay person.

Part 6 Access and disclosure by the General Secretary*Election of the Primate*

18. When an election is held for the Primate, each of the General Secretary and the Director of Episcopal Standards, where required to by the Primate Canon 1985, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the candidates and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the candidates, and the Board of Electors.

Election and appointment of persons by the General Synod

19. Where the General Synod holds an election for which members of the clergy or lay persons are candidates, or proposes to appoint a member of the clergy or lay person to a position and the member of the clergy or lay person expresses interest in the appointment, the General Secretary, where required to by the procedures of the General Synod for the conduct of elections and making appointments, is authorized to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the candidates or the member of the clergy or lay person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so

what, Information to the candidates or persons expressing interest in the appointment, and the General Synod.

Election, appointment and nomination of persons by the Standing Committee³

20.⁴ Where the Standing Committee holds an election for which members of the clergy or lay persons are candidates, or proposes to appoint or nominate a member of the clergy or lay person to a position or for election by the General Synod under rule 7(c)(1) and (2) of the Standing Orders and the member of the clergy or lay person expresses interest in the appointment or nomination, the General Secretary, where required to by the procedures of the Standing Committee for the conduct of elections and making appointments, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the candidates or the member of the clergy or lay person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the candidates or persons expressing interest in the appointment, and the Standing Committee.

Advice by the Standing Committee to the Primate regarding the appointment of members of a Reference Commission

20A.⁵ Where the Primate seeks the advice of the Standing Committee regarding the appointment of a member of a Reference Commission under s 14 of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998, and a person expresses interest in the appointment, the General Secretary, where required to by the procedures of the Standing Committee for giving advice regarding such an appointment, is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the person, and the Standing Committee.

Preparation of material for and submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse⁶

20B.⁷ The General Secretary is authorised to have access to Information relating to child abuse and to disclose it in de-identified form to the Royal Commission Working Group and to any lawyer or other person retained on behalf of the General Synod for any purpose in connection with providing advice to the Primate, Dioceses and Anglican organisations with the preparation of material for and submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Information for a Determiner

20C.⁸ Where a request is received from or on behalf of a Determiner as to whether there is any Information in the National Register relating to a member of the clergy or lay person, the General Secretary is authorised to have access to the National Register and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information therein to the Determiner.

³ Amended by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2017/02/47.

⁴ Amended by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2017/02/47.

⁵ Inserted by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2009/3/036; amended by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2016/2/35.

⁶ Inserted by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2016/2/30.

⁷ Inserted by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2013/1/22.

⁸ Inserted by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2016/2/30.

20D.⁹ When the General Secretary receives an application for information about a church worker from a prescribed person, whether directly or through a diocesan authority or otherwise, within the meaning of the Disclosure of Information Canon 2017, the General Secretary is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the church worker and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information relating to the church worker to the prescribed person.

Certificate as to Information in the National Register

21. The General Secretary will provide to a member of the clergy or lay person, at his or her request, a certificate stating whether there is any, and if so what, Information in the National Register relating to the member of the clergy or lay person.

Part 6A Access and Disclosure by the Primate

Appointment of the General Secretary

21A.¹⁰ Where the Standing Committee proposes to appoint the General Secretary (whether in a permanent or acting capacity), and a person expresses interest in the appointment, the Primate, where required to by the procedures of the Standing Committee for making such an appointment, is authorized to have access to any Information in the National Register relating to the person and disclose whether there is any such, and if so what, Information to the person, and the Standing Committee.

Part 7 Access by staff of the General Synod Office

22.11 Any person within the General Synod Office whose duties include assisting the General Secretary in maintaining the National Register is authorised to have access to any Information in the National Register for the purposes of:

- (a) providing assistance to another authorised person and carrying out any maintenance or enhancement of the National Register; and
- (b) disclosing to a person duly authorised by the Bishop of a diocese to conduct an audit or other formal review of compliance by personnel of that diocese with duties under the National Register Canon 2007 and the protocols made thereunder subject to the person so authorised signing a confidentiality agreement in a form approved by the General Secretary.

⁹ Inserted at the Seventeenth Session of General Synod 6 September 2017.

¹⁰ Inserted by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2009/3/036.

¹¹ Amended by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2014/3/27.

Part 8 Disclosure to independent person for the purpose of audit under the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 or equivalent ordinance of a diocese

23¹² Where a General Synod audit or a diocesan audit is undertaken under the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 or an equivalent ordinance of a diocese and a Diocesan Representative, a Director of Professional Standards, the Defence Force Representative, the General Secretary or the Primate has been authorised to access and disclose Information in the National Register under this Protocol, they are also authorised to disclose that information to the independent person or person undertaking the audit under the equivalent ordinance of a diocese for the purposes of the person determining whether a national register assessment has occurred in relation to a member of clergy or layperson, on the condition that the person have signed a confidentiality agreement in a form approved by the General Secretary.

¹² Inserted by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2020/2/41.

Acknowledgment and agreement

I (insert name), the (insert position and diocese if applicable) acknowledge that I have read the protocols approved under the National Register Canon 2007:

- (a) Protocol for provision of Information for inclusion in the National Register 2007;
- (b) Protocol for access to and disclosure of Information in the National Register 2007;
- (c) Protocol to ascertain the details of any Information and access to that Information in the National Register 2007;
- (d) Protocol for amendment of Information in the National Register 2007.

I agree to abide by these protocols, and not to disclose my password to any other person.

(Date)

(Signature).

SAFE MINISTRY TO CHILDREN CANON 2017

At May 2026, 21 of 23 dioceses of the ACA have advised the General Synod Office they adopted the Safe Ministry to Children 2017. The Diocese of Sydney has adopted the Canon but has not yet advised that it has brought it into effect. The Dioceses of Rockhampton and North West Australia have not advised that they have adopted the Canon.

This report has been prepared pursuant to the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 which provides:

Publication of prescribed code of conduct s7(2)

The General Secretary shall table at each ordinary session of the General Synod any amendments to the prescribed code of conduct, or any substituted code of conduct, prescribed by the Standing Committee since the preceding ordinary session of the General Synod.

Publication of prescribed standards and guidelines s11(2)

The General Secretary shall table at each ordinary session of the General Synod any amendments to the prescribed standards and guidelines, or substituted standards and guidelines, or further standards and guidelines, prescribed by the Standing Committee since the preceding ordinary session of the General Synod

Prescribed Code of Conduct

[Faithfulness in Service](#) (FiS) is the prescribed code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers in the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 confirms FiS as the prescribed code of conduct for a Church body subject to the Canon, unless an application for the adoption of an alternative code is approved by the General Synod Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee may, by a two-thirds majority, approve amendments to the prescribed code of conduct or approve a substituted code of conduct.

The Standing Committee has not approved any substitutions or amendments to FiS so therefore it is confirmed as tabled at the Seventeenth Session of the General Synod in 2017.

The Safe Ministry Commission, as per the Eighteenth Session of General Synod resolution R47/18, has been conducting a review of FiS. A draft was considered by Standing Committee in November 2025, and sent out for diocesan consultation in February 2026. It is anticipated that the revised FiS taking into account the consultation process will be considered by Standing Committee in November 2026. Dioceses will be advised when FiS has been approved.

Prescribed Standards and Guidelines

The canon prescribes standards of screening, standards of training and standards for safe ministry with persons of concern in the Second Schedule of the Canon.

The General Synod, or the Standing Committee by a two-thirds majority, may by resolution amend the Second Schedule by:

- a) prescribing amendments to the prescribed standards and guidelines or substituted standards and guidelines;
- b) prescribing further minimum standards for observance, and guidelines to be followed, for safe ministry to children;

and determine when these amendments may come into effect.

Section 8(3) of the canon requires the Standing Committee to consult with diocesan safe ministry authorities before approving any amendments to the canon.

Since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod the Standing Committee has not amended the Second schedule.

TRUST CORPORATION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation is a body corporate which acts as trustee of Church trust property. Its members are known as the Corporate Trustees.

The Trust Corporation is the entity which enters into formal legal arrangements on behalf of the General Synod. The Trustees are required to carry out all determinations of the Standing Committee or its delegate.

This report has been prepared pursuant to section 21 of the Trust Corporation Canon 2010.

The current corporate trustees are:

- Mr Michael Blaxland
- Ms Rachel Ellyard
- Mr Douglas Marr
- Mrs Margo Purcell
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead

The Trust Corporation has executed the following agreements since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod:

- Sub-Lease agreement for the General Synod Office at Suite 4, level 5, 189 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000 for a 5-year term commencing 1 September 2022
- Sub-Lease agreement for the General Synod Office at Suite 5.02, level 5, 323 Castlereagh Street Haymarket NSW 2000 for a 5-year term commencing 1 November 2025.

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

The Appellate Tribunal determines appeals from the Special Tribunal, a provincial tribunal or a diocesan tribunal in accordance with the Appellate Tribunal Canon 1981.

It may also deal with references in any matter relating to the powers of General Synod and involving questions of faith, ritual, ceremonial or discipline matter in the Church, as specified by relevant sections of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Appellate Tribunal currently comprises the following members:

- *Justice Debra Mullins AO (President)*
- *Justice Richard Refshauge (Deputy President)*
- *The Most Rev'd Kanishka Raffel*
- *The Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar*
- *The Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill*
- *The Hon Justice Clyde Croft AM SC*
- *Justice Michael Meek*

The Hon Justice Richard Refshauge (Deputy President) and The Hon Dr Clyde Croft AM SC retire as members at the commencement of this session of General Synod having reached the retirement age specified in s4 of the Appellate Tribunal Canon 1981.

Determination

There has been one determination of the Appellate Tribunal since the Eighteenth Session of the General Synod:

- Appeal of the Reverend Gail Orchard

The determination of this appeal is available on the General Synod website:

<https://anglican.org.au/governance/tribunals/appellate-tribunal-current-matters/appellate-tribunal-determinations/>

Primate Referral

On 15 May 2026 the Primate referred the following matter to the Appellate Tribunal at the request of the Standing Committee by resolution made at its meeting held on 1-2 May 2026 (copy of the full Standing Committee resolution is below):

- Five Proposals relating to Episcopal Standards Legislation being brought to the 19th General Synod

Standing Committee Resolution

The Standing Committee:

2. *asked the Primate as soon as possible after each of the following Bills has become a Proposal within the meaning of s 29(1)(b) of the Constitution to refer to the Appellate Tribunal under section 29 these questions:*
 - a. *Does any part of the Proposal to make the Special Tribunal Canon 2026 deal with*

or concern or affect the ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church?

- b. Does any part of the Proposal to make the Offences Amendment (Child Protection) Canon 2026 deal with or concern or affect the ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church?*
- c. Does any part of the Proposal to make the Suspension of Bishops Canon 2026 deal with or concern or affect the ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church?*
- d. Does any part of the Proposal to make the Episcopal Standards (Adoption and Transition) Canon 2026 deal with or concern or affect the ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church?*
- e. Does any part of the Proposal to make the Offences Amendment Canon 2026 deal with or concern or affect the ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church?*

SC2026/1/47 Part

The following is the list of Bills covered by the questions referred to the Appellate Tribunal:

- Bill 9 - Bill for a Special Tribunal Canon 2026
- Bill 10 - Bill for an Offences Amendment (Child Protection) Canon 2026
- Bill 11 - Bill for a Suspension of Bishops Canon 2026
- Bill 12 - Bill for an Episcopal Standards (Adoption and Transition) Canon 2026
- Bill 13 - Bill for an Offences Amendment Canon 2026

At the time of this report being published, the Appellate Tribunal had not yet released its opinion in response to this reference.

SPECIAL TRIBUNAL

The Special Tribunal determines charges promoted against diocesan bishops in accordance with the Special Tribunal Canon 2007.

Since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod the panel for the Special Tribunal has comprised:

Presidential Members

- Justice Debra Mullins AO (President)
- Mr Michael Shand AM KC (Deputy President)

Bishops

- The Most Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Condie
- The Rt Rev'd Peter Grice

Priests of at least 7 years' standing

- The Venerable Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM
- The Rev'd Andrew Schmidt
- The Rev'd Andrew Sempell

Changes in Membership since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod

There have been no changes in membership since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod.

The following six members' terms are expiring at the Nineteenth Session of General Synod and all except The Ven Dr Colleen O'Reilly are eligible to be nominated for re-election if they consent to be nominated:

- Justice Debra Mullins AO (President)
- Mr Michael Shand AM KC (Deputy President)
- The Most Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO
- The Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Condie
- The Venerable Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM
- The Rev'd Andrew Sempell

There have been no matters considered by the Special Tribunal since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod.

EPISCOPAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Episcopal Standards Board determines charges promoted against Diocesan Bishops in accordance with the Episcopal Standards Canon 2007 and the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection Canon) 2017. The Episcopal Standards Board determines questions relating to the conduct of a Bishop referred to it by the Episcopal Standards Commission. The Board is convened as required from a panel of members appointed by the Standing Committee.

The panel for the Episcopal Standards Board currently comprises:

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC
Mr Peter Dunning KC
The Right Reverend Dr Greg Anderson
The Rt Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts
The Right Reverend Dr Alison Taylor AM
The Right Reverend William (Bill) Ray
The Right Reverend Dr Matthew Brain
Ms Seak-King Huang
Ms Vivien Bleby
Ms Audrey Mills
Mr Eric Ross-Adjie
Ms Michelle England SC

Episcopal Standards Board Determinations since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod

There have been 2 determinations of the Episcopal Standards Board since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod in response to referrals from the Episcopal Standards Commission.

Episcopal Standards Commission Report on Keith Slater

The Episcopal Standards Commission provided a report to the Board in August 2024, referring questions relating to the conduct of Keith Slater while serving as Bishop of Grafton. The questions related to his response to allegations of historical child abuse of which he was aware while he was Bishop of Grafton.

The Episcopal Standards Board convened to consider the report was:

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC – President
The Right Reverend Dr Matthew Brain – Member
Ms Seak-King Huang – Member

A hearing into the matter was conducted on **Tuesday 11 February 2025**.

The Episcopal Standards Board's Determination dated 17 March 2025 in relation to the Episcopal Standards Commission's referral concerning Bishop Keith Slater is available [here](#).

Appeal of the Episcopal Standards Board Determination

Keith Slater lodged an appeal of the determination of the Episcopal Standards Board. Part 8 of the Canon provides for the appeal process which requires the convening of a Review Board.

Episcopal Standards Review Board Determination

The Episcopal Standards Review Board convened to consider the appeal was:

Mr Peter Dunning KC – (Deputy President of the Panel) – Presiding Member

The Right Reverend Dr Gregory Anderson – Member

Ms Vivien Bleby – Member

The Episcopal Standards Review Board's Determination on the appeal dated 14 July 2025, confirming the decision of the Episcopal Standards Board dated 17 March 2025, is available [here](#).

Episcopal Standards Commission Report on The Right Reverend Keith Dalby

The Episcopal Standards Commission provided a report to the Board in July 2025, referring questions relating to the conduct of Bishop Keith Dalby while serving as Bishop of The Murray.

The complaint related to Bishop Dalby's failure to disclose to his Diocesan Council and others a romantic relationship with and subsequent marriage to Ms Alison Dutton (now a priest) at a time when he participated in decisions involving her advancement in the Diocese.

The Episcopal Standards Board convened to consider the report comprised:

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC – President

Mr Eric Ross-Adjie – Member

The Right Rev Dr Alison Taylor AM – Member

A hearing into the matter was conducted on Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 March 2026.

The Episcopal Standards Board's Determination dated 10 April 2026 is available [here](#).

Appeal of the Episcopal Standards Board Determination

Bishop Dalby lodged an appeal of the determination of the Episcopal Standards Board. Part 8 of the Canon provides for the appeal process which requires the convening of a Review Tribunal.

Section 57 of the Canon provides that "The making of an appeal acts as a stay of the reviewable decision pending determination by the Review Tribunal". On this basis, the Bishop is not required to relinquish Holy Orders nor, in absence of this, is the relevant Metropolitan able to take any action until after the Review Board has made a determination on the appeal.

At the time of printing no determination by the Review Tribunal has been reached.

GENERAL SYNOD LEGISLATION

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information concerning the lists of bills and canons which the President shall lay upon the table at this session of General Synod pursuant to SO 7(d):

- (1) *A list of special bills which he has declared to be canons under Sec. 28(3)(iii) of the Constitution since the last session of Synod and the dates on which they respectively came into force.*
- (2) *A list of special bills which have not been assented to by every diocesan synod together with the reports and recommendations received from such synods.*
- (2A) *A list of bills which have come into force under Section 28A of the Constitution since the last Session of Synod.*
- (3) *A list of canons which he has declared to be in force following upon a reference of any question to the Appellate Tribunal under Sec. 29 of the Constitution and the dates on which they respectively came into force.*
- (4) *A list of canons in respect of which the Appellate Tribunal has found inconsistency or breach of Sec. 28(1) after reference thereto under Sec. 29 of the Constitution together with the relevant reports of the Appellate Tribunal thereon.*
- (5) *A list of canons duly passed by Synod together with the date appointed by him upon which the said canons came into force under Sec. 30 of the Constitution.*
- (6) *Notifications and advices from dioceses under Sec. 30(c) of the Constitution.*

The report also includes comprehensive lists of bills and canons altering the Constitution which have not come into effect and responses of dioceses to each canon passed at the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sessions of General Synod.

1. SPECIAL BILLS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS DECLARED TO BE CANONS UNDER SEC. 28(3)(iii) OF THE CONSTITUTION SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF SYNOD AND THE DATES ON WHICH THEY RESPECTIVELY CAME INTO FORCE

There is no Special Bill in this category.

2. SPECIAL BILLS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ASSENTED TO BY EVERY DIOCESAN SYNOD TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM SUCH SYNODS

There is no Special Bill in this category.

2A BILLS WHICH HAVE COME INTO FORCE UNDER SECTION 28A OF THE CONSTITUTION SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF SYNOD

There is no Canon in this category.

3. CANONS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS DECLARED TO BE IN FORCE FOLLOWING UPON A REFERENCE OF ANY QUESTION TO THE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL UNDER SEC. 29 OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE DATES ON WHICH THEY RESPECTIVELY CAME INTO FORCE

There is no Canon which falls into this category and there is no pending reference to the Appellate Tribunal under section 29 of the Constitution.

4. CANONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL HAS FOUND INCONSISTENCY OR BREACH OF SEC. 28(1) AFTER REFERENCE THERETO UNDER SEC. 29 OF THE CONSTITUTION TOGETHER WITH THE RELEVANT REPORTS OF THE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL THEREON

There is no Canon in this category and there is no pending reference to the Appellate Tribunal under section 29 of the Constitution.

5. CANONS DULY PASSED BY SYNOD TOGETHER WITH THE DATE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT UPON WHICH THE SAID CANONS CAME INTO FORCE UNDER SEC. 30 OF THE CONSTITUTION

No 1, 2022	Eighteenth General Synod Participation Canon 2022 9 May 2022 (Canon was repealed at the conclusion of GS18)
No 2, 2022	Constitution (Repeal of Canon No 9 of 2010) Canon 2022 9 May 2022
No 3, 2022	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Amendment Canon 2022 1 July 2022
No 4, 2022	Defence Force Ministry (Amendment) Canon 2022 1 July 2022

No 5, 2022	Long Service Leave (Sabbatical Allowance Amendment) Canon 2022 11 May 2022
No 6, 2022	Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2022 11 May 2022
No 9, 2022	Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) (Amendment) Canon 2022 9 May 2022
No 10, 2022	Special Tribunal (Removal from Office) Canon 2022 12 May 2022
No 11, 2022	Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022 11 May 2022
No 12, 2022	Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022 9 May 2022
No 13, 2022	General Synod Presence Canon 2022 12 May 2022
No 1, 2025	General Synod Presence (Amendment) Canon 2025 26 July 2025

6. NOTIFICATIONS AND ADVICES FROM DIOCESES UNDER SEC. 30(C) OF THE CONSTITUTION

No notifications or advices have been received since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod.

7. BILLS AND CANONS ALTERING THE CONSTITUTION WHICH HAVE NOT COME INTO EFFECT

The following Bills and Canons to alter the Constitution were passed at sessions of General Synod up to and including the Eighteenth Session and have not come into effect:

- A Bill to alter the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia with respect to the Ordination of Women (Bill 1, 1981)
- A Bill to alter the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia with respect to the Mode of Appointment of the Appellate Tribunal (Bill 2, 1981)
- Constitution Alteration Canon 1987
Constitution Alteration Bill 1987 (Bill 1, 1987)

- Constitution Alteration (Title of the Primate) Canon 1989
Constitution Alteration (Title of the Primate) Bill 1989 (Bill 3, 1989)
- Constitution Amendment (Section 51) Canon 1992
- Constitution Amendment (Relations with other Churches) Canon 2004
- Constitution Alteration (Chapter IX) Canon 2004
- Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Canon 2007
- Constitution Alteration (Chapter IX) Canon Amendment Canon 2007
- Constitution Amendment (Section 10) Canon 2007
- Constitution Amendment (Section 54A) Canon 2007
- Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007 – repealed by Canon 7, 2022
- Constitution Amendment (Provinces and Dioceses) Canon 2007
- Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Council) Repeal Canon 2010
- Constitution Amendment (Appellate Tribunal Part Heard Matters) Canon 2010 – repealed by Canon 2, 2017
- Constitution Amendment (Section 30) Canon 2010
- Constitution Amendment (Sentences Of Tribunals) Canon 2010 – repealed by Canon 2, 2022

8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD

- | | |
|------------|---|
| No 7, 2022 | Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022
10 March 2025 |
| No 8, 2022 | Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022
10 March 2025 |

9. RESPONSES OF DIOCESES TO EACH CANON PASSED AT THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH SESSIONS OF GENERAL SYNOD

See the following tables for each relevant session recording:

- Canons requiring assent or adoption to have effect in a diocese
- Canons altering the Constitution.

Assent to and adoption of 2022 canons

Twenty one dioceses have provided certification of the assent/adoption of the 2022 canons at their diocesan synods.

All 2022 constitutional amendments canons are in effect:

- *Canon 7, 2022 - The Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022*
- *Canon 8, 2022 - The Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022*

Repealed 2022 canons

Canon 1, 2022 *Eighteenth General Synod Participation Canon 2022* was repealed at the conclusion of the Eighteenth General Synod.

Assent to and adoption of 2017 canons

All twenty-three dioceses have provided certification of the adoption of the 2017 canons at their diocesan synods.

On 23 October 2018 the Diocese of Sydney advised its synod has adopted the Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017. However, a commencement date has not been set and will be determined by resolution of the Sydney Synod or Standing Committee. The key arrangements in the canon apply in Sydney via an ordinance passed by the Sydney Standing Committee on 24 September 2018.

All 2017 constitutional amendment canons are in effect:

- *Canon 2 Constitution Amendment (Appellate Tribunal) Canon 2017*
- *Canon 6 Constitution Amendment (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Canon 2017*

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA - CANONS AND BILLS 2022

CANONS / BILLS TO BE ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

CANONS / BILLS TO BE ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

	Canon 9 Episcopal Standards (Child Protection)(Amendment) Canon 2022	Canon 11 Safe Ministry Legislation Amendments Canon 2022	Canon 12 Episcopal Standards Investigations Amendment Canon 2022
ADELAIDE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
ARMIDALE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BALLARAT	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BATHURST	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BENDIGO	Adopted	Adopted	Non-Adopted
BRISBANE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BUNBURY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
CANBERRA & GOULBURN	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
GIPPSLAND	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
GRAFTON	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
MELBOURNE	Adopted	Adopted	
NEWCASTLE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
NORTH QUEENSLAND	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA			
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
PERTH	Adopted	Partial Assent/Adopt	
RIVERINA			
ROCKHAMPTON			
SYDNEY	Adopted	Adopted	
TASMANIA	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
THE MURRAY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
WANGARATTA	Adopted	Adopted	Non-Adopted
WILLOCHRA			

CONSTITUTIONAL ALTERATIONS TO BE ASSENTED TO BY ORDINANCE OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

	Canon 7	Canon 8
	Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022	Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Deposition) Canon 2022
ADELAIDE	Assented	Assented
ARMIDALE	Assented	Assented
BALLARAT	Assented	Assented
BATHURST	Assented	Assented
BENDIGO	Assented	Assented
BRISBANE	Assented	Assented
BUNBURY	Assented	Assented
CANBERRA & GOULBURN	Assented	Assented
GIPPSLAND	Assented	Assented
GRAFTON	Assented	Assented
MELBOURNE	Assented	Assented
NEWCASTLE	Assented	Assented
NORTH QUEENSLAND	Assented	Assented
NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA		
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Assented	Assented
PERTH	Assented	Assented
RIVERINA	Assented	Assented
ROCKHAMPTON		
SYDNEY	Assented	Assented
TASMANIA	Assented	Assented
THE MURRAY	Assented	Assented
WANGARATTA	Assented	Assented
WILLOCHRA	Assented	Assented

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA - CANONS AND BILLS 2017

CANONS / BILLS TO BE ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

CANONS / BILLS TO BE ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

	Canon 4	Canon 5	Canon 7	Canon 12	Canon 16	Canon 17	Canon 18	Canon 19
	Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017	Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017	Offences Amendment Canon 2017	Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017	Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017	Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017	Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017	Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017
ADELAIDE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
ARMIDALE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BALLARAT	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Non-Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BATHURST	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BENDIGO	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BRISBANE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
BUNBURY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
CANBERRA & GOULBURN	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
GIPPSLAND	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted					
GRAFTON	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	
MELBOURNE	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted		Adopted	Adopted
NEWCASTLE	Adopted	Adopted			Adopted		Adopted	
NORTH QUEENSLAND	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA			Adopted	Adopted			Adopted	
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
PERTH	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
RIVERINA	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
ROCKHAMPTON		Adopted						
SYDNEY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted			Adopted	Adopted
TASMANIA	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted
THE MURRAY	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted		Adopted	Adopted
WANGARATTA	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Non-Adopted	Adopted	Non-Adopted
WILLOCHRA	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted		Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	

CONSTITUTIONAL ALTERATIONS TO BE ASSENTED TO BY ORDINANCE OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

	Canon 2	Canon 6
	Constitution (Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017	Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017
ADELAIDE	Assented	Assented
ARMIDALE	Assented	Assented
BALLARAT	Assented	Assented
BATHURST	Assented	Assented
BENDIGO	Assented	Assented
BRISBANE	Assented	Assented
BUNBURY	Assented	Assented
CANBERRA & GOULBURN	Assented	Assented
GIPPSLAND		
GRAFTON		Assented
MELBOURNE	Assented	Assented
NEWCASTLE		
NORTH QUEENSLAND	Assented	Assented
NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA	Assented	Assented
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Assented	Assented
PERTH	Assented	Assented
RIVERINA	Assented	Assented
ROCKHAMPTON		
SYDNEY	Assented	Assented
TASMANIA	Assented	Assented
THE MURRAY	Assented	Assented
WANGARATTA	Assented	Assented
WILLOCHRA		

10. EXCLUSIONS OF CANONS UNDER SECTION 30(d) OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 30(d) of the Constitution empowers a diocese to exclude a canon it has previously adopted. The following exclusions have been notified:

Canon	Diocese	Exclusion date
Canon 14 Episcopal Standards Canon 2007	Bendigo	29 May 2015
	Canberra & Goulburn	10 Sept 2016
	Perth	11 Oct 2011
	Willochra	31 May 2015
Canon 10 Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon 2004	Sydney	18 Oct 2011
Canon 3 Solemnization of Matrimony Canon 1981	North West Australia	5 Oct 2014
	Sydney	18 Oct 2011
Canon 7 Form of Declaration and Assent Canon 1973	Sydney	11 Oct 2011
Canon 12 Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973	Sydney	16 Oct 2019
Canon 6 Consecration of Bishops Canon Amendment Canon 1969	North West Australia	4 Oct 2020
Canon 3 Consecration of Bishops Canon 1996	Sydney	3 May 2021

11. EXCLUSION OF EPISCOPAL STANDARDS COMMISSION'S POWER TO BRING A CHARGE AGAINST A BISHOP (SECTION 43(2) OF THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL CANON 2007)

Section 43(2) of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 empowers a diocese to exclude the power of the Episcopal Standards Commission (ESC) to bring a charge against its Bishop. The following exclusions have been notified:

Canon	Diocese	Exclusion date
Special Tribunal Canon 2007 – s43(2)	Bendigo	29 May 2015
	Perth	11 Oct 2011
	Sydney	21 Oct 2009
	Tasmania	15 Jun 2019
	Wangaratta	3 Jun 2011

CHANGES IN THE EPISCOPATE SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD

APPOINTMENTS

2023

- Darrell Parker was consecrated and installed as the Bishop of North-West Australia on 15 February 2023.
- Jeremy James was installed as the Bishop of Willochra on 25 February 2023.
- Jeremy Greaves was installed as Archbishop of Brisbane on 16 December 2023.

2024

- David Bassett was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Perth on 2 February 2024.
- Hans Christiansen was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Perth on 2 February 2024.
- Sarah Plowman was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane on 21 June 2024.
- Sophie Relf-Christopher was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Adelaide on 15 August 2024.
- Vanessa Bennett was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn on 24 August 2024.

2025

- Scott Lowrey was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Ballarat on 8 February 2025.
- Bishop Ric Thorpe was installed as Archbishop of Melbourne on 30 November 2025.

2026

- Bishop Bradly Billings was installed as Archbishop of Adelaide on 7 March 2026.
- Tiffany Sparks was consecrated to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Grafton on 12 March 2026.

DEPOSITIONS

- Roger Herft was deposed of Holy Orders on 1 February 2022 following the determination of the Episcopal Standards Board dated 8 December 2021.
- Keith Slater was deposed of Holy Orders on 3 August 2025 following the determination of the Episcopal Standards Board dated 17 March 2025.

RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS**2023**

- Archbishop Philip Aspinall retired from the office of Archbishop of Brisbane on 2 February 2023.
- Bishop John Stead retired from the office of Bishop of Willochra on 10 February 2023.

2024

- Bishop Carol Wagner resigned as assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn on 12 March 2024.
- Bishop Denise Ferguson retired as assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Adelaide on 6 September 2024.

2025

- Archbishop Philip Freier retired from the office of Archbishop of Melbourne on 9 February 2025.
- Archbishop Geoffrey Smith retired from the office of Archbishop of Adelaide on 8 November 2025.

Deaths of Retired Bishops

- Bishop William McCall died on 7 May 2021
- Bishop Keith Newell AO died on 24 April 2022
- Bishop Arthur Malcolm AO died on 29 July 2022
- Bishop John Bayton AM died on 15 August 2022
- Bishop George Hearn died on 8 September 2022
- Bishop Jeremy Ashton died on 24 November 2022
- Bishop Hamish Jamieson died on 27 November 2023
- Bishop John Stewart died on 2 April 2024
- Bishop Keith Rayner died on 12 January 2025
- Bishop John Parkes died on 3 July 2025

MEMBERS OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF GENERAL SYNOD AUGUST 2026

DIOCESE OF ADELAIDE

House of Bishops Archbishop Bradly Billings

House of Clergy

The Venerable David Covington-Groth
The Venerable Sam Goodes
The Right Rev'd Sophie Relf-Christopher
The Venerable Jo Smith

House of Laity

Ms Ann Nadge
Ms Kat Pugh
Ms Emma Riggs
Mr Joe Thorp

DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

House of Bishops Bishop Rodney Chiswell

House of Clergy

The Venerable Dr Bernard Gabbott
The Rev'd Christopher Pears

House of Laity

Mr Paul Harvey
Mr James Levingston

DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

House of Bishops Bishop Garry Weatherill

House of Clergy

The Right Rev'd Scott Lowrey
The Venerable Michael O'Brien

House of Laity

Mrs Sally Macarthur Clyde
Ms Alice Knight OAM

DIOCESE OF BATHURST

House of Bishops Bishop Mark Calder

House of Clergy

The Rev'd Phil Howes

House of Laity

Mrs Jane Francis

DIOCESE OF BENDIGO

House of Bishops Bishop Matt Brain

House of Clergy

The Very Rev'd George Hemmings
The Rev'd Canon Shannon Smith

House of Laity

Ms Sarah Crutch
Vacant at time of publishing

DIOCESE OF BRISBANE

House of Bishops Archbishop Jeremy Greaves

House of Clergy

The Very Rev'd Peter Catt
The Rev'd Suzanne Grimmett
The Venerable Adam Lowe
The Rev'd Dr Ruth Mathieson
The Venerable Dr Lucy Morris
The Rev'd Gillian Moses
The Right Rev'd Sarah Plowman
The Right Rev'd John Roundhill
The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables

House of Laity

Ms Jennifer Basham
Mr Tom Finn
Dr Nadine Garraway
Dr Stephen Harrison
Dr Nicolie Jenkins
The Hon Justice Debra Mullins
Mr David Sneesby
Mr Allan Thomson
Mrs Heather Walker

DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

House of Bishops Bishop Ian Coutts

House of Clergy

The Venerable Geoff Chadwick

House of Laity

Dr Renae Barker

DIOCESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN

House of Bishops Bishop Mark Short

House of Clergy

The Right Rev'd Vanessa Bennett
The Rev'd Stephen Boxwell
The Rev'd Canon Patrick Cole
The Rev'd David McLennan
The Rev'd Dr Katherine Rainger

House of Laity

Ms Emma Body
Mr Tim McGhie
The Hon Richard Refshauge
Ms Helen Rainger
Mrs Margaret Wheelwright

DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND

House of Bishops Bishop Richard Treloar

House of Clergy

The Very Rev'd Keren Terpstra
The Venerable John Webster

House of Laity

Mrs Marion Dewar
Ms Rae Riley

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

House of Bishops Bishop Murray Harvey

House of Clergy

The Very Rev'd Naomi Cooke
The Right Rev'd Tiffany Sparks

House of Laity

Mr James Gale
Canon Robert Weatherby

DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

House of Bishops Archbishop Ric Thorpe

House of Clergy

The Rev'd Timothy Anderson
 The Rev'd Colleen Arnold-Moore
 The Rev'd John Baldock
 The Right Rev'd Dr Paul Barker
 The Rev'd Kate Beer
 The Rev'd Canon Dr Rhys Bezzant
 The Right Rev'd Genieve Blackwell
 The Rev'd Canon Dr Robert Derrenbacker
 The Rev'd John Forsyth
 The Rev'd Dr Jonathan Kuan
 The Rev'd Professor Mark Lindsay
 The Rev'd Robert Miller
 The Rev'd Elizabeth Murray
 The Venerable Yvonne Poon
 The Right Rev'd Chris Porter
 The Right Rev'd Kate Prowd
 The Rev'd Natalie Rosner
 The Right Rev'd Dr Alison Taylor

House of Laity

Dr Timothy Arnold-Moore
 Ms Jillian Batterbury
 Mr Matthew Crichton
 Dr Elizabeth Culhane
 Ms Pauline Caruana
 Mr Michael Dowling
 Associate Professor Jane Freemantle OAM
 Ms Alys Gagnon
 Dr Jennifer George
 Dr Ian Gibson
 Ms Seak-King Huang
 Mrs Fiona McLean
 Mr Alexander Milner
 Mr Colin Reilly
 Mr Michael Shand AM QC
 Ms Dianne Shay
 Professor Peter Sherlock
 Mr Malcolm Tadgell

DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

House of Bishops Bishop Peter Stuart

House of Clergy

The Venerable Canon Rod Bower
 The Venerable Canon Arthur Copeman
 The Right Rev'd Charlie Murry
 The Right Rev'd Sonia Roulston

House of Laity

Mr Howard Benson
 Dr Di Rayson
 Dr Anne Taylor
 Mrs Sue Williams

DIOCESE OF NORTH QUEENSLAND

House of Bishops Bishop Keith Joseph

House of Clergy

The Venerable Jeff Coop
 The Venerable Christopher Wright OAM

House of Laity

Mr Leigh Kefford
 Dr Reuben Scott

DIOCESE OF NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA

House of Bishops Bishop Darrell Parker

House of Clergy

The Venerable Michael Baines

House of Laity

Mrs Jenni de Vries

DIOCESE OF PERTH

House of Bishops Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy AO

House of Clergy

The Venerable Peter Boyland
The Very Rev'd Chris Chataway
The Right Rev'd Hans Christiansen
The Rev'd Dr Bill Leadbetter
The Venerable Gillian Rookyard
The Right Rev'd Kate Wilmot

House of Laity

Mr Ian Carter
Mrs Carine Collins
Mr Philip Goldsworthy
Mr Eric Ross-Adjie
Dr Carolyn Tan
Dr Meg Warner

DIOCESE OF RIVERINA

House of Bishops Bishop Donald Kirk

House of Clergy

The Venerable Robert Murphy

House of Laity

Mrs Mandy Walsh

DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

House of Bishops Bishop Peter Grice

House of Clergy

The Venerable Robert Stanley

House of Laity

Mr Andrew Rankin

DIOCESE OF SYDNEY

House of Bishops Archbishop Kanishka Raffel

House of Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Susan An
The Rev'd Dr Marshall Ballantine-Jones
The Rev'd Roger Cunningham
The Right Rev'd Chris Edwards
The Venerable Simon Flinders
The Rev'd Dr Andrew Ford
The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue
The Rev'd Stephen Gibson
The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant
The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
The Venerable Kara Hartley
The Right Rev'd Gary Koo
The Right Rev'd Peter Lin
The Rev'd Dr Edward Loane
The Rev'd Rowena McMicking
The Rev'd Timothy Mildenhall
The Venerable Andrew Nixon
The Rev'd Caitlin Orr
The Rev'd David Ould
The Rev'd Gavin Parsons
The Rev'd Avril Pascoe
The Rev'd Gavin Poole
The Rev'd Jason Ramsay
The Right Rev'd Malcolm Richards
The Rev'd Canon Craig Roberts

House of Laity

Mr Rowen Atkinson
Mrs Briony Bounds
Mr Lachlan Bryant
Dr Kirsten Bucknell
Mrs Stacey Chapman
Mrs Jackie Coffey
Mrs Louise Cunningham
Mr James Flavin
Miss Jenny Flower
Mr Philip Gerber
Mr Daniel Glynn
Mrs Karyn Grant
Mr Greg Hammond OAM
Mrs Fiona Henderson
Mr Steve Lucas
Mr Andrew Macey
Mr Doug Marr
Mrs Mandy McNeill
Justice Michael Meek
Mr Craig Moore
Mrs Jenny Nixon
Mr Henry Pascoe
Mr Russell Powell
Mr Malcolm Purvis
Mrs Catherine Rich

The Rev'd Simon Roberts
 The Rev'd Andrew Schmidt
 The Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead
 The Rev'd Canon Dr Mark Thompson
 The Rev'd Peter Tong
 The Rev'd Canon Tim Swan
 The Rev'd Dr Danielle Treweek
 The Rev'd Zac Veron
 The Rev'd James Warren
 The Rev'd Cath Wynn Jones

Mr Jeffrey Reilly
 Mr Mark Robinson
 Mr Harrison Rook
 Dr Laurie Scandrett
 Dr Karin Sowada
 Miss Emma Thornett
 Dr Andrew Tong
 Dr Robert Tong AM
 Mr Gilbert van der Jagt
 Ms Nicola Warwick-Mayo

DIOCESE OF TASMANIA

House of Bishops Bishop Richard Condie

House of Clergy

The Venerable Kate Boughton
 The Venerable Stephen Carnaby
 The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey

House of Laity

Ms Anita Booker
 Dr Richard Lord
 Mr James Oakley

DIOCESE OF THE MURRAY

House of Bishops Bishop Keith Dalby (Suspended)

House of Clergy

The Venerable David McDougall

House of Laity

Mr Richard Earley

DIOCESE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

House of Bishops Bishop Gregory Anderson

House of Clergy

The Rev'd Kristan Slack

House of Laity

Dr Michael Tong

DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA

House of Bishops Bishop Clarence Bester

House of Clergy

The Venerable Melissa Clark

House of Laity

Ms Rachel Ellyard

DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA

House of Bishops Bishop Jeremy James

House of Clergy

The Rev'd Sheridan Brand

House of Laity

Mrs Anne Beinke

NON-DIOCESAN MEMBERS – NATSIAC NOMINEES

House of Bishops Bishop Christopher McLeod – National Aboriginal Bishop

House of Clergy

The Rev'd Cameron Burr
 The Rev'd Canon Di Langham

House of Laity

Dr Togiabmacrose Elu
 Mr Milton Walit

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

PROGRAM - NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 2026

PULLMAN MELBOURNE, ALBERT PARK

Time	Sunday 9 August 2026	Monday 10 August 2026	Tuesday 11 August 2026
		Breakfast - from 6.30am	Breakfast - from 6.30am
		Holy Communion 7.00am - 7.45am Element Room	Holy Communion 7.00am - 7.45am Element Room
		Information Desk from 7.00am Foyer	Information Desk from 8.00am - Foyer
8:00AM		Morning Prayer and Reflection on Scripture - Synod Hall 8.30am - 9.00am	Morning Prayer and Reflection on Scripture - Synod Hall 8.30am - 9.00am
8:30AM			
9:00AM		Opening Business Session Synod Hall 9.00am - 10.30am	Business Session Synod Hall 9.00am - 10.30am Order of the Day during this Business Session: Up to 45 minute presentation on the Episcopal Standards Processes Review prior to consideration of Bills 09-13, 2026
9:30AM		Morning Tea - Foyer 10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea - Foyer 10.30am - 11.00am
10:00AM		Business Session - Synod Hall 11.00am - 12.30pm Order of the Day during this Business Session: Motion 16.11 (Recognition of Ab & TSI People and Ministry in the ACA) before consideration of Bills 03 and 04, 2026	Business Session Synod Hall 11.00am - 12.30pm
10:30 AM		Lunch - Foyer 12.30pm - 1.30pm	Lunch - Foyer 12.30pm - 1.30pm
11:00 AM			
11:30 AM	ARRIVALS	Nominations for Appellate Tribunal, Panel for Special Tribunal and Standing Committee will close at 7.30pm Monday 10 August 2026	Nominations for all other elections under Rule III will close at 1.30pm on Tuesday 11 August 2026
12:00 PM			
12:30 PM			
1:00PM	GSO team in Organisers Room - Victoria and Albert Room	Business Session Synod Hall 1.30pm - 3.30pm	Business Session - Synod Hall 1.30pm - 3.30pm Order of the Day during this Business Session: Finance Presentation Introduction at 1.30pm
1:30PM		Afternoon Tea - Foyer 3.30pm - 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea - Foyer 3.30pm - 4.00pm
2:00 PM	Hotel Express Check in from 2pm Reception Foyer	Business Session - Synod Hall 4.00pm-6.00pm Order of the Day during this Business Session: 4.00pm - 1 Hour Presentation on Evangelism in the National Church - Hope 25 and Motion 16.8	Business Session - Synod Hall 4.00pm-6.00pm Orders of the Day during this Business Session: 4.00pm - Safe Ministry Commission Motions 16.15 and 16.16 5.00pm - Families and Culture Commission 20 minute presentation and Motion 16.22
2:30PM			
3:00PM			
3:30PM			
4:00PM	New Member Welcome 3.30pm - 4.30pm Element Room	Evening Prayer - Synod Hall 6.00pm - 6.30pm	Evening Prayer - Synod Hall 6.00pm - 6.30pm
4:30PM		Dinner Foyer 6.30pm - 7.30pm	Free Evening Dinner offsite or in hotel restaurant
5:00PM			
5:30PM			
6:00PM	Opening Synod Eucharist St Pauls Cathedral 5.30pm - 7.00pm		
6:30PM			
7:00PM			
7:30PM			
8:00PM	Welcome Dinner Foyer 7.45pm - 9.00pm	LEGISLATION Bills Scheduled to be considered on Monday 10 August during the business sessions listed above: Bill R1, 2026 and Bills 01-08, 2026	LEGISLATION Bills Scheduled to be considered on Tuesday 11 August during the business sessions listed above: Bills 09-15, 2026
8:30PM			

Wednesday 12 August 2026		Thursday 13 August 2026		Friday 14 August 2026	Time
Breakfast - from 6.30am		Breakfast - from 6.30am		Breakfast - from 6.30am	
Holy Communion 7.00am - 7.45am Element Room		Holy Communion 7.00am - 7.45am Element Room		Holy Communion 7.00am - 7.45am Element Room	
Information Desk from 8.00am - Foyer		Information Desk from 8.00am - Foyer		Information Desk from 8.00am - Foyer	8:00AM
Morning Prayer and Reflection on Scripture - Synod Hall 8.30am - 9.00am		Morning Prayer and Reflection on Scripture - Synod Hall 8.30am - 9.00am		Morning Prayer and Reflection on Scripture - Synod Hall 8.30am - 9.00am	8:30AM
Business Session - Synod Hall 9.00am - 10.30am Order of the Day during this Business Session: Defence Force Motions 16.26 and 16.27 after consideration of Bills 16 and 17, 2026		General Synod Elections - Appellate Tribunal and Panel for the Special Tribunal Voting will take place between 8.00am and 1.30pm Thursday 13 August 2026	Business Session Synod Hall 9.00am - 10.30am	Business Session Synod Hall 9.00am - 10.30am	9:00AM
General Synod Elections - General Voting will take place between 10.30am and 7.00pm Wednesday 12 August 2026	Morning Tea - Foyer 10.30am - 11.00am		Morning Tea - Foyer 10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea - Foyer 10.30am - 11.00am	10:30 AM
	Business Session - Synod Hall 11.00am - 12.30pm Order of the Day during this Business Session: 12.20pm - Mothers Union 150th anniversary presentation		Business Session Synod Hall 11.00am - 12.30pm	Business Session Synod Hall 11.00am - 12.30pm	11:00 AM
	Lunch - Foyer 12.30pm - 1.30pm		Lunch - Foyer 12.30pm - 1.30pm		11:30 AM
	Business Session Synod Hall 1.30pm - 3.30pm		Business Session - Synod Hall 1.30pm - 3.30pm Order of the Day during this Business Session: Finance Presentation Final at 1.30pm	Close of the 19th Session of General Synod	12:00 PM
	Afternoon Tea - Foyer 3.30pm - 4.00pm		Afternoon Tea - Foyer 3.30pm - 4.00pm	DEPARTURES FROM 12.30pm Coach transfers from Hotel Melbourne Airport departing	12:30 PM
	Business Session - Synod Hall 4.00pm - 6.00pm Order of the Day during this Business Session: 5.50pm - Anglican Schools of Australia Presentation		Business Session Synod Hall 4.00pm - 6.00pm		1:00PM
	Evening Prayer - Synod Hall 6.00pm - 6.30pm		Evening Prayer - Synod Hall 6.00pm - 6.30pm		1:30PM
	Dinner Foyer 6.30pm - 7.30pm		Standing Committee Meeting 6.30pm - 7.00pm Victoria and Albert Room		2:00 PM
LEGISLATION Bills Scheduled to be considered on Wednesday 12 August during the business sessions listed above: Bills 16-19, 2026		Dinner Foyer 7.00pm - 8.00pm			2:30PM
					3:00PM
					3:30PM
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					8:00PM
					8:30PM



The Anglican Church of Australia
The Nineteenth Session of General Synod
9-14 August 2026 Melbourne

