



Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 9-14 August 2026

BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE THIRD BUSINESS DAY WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2026

The business of the Synod will commence at 9.00am on Wednesday 12 August in the Grand Meeting Room (Synod Hall), at the Pullman Melbourne Albert Park, 65 Queens Road, Melbourne, Victoria, following Morning Prayer and Bible Study at 8.30am.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE COMMITTEE TO ARRANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

From 9.00am

Motion 16.15 - Recommittal

Bill 08

Bill 16

Bill 17

Thereafter, bills as per the business paper.

Defence Force Motion 16.26, 16.27

From 12.20pm

Mother's Union Presentation

From 5.50pm

Anglican Schools Australia Presentation

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLES

2 PRAYERS

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous business day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment. [see motion 8.13 of Business Paper for Day one]

4 GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

5 QUESTIONS [SO 9(b)]

Question 1

Dr Laurie Scandrett asked:

What has been the cost of the operation of the Episcopal Standards Commission (and its associated bodies) in:

- a) 2024;
- b) 2025;
- c) the first seven months of 2026; and

the total cost across these two years and seven months?

Question 2

Mrs Briony Bounds asked:

Regarding the recent consultation conducted by the General Synod Standing Committee on proposed amendments to Faithfulness in Service, and in particular the Diocesan Consultation paper dated March 2026:

- a) Was any feedback received by the Safe Ministry Commission?
- b) What are the intended next steps for reviewing and assessing such feedback?
- c) What is the expected timeframe for this work?
- d) Is it intended that a settled final revised form of Faithfulness in Service will be presented to the Standing Committee for approval, or will it be brought to the next session of the General Synod?

Question 3

The Rev'd David McLennan:

The Doctrine Commission report to this synod on a matter of ecumenical significance showcases the rich theological resources available to assist the ministry of our church. While some of the Doctrine Commissions reports are available on the ACA website, it does not appear to offer a comprehensive collection.

- a) Is that the case?
- b) If so, on what basis are reports by the Doctrine Commission placed on this website?
- c) Given the value of such reports, and their frequent relevance to matters of pastoral practice, has consideration been given to offering a single repository of the commission's occasional papers, for the benefit of the wider Anglican community?
- d) Are you – or is the Commission – aware of any significant problems with such an approach?

6 PETITIONS [SO 9(c)]

7 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS [SO 9(d)]

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS [SO 9(e)]

9 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS

**16 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE
[SO 7(j)(i)]**

Note: *By resolution 2010/1/09, the Standing Committee adopted the following guidelines for deciding which motions should be brought before General Synod by the request of the Standing Committee:*

A bill or a resolution which –

- (a) Is recommended by the Standing Committee to be passed by General Synod;*
- (b) Is recommended by a Commission, by a Task Force appointed by the Standing Committee or by a body constituted under a Canon of General Synod;*
- (c) In the opinion of the Standing Committee is a matter of substantial importance to the Anglican Church of Australia or its relationships with other Churches;*
- (d) In the opinion of the Standing Committee is necessary to be considered at the next session for the order and good government of the Anglican Church of Australia and to administer the affairs thereof;*

and that matters be listed on the Business Paper under the relevant criteria above and identifying the signatory(ies) of the proposals.

The criterion or criteria by which the Standing Committee determined that a motion should be brought before General Synod by request of the Standing Committee are set out after the heading for that motion.

The signatory or signatories of the relevant proposal are set out at the head of the motion as mover and seconder.

ORDERS OF THE DAY (16.3):

- **Thursday 13 August at 1.30pm - Final consideration of Motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5.**

16.3 Motions relating to Financial Matters (Book 3)
Criterion (a)

Ms Gillian Harrex moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

16.3.4 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2027 be approved.

16.3.5 That Synod receives the General Synod forecast budget for years ended 31 December 2028 and 2030.

16.4 Diocesan Financial Self-Assessment

(Criterion a)

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

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.

16.5 General Synod Expenditure in Future Years

Criterion (a)

Archdeacon Stephen Carnaby moving, Archbishop Kanishka Raffel seconding

That this General Synod:

1. notes the uncertainty around the ability of dioceses to continue to fund

- increases in the statutory assessment in the next 4 years given the issues of viability and redress
2. requests a review by the new Standing Committee of possible future budgetary options to prepare for this.

**NOTE: At the agreement of the Committee to arrange the Order of Business, this motion is being moved in an amended form as agreed to by the mover and seconder.*

16.6 Wellbeing Policy for Professional Development, Professional Supervision and Ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia*
Criterion (a)

The Ven Kate Beer moving, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman seconding

This General Synod:

1. Notes that General Synod 18 endorsed the *Ministry Wellbeing and Development: Policy, Guidelines and Resources* document presented to the Synod by the Standing Committee.
2. Requests the Standing Committee continue to monitor the implementation of the Wellbeing Policy and report back to the next meeting of the General Synod (GS20) with proposals to assist in developing:
 - a. A framework that embeds the expectation of accountability for adherence to the Wellbeing Policy across the national church.
 - b. Mechanisms for assessing a cleric's accountable practice in relation to wellbeing measures prior to a new appointment or renewal of ministry licence, including when transferring to another diocese.
3. Encourages every Diocese to give consideration as to how the application of the Wellbeing Policy should apply in their context to non-stipendiary clergy and church workers.
4. Encourages those responsible in each Diocese for ministry development and wellbeing to be active in networking and sharing resources across the Australian Church.

**NOTE: At the agreement of the Committee to arrange the Order of Business, this motion is being moved in an amended form as agreed to by the mover and seconder.*

16.7 Safe Ministry Commission - Training Benchmarks for Professional Standards Boards (Book 4)
Criterion (b)

Bishop Ian Coutts moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding

The General Synod requests the Safe Ministry Commission to review and update the training benchmarks for Professional Standards Boards and to report to Standing Committee.

16.9 Public Affairs Commission – Anglican Communion Forest

Criterion (b)

Bishop Matt Brain moving, the Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding

That this Synod notes:

1. The independent and evidence-based 2021 State of the Environment report concluded that the state of Australia's natural environment is poor and deteriorating from multiple pressures resulting in many threatened species and ecosystems.
2. That in its Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 the Anglican Church of Australia acknowledges God's sovereignty over creation through the Lord Jesus Christ and that caring for the environment is part of the role of dioceses, agencies, and their people.
3. The Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission is to '... strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.
4. The Anglican Communion Forest is a worldwide, practical, spiritual, and symbolic response to our current environmental and biodiversity crises and is an act of Christian hope for God's creation including humanity.

This Synod therefore:

1. Laments the damage already inflicted on God's creation here in Australia.
2. Understands that we are to be God's representatives in this physical world by taking care of creation and working with Christ in the renewing of all things.
3. Supports the work of Australia's environmental and conservation agencies as they seek to care for Australia's natural areas and plant and animal communities
4. Encourages Dioceses and Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia to embrace the Anglican Communion Forest as a sign of healing and redemption of the physical world.
5. Endorses the creation and care for natural areas, large or small, in dioceses which reflect the beauty of God's natural world here in Australia.

16.12 NATSIAC – Raise the Age (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Bishop Chris McLeod seconding

This Synod:

- a) notes the NATSIAC resolution made at the most recent gathering, that:
"The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, requests an urgent call to raise the age of criminal responsibility from

10 to 14. Our children are being treated not as children but as criminals. We share a deep grief and righteous anger with our community elders and people of faith who witness the torture of our children in prisons. The incarceration of children is contrary to the Gospel of Christ. Matthew 19:14 states “let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” We call on the churches to embody the justice of God. We cannot claim reconciliation while remaining silent as a church and imprison our children. The current system is racist, criminalizing First Nations children and ignoring intergenerational trauma. Australia’s practice of imprisoning 10-year-olds is condemned for breaking international law and the Mandela Rules for prisoner treatment. Communities are left without resources, with prison being the only response offered.

The General Synod is called upon to:

- i) publicly support the national ‘Raise the Age’ campaign
 - ii) commit to tell the truth about the harm done to children and to walk with First Nations communities in healing and prevention
 - iii) advocate for strengthening alternatives to prison, such as Koori Courts, and resourcing family support organizations.”
- b) notes that the Public Affairs Commission supports the NATSIAC motion regarding the age of criminal responsibility.

16.13 NATSIAC – Climate Change (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

The Very Rev’d Dr Peter Catt moving, Dr Rose Elu seconding

This Synod:

- a) notes the NATSIAC resolution made at the most recent gathering, that:

“First Nations communities are leading action to keep towns, neighbours, and kids safe from unnatural disasters, but they shouldn’t have to do this alone. Big polluters burning coal, oil and gas are heating our planet causing more frequent and destructive heatwaves, storms, floods, fires and sea level rise. Our communities are contributing the least to the problem but we are on the frontlines. A small handful of corporations are raking in record profits for polluting our climate and fight against action to solve climate change. They plan massive news projects making the problem ever worse. This is our last chance to get it right. The science says that this will be the last decade we have to drastically change paths or we face tipping points which would put all of earth and humanity in danger.

We call upon the Federal Government to:

1. Stop approving new coal and gas projects;
2. Set targets that keep warming below 1.5°C below preindustrial levels;
3. Stand up to the fossil fuel lobby, stop using public money to prop up polluting projects, and make big polluters pay for damage they have caused;
4. Support community-led efforts to prevent damage from climate disasters and help people recover; and
5. Trust and learn from local leaders and Traditional Owners who know how to care for their land and water.

We call upon the Anglican Church of Australia through General Synod to:

1. Share our hurt at the effect of climate change for, ‘...when one part of the body weeps, the whole body weeps.’ (1 Cor 12:26)
2. Share our advocacy at local, state, and federal levels of government; and
3. Change such activities as is possible so that temperatures do not rise.

If communities are enabled to work together to limit climate change we can recover and rebuild with your help.”

- b) notes that the Public Affairs Commission supports the NATSIAC motion regarding climate change.

16.15 Safe Ministry Commission – Budget (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Dianne Shay moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding

The General Synod requests an allocation in the General Synod budget of up to \$5000 annually (offset by GSO Qantas frequent flyer points) to enable one annual face to face meeting of the Safe Ministry Commission allocated from the Contingency amount of \$20,000 in the Budget and Estimates under ‘Implementation’. This is sought because the Commission will have completely new membership except for one existing member from the second Standing Committee meeting following the General Synod and because of the nature of the work undertaken by the Commission.

16.17 Safe Ministry Commission – National Repository (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Greg Anderson moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding

That the General Synod:

1. request the Safe Ministry Commission, in consultation with diocesan Professional Standards authorities and Kooyoora, to establish and maintain a secure National Repository for de-identified and anonymised Professional Standards determinations, accessible only to Professional Standards Directors (or their equivalents) for the purposes of supporting consistent practice, training and decision-making; and
2. that the Safe Ministry Commission develop and promulgate national protocols for
 - i. the submission of determinations by dioceses in accordance with applicable diocesan legislation and confidentiality requirements,
 - ii. minimum standards for anonymisation and de-identification, and
 - iii. governance, access controls, record-keeping and cyber security, and
 - iv. report to the next session of General Synod on implementation.

16.18 Safe Ministry Commission – Non-Child Related Matters (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Ian Coutts moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding

The General Synod requests the Safe Ministry Commission to:

1. develop policies, frameworks, or model legislation to resolve non-child-related matters, such as grievances, interpersonal conflicts, and psychosocial work health and safety issues.
2. report to Standing Committee with recommendations.

16.20 Safe Ministry Commission – Principles for Child Safe Organisations

(Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Ms Dianne Shay moving, Bishop Ian Coutts seconding

The General Synod requests the Safe Ministry Commission:

1. to monitor, evaluate, and report on the Church's ongoing implementation and embedding with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, ensuring that the Church maintains and continually strengthens its status as a child safe institution, and to report its findings to the Standing Committee;
2. to report to the 20th General Synod as to the progress of the Church in the ongoing development, implementation and review of safe ministry policies and structures.

16.21 Safe Ministry Commission – Review of Safe Ministry Resources

(Book 4 page)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Greg Anderson moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding

The General Synod requests the Commission to monitor the Church's progress in developing and implementing safe ministry policies and structures, and promoting a safe ministry culture, including the continuing review and updating of Safe Ministry Policies and Resources, and to report to Standing Committee with recommendations, and to report progress to the 20th General Synod.

16.23 Funding the Church's Response to Domestic and Family Violence*

(Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Genieve Blackwell moving, The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey seconding

The General Synod, acknowledging the long-term nature of the need for prevention and response to domestic and family violence in our churches:

- a) requests the Treasurer to bring forward a recast General Synod budget that includes an annual allocation of \$189,000 in the General Synod Statutory Assessment budget, commencing in 2027 and continuing in each subsequent year, with the allocation adjusted annually in accordance with the CPI adjustments applied to Statutory Assessments;
- b) requests Standing Committee to allocate this funding to staffing and resourcing the Anglican Church of Australia's prevention and response to domestic and family violence affecting its members;

- c) recommends that such funding is to be sourced through increased statutory assessments; and
- d) asks Standing Committee to return to the next General Synod with a budget that allocates funding to these matters rather than requiring this matter to be debated at each General Synod.

**NOTE: This motion involves expenditure that will, if passed, result in expenditure from the funds available to the General Synod. As required by Standing Order 37A of Rule I – Standing Orders, attached to this business paper as Annexure A is a paper setting out: (a) the proposed source of funding; and (b) an itemised statement of expected income and expenditure that will result from the passing of the motion, being, if the expenditure will continue for more than one year, the expected income and expenditure per year.*

16.24 Liturgy Commission - Response from the Liturgy Commission to the 2025 Assisi Seminar on the possibility of a Feast of God the Creator (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

The Very Rev'd Christopher Chataway moving, The Very Rev'd Richard Humphrey seconding

General Synod, in the light of the Fifth Mark of Mission, to “strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”:

1. Notes the biblical, theological and liturgical work being done internationally and ecumenically on care for creation, including the exploration of a possible addition to the church's Calendar of a Feast Day recognising the role of Christ through whom all things were made;
2. Encourages dioceses to consider local observance of a Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September each year; and

Requests the Primate, the Bishops' Meeting, NATSIAC, the Doctrine Commission, the Public Affairs Commission, and the Liturgy Commission to develop and promote resources for a theologically wholesome, culturally adapted, and liturgically rich Day of Prayer for Creation in the Anglican Church of Australia.

16.25 Liturgy Commission - Australia Day Readings (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

The Very Revd Richard Humphrey moving, The Revd Canon Di Langham seconding

General Synod requests NATSIAC and the Liturgy Commission in conversation to prepare liturgical and lectionary resources alternative to those in APBA for Australia Day and related occasions.

ORDER OF THE DAY – Wednesday 12 August after consideration of Bills 16 and 17, 2026 (Motions 16.26 and 16.27)

16.26 Defence Force Board (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

The Ven Andrew Nixon moving, The Rev'd Catherine Wynn-Jones seconding

1. That General Synod thank God for the privileged position and blessed opportunity to still have Christian chaplains living among and ministering to our Defence Force personnel in the increasingly difficult climate of growing secularism and pluralism.
2. That General Synod commends the work of Anglican Chaplains in the Australian Defence Force, particularly noting we are in the most dangerous security environment since WWII, and calls on:
 - all members of the ACA to pray for peace, and
 - all clergy and suitably qualified lay members of the ACA to prayerfully consider Defence Chaplaincy as primary or additional ministry.
3. That General Synod 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 encourages each diocese to financially support Defence Chaplaincy by collecting a congregational donation each year on Defence Sunday (the Sunday before Remembrance Day).

16.27 Veterans' Chaplaincy (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

The Ven Andrew Nixon moving, The Rev'd Caitlin Orr seconding

1. General Synod acknowledges the final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and commends the tireless work of the commissioners, Nick Kaldas APM (Chair), The Hon. James Douglas KC and Dr Peggy Brown AO in listening compassionately to serving members, veterans and families, presenting their findings and making 122 recommendations for action, including Recommendation 78: Prevent, minimise and treat moral injury.
2. Synod recognises the magnitude of the task ahead noting: the ongoing investigation of the Office of the Special Investigator and the commencement of criminal proceedings for alleged war crimes; the rapid development in recognition of the prevalence and impact of moral injury in the veteran community; the persistence of PTSD, psychological distress, mental illness and associated difficulties including substance abuse, relationship breakdown and homelessness; the long term debilitating effects of physical injury and pain management; and the immediate and intergenerational impact of service on the families of veterans.
3. The Synod welcomes the extension of funding for the Veterans' Chaplaincy Program pilot in the Department of Veterans' Affairs for a further two years until 30 June 2028, noting the spiritual dimension of moral injury and the particular aim of this program to "develop, upskill and support community-based faith leaders to deliver this support to veterans and their families". It calls on Anglican Churches and welfare agencies to pray that this Government might commit to extend this

program nationally and prayerfully consider how they might be upskilled.

4. The Synod acknowledges and thanks the outgoing Primate, the Most Reverend Geoff Smith, for his unwavering support of the work of veterans' chaplaincy and the collation of an additional non-stipended archdeacon to champion ministry to veterans and families and be a point of contact between the ADF, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Church in response to the resolution of this Synod on 11 May 2022.

17 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE
[SO 7(j)(i)]

17.8 Bill 08 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Bishop of Multiple Dioceses) Canon 2026

Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding.

That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Bishop of Multiple Dioceses) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

17.14 Bill 14 – A Bill for a General Synod Staff Committee Membership Canon 2026

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy moving, Bishop Paul Barker seconding.

That a Bill for a General Synod Staff Committee Membership Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

17.15 Bill 15 – A Bill for a Miscellaneous Legislative Amendments and Repeals Canon 2026

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding.

That a Bill for a Miscellaneous Legislative Amendments and Repeals Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

17.16 Bill 16 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Defence Force Representation in General Synod) Canon 2026

Bishop Paul Barker moving, Bishop Keith Joseph seconding.

That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Defence Force Representation in General Synod) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

17.17 Bill 17 – A Bill for the Defence Force Ministry (Representation in General Synod) Canon 2026

Bishop Paul Barker moving, Bishop Keith Joseph seconding.

That a Bill for the Defence Force Ministry (Representation in General Synod) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

17.18 Bill 18 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Amendment) Canon 2026

The Rev'd Dr Andrew Ford moving, Bishop Donald Kirk seconding.

That a Bill for the Long Service Leave (Amendment) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

17.19 Bill 19 – A Bill for the Trust Corporation Amendment Canon 2026

Mrs Carine Collins moving, Ms Gillian Harrex seconding.

That a Bill for the Trust Corporation Amendment Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

19 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS
[SO 7(j)(ii)]

19.1 Vision36 Report on Church Planting and Revitalisation

Archbishop Ric Thorpe moving, Bishop Peter Stuart seconding

That this General Synod:

1. Welcomes the agreement by the Anglican Consultative Council to the Vision36 report on church planting and revitalisation.
 2. Is encouraged to know that evangelism, discipleship and church planting are priorities of the Anglican Communion.
 3. Encourages Dioceses to find out further information about Vision36 and apply the principles locally.
 4. Prays that Vision36 will see Anglican Churches across the globe being more focused on evangelism, discipleship and church planting.
 5. Recommends to the incoming Standing Committee that it establish Vision36 as a Strategic Issue of this Church under the oversight of the Mission and Ministry Commission.
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20 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR DIOCESAN COUNCIL
[SO 7(j)(iii)]

20.1 Salvation Exclusively in Jesus

The Rev Dr Mark Thompson moving, The Rev Natalie Rosner seconding

General Synod affirms the biblical and apostolic conviction that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of all who will come to him. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Article 18 also states that it is a mistake to say people shall be saved by diligent observance of the law or religion they profess, "For Holy Scripture doth set out to us only the Name of Jesus Christ, whereby men must be saved".

Therefore, in this era of confusion and doubt in which we live, we encourage every member of the Anglican Church of Australia to bear faithful witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed, sharing with humility and love the good news of salvation in him alone, and inviting all people to come to him in faith and so discover real hope and new life.

(Moved at the request of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Sydney, pursuant to Standing Order 7(j)(iii).)

**NOTE: At the agreement of the Committee to arrange the Order of Business, this motion is being moved in an amended form as agreed to by the mover and seconder.*

20.2 Minimum Requirements for Ordination

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Dr Michael Tong seconding

General Synod, recognising the urgent need for an increasing number of well-prepared, biblically literate and theologically astute candidates for ordination, and the state of theological education around the world, encourages the Ministry & Mission Commission to continue its work on Minimum Requirements for Ordination and publish its guidelines as soon as possible. It further expresses its desire that the requirements published in the draft guidelines of one year's full-time study for the diaconate and of an approved theological degree for the priesthood be at least retained, if not strengthened.

(Moved at the request of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Sydney, pursuant to Standing Order 7(j)(iii).)

23 NOTICES OF MOTIONS RECEIVED BY STANDING COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD

[SO 7(l)]

23.1 Ministry to and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Bishop Chris McLeod seconding

This General Synod:

1. notes
 - the significance of ministry to and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the life and health of the Anglican Church of Australia
 - that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately located in less resourced remote and regional Dioceses; and
2. recommends to all the dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia that they provide financial support for ministry in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in remote and regional dioceses and requests them to work together to provide for this ministry according to their financial resources.

23.2 Metropolitan Support for Regional and Rural Dioceses

Bishop Keith Joseph moving, Bishop Donald Kirk 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 higher costs associated with the provision of ministry in regional and remote locations and the smaller asset base of most regional and rural dioceses: requests that the Metropolitan Dioceses as a whole take on greater responsibility for supporting ministry across Australia and authorises the General Synod Standing Committee to coordinate with the Metropolitan Dioceses and the Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force to put together a plan with sufficient financial contributions from the Metropolitan Dioceses such as to support regional and rural dioceses to enable the continued presence of the Anglican Church of Australia in regional and rural ministry.

24 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR FIRST DAY

[SO37]

24.1 ABM's work in the Middle East

Mr Howard Benson moving, Canon Dr Dianne Rayson seconding

With reference to the ABM report on page 103 of the Reports to Synod Book 4, General Synod:

1. notes the impact the conflict in the Middle East is having on the ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, especially the Al Ahli Hospital and the field clinic at Kahn Younis in Gaza;
 - a) critical shortages of medicine and medical supplies
 - b) critical shortages of food and clean water
 - c) an estimated ten thousand children with life changing injuries.
2. encourages the members of General Synod to pray for the work and ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and the work of the Anglican Board of Mission Australia in that diocese.

**NOTE: At the agreement of the Committee to arrange the Order of Business, this motion is being moved in an amended form as agreed to by the mover and seconder.*

24.2 Welcoming the publication of a True and Lively Faith

The Rev'd Professor Mark Lindsay moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Robert Derrenbacker seconding

General Synod:

1. welcomes the publication of A True and Lively Faith: Contested Issues in Australian Anglicanism, Volume One as an invitation to initiate generous and respectful conversations about matters that threaten to divide us;
2. congratulates the editor, Bishop Stephen Pickard, and the contributors, and looks forward to the second volume in due course.

24.3 Say No to Commercial Surrogacy

The Rev'd Dr Danielle Treweek moving, The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant seconding

General Synod:

1. notes that the Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) Review of Surrogacy Laws (Discussion Paper 89) makes proposals that, if accepted and enacted into law, would amount to the legalisation of commercial surrogacy in Australia
2. informs the Commonwealth Parliament that it:
 - a) affirms that all people, including unborn children, are made in the image of God, and that their sanctity of life and rights must be upheld;
 - b) holds the formation of family and the welcoming of children in the highest regard, honours the social significance of gestational and maternal care, and recognises with compassion the pain of infertility;
 - c) affirms that children are a gift to be received, not a right to be claimed or a good to be provided, and that no universal right to parenthood has been established in law;
 - d) believes children have a natural interest, wherever possible, in knowing and being raised by their own biological mother and father;
 - e) opposes the commodification of children and the exploitation of vulnerable women, whether in Australia or overseas;
 - f) opposes absolutely the legalisation of commercial surrogacy — whether described as "commercial," "compensated" or by any other name — and calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to definitively reject any recommendation to that effect.
3. notes that the ALRC's final report is due to the Attorney-General on September 11, 2026 and thereafter to be tabled in Parliament within 15 sitting days
4. requests the Primate to write to the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General and the Leader of the Opposition informing them of this resolution by the end of September, 2026.

24.5 Establishment of the Australian Anglican Chaplains Network

Mr James Flavin moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding

General Synod:

1. requests the Standing Committee to facilitate the formation of a General Synod Network to be known as the Australian Anglican Chaplains Network pursuant to the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998;
2. determines that the purposes of the Network are:
 - a) to foster fellowship and collaboration among Anglican chaplains serving throughout Australia;
 - b) to promote excellence in Anglican chaplaincy across all recognised ministries, including but not limited to defence, hospitals, prisons, schools, universities, emergency services, aged care, racing, sport, industry, airports, ports, welfare agencies, and other community ministries;
 - c) to encourage the exchange of information, research, training resources and examples of best practice;
 - d) to facilitate cooperation between dioceses, commissions, agencies and chaplaincy organisations;
 - e) to identify emerging issues affecting Anglican chaplaincy and communicate those matters to the Standing Committee of General Synod;

- f) to encourage the planting and development of Anglican chaplaincies where opportunities arise;
 - g) to support theological reflection on chaplaincy within the ministry of the Anglican Church of Australia.
3. requests the Standing Committee to appoint an initial Convenor following consultation with dioceses and recognised Anglican chaplaincy organisations.
 4. encourages every diocese to nominate representatives engaged in chaplaincy ministries to participate in the Network.

24.6 Antisemitism and Social Cohesion

The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant moving, Rev'd Dr Chris Porter seconding General Synod, affirming that the Jewish people have been entrusted with the ancient wisdom and oracles of our God:

1. mourns the tragic events at Bondi in December 2025 and the distressing rise of antisemitism in our nation;
2. prays for the Bondi community and the Jewish people of our nation;
3. welcomes the establishment of the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion and prays for the work of its Commissioner, the Honourable Virginia Bell AC SC, and commission staff; and
4. pledges that our churches, schools, and agencies will play our part in combating antisemitism and all forms of racism, and in promoting social cohesion among our diverse nation.

24.7 Proactive youth and children's ministry

The Rev'd Canon Craig Roberts moving, Archdeacon Kate Beer seconding General Synod, noting:

1. the persistent NCLS finding that almost 80% of churchgoers made a first time decision for Christ before their eighteenth birthday, and
2. the important items of Synod business pertaining to young people (including, but not necessarily limited to, Safe Ministry, Child Safe Organisations and Churches Response to Domestic and Family Violence)

requests consideration be given by the Standing Committee, and a proposal brought back to the next meeting of General Synod regarding proactive steps provinces, dioceses and parishes could take to see children and youth reached with the good news of Jesus and discipled to maturity in Him.

24.8 Appellate Tribunal Retirements

Justice Debra Mullins moving, the Most Reverend Kanishka Raffel seconding

General Synod:

1. notes that The Hon Justice Clyde Croft AM who was appointed to the Appellate Tribunal in 2014 retired as a Tribunal member at the commencement of this session of the Synod;
2. notes that The Hon Richard Refshauge AM who was appointed to the Appellate Tribunal in 2010 and subsequently appointed as the Deputy President retired as a Tribunal member at the commencement of this session of the Synod;
3. notes that The Right Rev'd Garry Weatherill who was appointed to the Appellate Tribunal in 2016 will cease to be a Tribunal member when he retires as Diocesan Bishop in October 2026;
4. records its thanks to these retiring members for their contributions to the work of the Tribunal and their willingness to use their skills, experience and wisdom in serving the Anglican Church of Australia as members of the Tribunal.

24.9 Celebration and Inclusion of those with Neurodiversity and Invisible Disabilities

Dr Renae Barker moving, the Rev'd David Ould seconding

General Synod:

1. welcomes the recent comments by the Archbishop of Canterbury that neurodiversity is a gift and not a problem to be solved;
2. affirms that all people are created in the image of God and that experiences of disability do not negate this essential truth;
3. affirms the God-given dignity, gifts and vocation of neurodivergent people and all people living with invisible disability;
4. calls upon dioceses, parishes, schools and agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia embrace and affirm the gifts of neurodiverse people, recognise the particular challenges they may face and to actively work to remove barriers to the full participation of neurodivergent people in every aspect of the life of the Church, including worship, ministry, governance and leadership;
5. encourages clergy and lay leaders who are comfortable doing so to speak openly about their lived experience of neurodiversity and invisible disability, helping to normalise disability and neurodiversity within the life and leadership of the Church; and
6. commends to the Anglican Church of Australia the following (not exhaustive) list of resources and respectfully asks the Primate to communicate such commendation to the wider church:
 - a) The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program (<https://hdsunflower.com>)
 - b) An Extraordinary Normal: Faith, Family and Neurodiversity (<https://substack.com/@anextraordinarynormal>)
 - c) Autism and the Church: Bible Theology, and Community. Grant Macaskill <https://www.baylorpress.com/9781481311250/autism-and-the-church/>)
 - d) Unwin, K., & van Ommen, A. L. (2024). Autistic and Non-Autistic Experience of the Sensory Aspects of the Church Service. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 52(4), 410–425. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/00916471241266810>)

24.10 Thanks for Financial Presentation

Mr Doug Marr moving, Mr James Flavin seconding

General Synod:

1. thanks the Hon Treasurer, GSO staff and others involved in the financial presentation made on 11 August 2026;
2. values the information provided;
3. asks for a similar presentation to be made on the first day of future General Synods so all matters discussed at future General Synods can be in the context of the best known financial situation.

24.11 Various Financial Matters

Mr James Flavin moving, The Rev'd David Ould seconding

General Synod:

1. asks the Standing Committee to consider capping the growth in expenditure using the average weekly earnings (AWE) percentage rather than a percentage based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and;
2. asks the Standing Committee to invite each Diocese to make an additional voluntary contribution to the Statutory Assessment notionally on behalf of the Bishop of that Diocese equivalent to the amount contributed for an individual diocesan representative.

ANNEXURE A – MOTION 16.23

Information provided as required by Standing Order 37A of Rule 1 – Standing Orders

Motion 16.23 – Funding the Church's Response to Domestic and Family Violence

Background

This motion seeks to provide ongoing funding for the Families and Culture Commission to enable it to continue its national work in coordinating the prevention and response to domestic and family violence across the Anglican Church of Australia. In considering this motion, members are encouraged to read the **Report of the Families and Culture Commission to the Nineteenth Session of the General Synod**, which outlines the Commission's work since the previous session of General Synod, its achievements, and the rationale for continued national investment.

Proposed Source of Funding

This proposal is in light of the budget presented to General Synod 19 and reflects resolutions R69/18 and R92/18, through which the General Synod committed to initial funding of the long-term work of the Families and Culture Commission from 2022-2025. For the GS19 budget, the Treasurer has advised that increasing statutory assessments is the only viable source of funding this work, as the current draft General Synod budget has allocated funds, surpluses and investment income to other priorities and expenses.

Therefore, to continue to fund this work, the Families and Culture Commission recommends an increase of 8-9% to the adjustments applied to Statutory Assessments. This increase will provide an annual allocation of \$189,000 in 2027 (with CPI adjustments in future years) and enable the General Synod's continuing commitment to the Anglican Church's prevention of and response to Domestic and Family Violence to remain a strategic priority.

Additionally, the Families and Culture Commission has actively pursued philanthropic and community funding opportunities as requested by General Synod and its Standing Committee. These initiatives generated approximately \$106,000 in additional income, (largely through DV AWARE SUNDAY donations) across the last General Synod cycle and enabled the work to continue in 2026 with no net effect on the 2026 General Synod budget. However, fundraising has not produced a reliable level of sufficient funding to sustain the core staffing and project funding required to continue the Commission's national work. The proposal in this motion therefore offers a sustainable and accountable funding model that reflects the Church's commitment to addressing Domestic and Family Violence as a continuing priority. Subject to Standing Committee approval in 2027/8/9, any further fundraising could lessen statutory assessment allocations needed and result in returns to dioceses.

As outlined in our report, funding the Families and Culture Commission will enable it to continue to fulfil its mandate by supporting the Anglican Church of Australia in its commitment to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence. Key priorities include strengthening national coordination, equipping dioceses to implement the Ten Commitments, advancing primary prevention initiatives, and fostering a culture of safety, dignity, and flourishing across the Church. The Commission will focus on building sustainable systems, deepening sector and church partnerships, and embedding long-term cultural change as integral to the Church's mission and witness. The extent of this work program remains dependent on appropriate resourcing and funding, including the continuation of funding to sustain the National Program Manager role to continue.

Itemised statement of expected income and expenditure that will result from the passing of the motion

Families & Culture Commission Budget

	Budget 2027	Budget 2028 (+CPI 4%)	Budget 2029 (+CPI 4%)
<i>Income</i>	0	0	0
<i>Expenditure</i>			
Employee & Office expenses	148,160	154,333	160,076
Travel	4,200	4,375	4,557
Project Initiatives			
National gathering & in person training events*	12,740	13,270	13,823
Training Materials/Publications	8,400	8,750	9,114
Training Platform/Video course	8,500	-	-
Graphic Design, incl 16 Days Campaign, website downloads, website.	5,000	5,208	5,425
DV Aware Sunday	2,000	2,083	2,170
Total Expenditure	189,000	188,019	195,165
The final CPI adjustment is to be confirmed * National Gatherings and training events are expected to operate on a break-even basis. A contingency has been included in the budget to cover any unforeseen operating loss.			