

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE NINETEENTH GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
HELD IN SYNOD HALL, GRAND MEETING ROOM,
PULLMAN MELBOURNE ALBERT PARK, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA,
ON MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026**

1	SYNOD ASSEMBLED The Synod assembled at 8.32am, with the Primate, Bishop Mark Short, presiding	
2	PRAYERS The Synod opened with a service of morning prayer led by the Right Reverend Tiffany Sparks Formal business of Synod started at 9am The President's Chaplain led prayers The President welcomed all members and asked members and attendees to be wise and gracious with electronic devices.	
3	ROLLS The Rolls of Bishops, Clerical and Lay Representatives summoned to the Synod were tabled.	
4	QUORUM A quorum was confirmed pursuant to Section 21 of the Constitution.	
5	PRESIDENTS ADDRESS The President gave an Acknowledgement of Country. The President delivered his address to the Synod and closed his address with prayers. The President's address was received with acclamation.	
6	ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding	
6.1	Clerical Secretary and Lay Secretary of Synod	
R01/19	6.1.1 That the Ven Stephen Carnaby be elected as Clerical Secretary of Synod.	Carried
R02/19	6.1.2 That Ms Sarah Crutch be elected as Lay Secretary of Synod.	Carried
6.2	A Chair and Deputy Chairs of Committees	
R03/19	6.2.1 That Dr Ian Gibson be elected as Chair of Committees.	Carried
R04/19	6.2.2 That Ms Rachel Ellyard be elected as Deputy Chair of Committees.	Carried
R05/19	6.2.3 That Dr Karin Sowada be elected as a Deputy Chair of Committees.	Carried

R06/19	6.3	A Committee of Elections and Qualifications	
		That the following members be appointed to the Committee of Elections and Qualifications:	Carried
		(a) The Rt Rev'd Dr Matt Brain (Bendigo)	
		(b) Justice Debra Mullins AO (Brisbane)	
		(c) Justice Michael Meek (Sydney)	
		(d) Dr Carolyn Tan (Perth)	
		(e) The Rev'd Dr Chris Porter (Melbourne)	
R07/20	6.4	Members of a Committee to arrange the Order of Business	Carried
		That the following additional persons be elected to the Committee to arrange the Order of Business:	
		(a) The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Stead	
		(b) The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman	
		(c) Mrs Carine Collins	
	7	GENERAL SECRETARY'S INTRODUCTION TO ARRANGEMENTS	
		The General Secretary announced arrangements for Synod.	
R08/19	8	A MOTION FOR THE ARRANGEMENT OF SYNOD BUSINESS	Carried
		Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding	
		(a) That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the following motion relating to the orderly arrangement of the Synod's business being considered and if, approved, being implemented forthwith; and	
		(b) That Synod order the following arrangements set out in paragraphs 8.1 to 8.6.	
R09/19	8.1	Minutes Reading Committee	Carried
		That a Minutes Reading Committee of four members be appointed to read and certify as a correct record the Minutes of this Session of Synod for confirmation by Synod and that the following be members of the Committee, any two of whom are to certify the minutes for a particular day:	
		a) Mr Rowen Atkinson	
		b) Ms Sue Williams	
		c) The Ven David McDougall	
		d) The Rev'd Gillian Moses	
R10/19	8.2	Hours of Sitting, Synod Program and Call over of Motions	Carried
		8.2.1 That the hours of sitting for this Special Session of the Synod be those set out in the Synod Program in Book 2 of the General Synod papers titled <i>Standing</i>	

- R11/19 *Committee Report to the Nineteenth Session of General Synod.* **Carried**
- 8.2.2 That so much of Standing Orders as may be necessary be suspended to permit the program as set out in Book 2 of the General Synod papers titled *Standing Committee Report to the Nineteenth Session of General Synod* to be implemented.
- R12/19 *General Synod* to be implemented.
- 8.2.3 That so much of Standing Order 10(b) be suspended to allow the President in his discretion to call the motions on the business paper only at morning and afternoon sittings of this session.
- 8.3 Guests of General Synod**
- R13/19 8.3.1 That the following persons, not being members of this Synod, be granted permission to speak if called upon by the President: **Carried**
- (a) Ms Tracey Longfield – Finance and Operations Manager GSO
 - (b) The Hon Keith Mason – Chancellor to the Primate
 - (c) The Ven Dr Guerin Tueno – Assistant to the Primate
 - (d) The Rt Rev'd Grant Dibden – Bishop to the Defence Force
 - (e) The Rev'd Dr John Deane – Executive Director, Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Ltd
 - (f) The Rt Rev'd Geoff Smith – Former Primate and member of the Episcopal Standards Processes Review Working Group
 - (g) The Rev'd Peter Laurence OAM – Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Schools Australia
 - (h) Ms Jenny Dawson – Convenor, Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force
 - (i) Mr Chris Nelson – Chair, Long Service Leave Board
 - (j) Rev'd Wayne Schuller and Rev'd Dr Cristy Capper – Members of the Mission and Ministry Commission
 - (k) Rev'd Scott Holmes – Member Families and Culture Commission
 - (l) Rev'd Tracey Lauersen – National Program Manager, Families and Culture Commission
 - (m) Dr Robin Ray – President, Mother's Union Australia
 - (n) The Rev'd Greg Harris – National Director, Bush Church Aid
 - (o) Ms Audrey Mills, Chair, Safe Ministry Commission

(p) Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith OAM, member, Liturgy Commission

8.4 Media Arrangements

That in order to provide appropriate controls and to prevent interference with the Business of the Synod the following media arrangements will pertain:

R14/19 8.4.1 Television filming on the floor of Synod may only take place at specific times declared by the President and from a designated area. **Carried**

R15/19 8.4.2 At other times during the Synod accredited media representatives shall be permitted in the Synod Hall only in a designated area. **Carried**

8.5 Report on Financial Matters

R16/19 That leave be granted for Ms Gillian Harrex, General Synod Treasurer as mover of motions 16.3.1 to 16.3.5, and Ms Tracey Longfield, General Synod Finance and Operations Manager, to make a presentation on the Standing Committee's Financial Report to General Synod. **Carried**

8.6 Ordering of Business on the Advice of the Provisional Business Committee

Motions for Bills

R17/19 8.6.1 That consideration of motions 17.1 to 17.8 and 18.1 for Bills 01–08, 2026 and Bill R1, 2026 be an Order of the Day to be dealt with forthwith on Monday 10 August 2026. **Carried**

R18/19 8.6.2 That consideration of motions 17.9 to 17.15 for Bills 09–15, 2026 be an Order of the Day to be dealt with forthwith on Tuesday 11 August 2026. **Carried**

R19/19 8.6.3 That consideration of motions 17.16 to 17.19 for Bills 16–19, 2026 be an Order of the Day to be dealt with forthwith on Wednesday 12 August 2026. **Carried**

R20/19 **Public Affairs Commission – Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia** **Carried**

8.6.4 That consideration of motion 16.11 be an Order of the Day on Monday 10 August 2026 before discussion of Bills 03 and 04, 2026 which are related to NATSIAC ministry.

R21/19 **Evangelism in the National Church – Hope 25 Project and other Motions promoted by the Mission and Ministry Commission** **Carried**

8.6.5 That consideration of motion 16.8 be an Order of the Day for 4pm on Monday 10 August 2026 for an up to a one hour presentation including a video, in

R22/19	addition to being able to showcase throughout the week 2 minute video testimonies before the start of each business session. Review of Episcopal Standards Processes (Bills 09–13, 2006) 8.6.6 That an up to forty five minute presentation by Dr Ian Gibson on the review of the episcopal standards processes be an Order of the Day immediately before consideration of Bills 09–13, 2026 on Tuesday 11 August 2026.	Carried
R23/19	Finance Motions 8.6.7 That consideration of motions 16.3.1 to 16.3.3 and the consideration in principle of motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 be an Order of the Day for 1.30pm on Tuesday 11 August 2026.	Carried
R24/19	8.6.8 That final consideration of motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 be an Order of the Day for 1.30pm on Thursday 13 August 2026.	Carried
R25/19	Safe Ministry Commission 8.6.9 That consideration of motions 16.15 (Safe Ministry Commission – Budget) and 16.16 (Safe Ministry Commission – Retiring Members) for 4pm on Tuesday 12 August 2026.	Carried
R26/19	Families and Culture Commission 8.6.10 That an up to twenty minute presentation by the Families and Culture Commission be an Order of the Day for 5pm Tuesday 11 August 2026 and that consideration of motion 16.22 (Strengthening the Church’s Response to Domestic and Family Violence) be an Order of the Day immediately after the presentation.	Carried
R27/19	Defence Force 8.6.11 That consideration of Defence Force motions 16.26 and 16.27 be an Order of the Day for the morning of Wednesday 12 August 2026 after consideration of Bills 16 and 17, 2026.	Carried
R28/19	150th Anniversary of the Mother’s Union 8.6.12 That consideration for up to a ten minute presentation on the 150th Anniversary be an Order of the Day from 12.20pm on Wednesday 12 August 2026.	Carried
R29/19	Anglican Schools Australia 8.6.13 That consideration for up to a ten minute presentation on Anglican Schools Australia be an Order of the Day for 5.50pm on Wednesday 12 August 2026.	Carried

	8.7	Authentication of Canons	
R30/20		That pursuant to Sections 24 and 25(1) of the Constitution, the Canons passed at this Session of the Synod shall be authenticated by use of the official seal of the Synod.	Carried
	8.8	Reading and Confirmation of Minutes	
R31/19	8.8.1	That the minutes of the first, second and third days of meeting of this Session of the Synod be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment on the day following the relevant day of meeting.	Carried
R32/19	8.8.2	That the minutes of the second–last day of meeting of this Session of the Synod be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the morning tea adjournment on the final day of meeting.	Carried
R33/19	8.8.3	That the minutes of the final day of meeting be read and confirmed at the first full meeting of the Standing Committee following this Session of the General Synod.	Carried
	8.9	Nominations and Elections under Rule III	
R34/19	8.9.1	That nominations for the Appellate Tribunal, Special Tribunal and Standing Committee will close at 7.30 pm on Monday 10 August 2026.	Carried
R35/19	8.9.2	That nominations for all other elections under Rule III will close at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 11 August 2026.	Carried
R36/19	8.9.3	That voting will be conducted using online technology with access to smart devices for this purpose being provided to those who require them. Access to voting will be available at the following times: - Wednesday 12 August 2026 from 10.30 am to 7.00 pm (all elections other than the Appellate Tribunal and Special Tribunal) - Thursday 13 August 2026 from 8.00 am to 1.30 pm (Special Tribunal and Appellate Tribunal).	Carried

9 DOCUMENTS TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE BY THE PRESIDENT

- 9.1 A list of Special Bills which the President has declared to be Canons under Section 28(3)(iii) of the Constitution since the last session of General Synod**
There is no Special Bill in this category
- 9.2 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**
There is no Special Bill in this category.

9.3 A list of Bills which have come into force under Section 28A of the Constitution since the last session of General Synod

There is no Canon in this category.

9.4 A list of Canons the President has declared to be in force following upon a reference of any question to the Appellate Tribunal under Section 29 of the Constitution

There is no Canon in this category.

9.5 A list of Canons in which the Appellate Tribunal has found inconsistency or breach of Section 28

There is no Canon in this category.

9.6 A list of Canons duly passed by the Synod together with the date appointed by the President upon which the said Canons came into force under Section 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

9.7 A list of Canons amending the Constitution passed under Section 67 of the Constitution which have come into effect since the last 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

9.8 Notifications and advice from dioceses under Section 30(c) of the Constitution

No notifications under Section 30(c) have been received since the conclusion of the Eighteenth Session of the Synod.

9.9 Amendment sheet prepared by the Secretaries of Synod under Standing Order 42A(a)

10 PETITIONS

The President called for Petitions.
None were received.

11 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Notice was given of the following questions:

1. GS18 and GS19 Costs (Dr Laurie Scandrett)
2. Petition to Standing Committee – Same Ministry System (The Rev'd David McLennan, Clergy, Canberra and Goulburn)

12 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice was given of the following motions:

1. ABM's work in the Middle East — Mr Howard Benson
 2. Welcoming the publication of a True and Lively Faith – The Rev'd Professor Mark Lindsay
 3. Say No to Commercial Surrogacy — The Rev'd Dr Danielle Treweek
 4. Federal Gambling Reform — The Very Rev'd Sandy
 5. Establishment of the Australian Anglican Chaplains Network — Mr James Flavin
 6. Antisemitism and Social Cohesion — The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant
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13 ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND OTHER OFFICES OF THE HOUSE OF CLERGY AND THE HOUSE OF LAITY

The Synod noted:

1. Michael Stead had been elected chair of the House of Clergy
2. Justice Debra Mullins AO had been elected Chair of the House of Laity

14 CALL OVER OF MOTIONS

The following motions were passed formally:

15 REPORTS, ACCOUNTS AND MOTIONS CONNECTED THEREWITH

Archdeacon Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding:

R37/19 That the following reports and documents be laid on the Table and be received without preventing further discussion of specific matters arising from them: **Carried**

15.1 Standing Committee of General Synod Reports

(Book 2 of the Synod papers)

- Membership of the Standing Committee of General Synod and its Committees
- Implementation of Substantive Resolutions of the Eighteenth Session of General Synod 2022
- Summary of Business of the Standing Committee from May 2022 to May 2026
- Financial Protection Canon 1995
- National Register Canon 2007
- Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017
- Trust Corporation of the Anglican Church of Australia
- Appellate Tribunal
- Special Tribunal
- Episcopal Standards Board
- General Synod Legislation
- Changes in the Episcopate since the Eighteenth Session of General Synod
- A list of the Members of the Nineteenth Session of General Synod
- Program for the Nineteenth Session of General Synod (Book 3 of the Synod papers)
- General Synod Financial Performance 2022–2025
- General Synod Budget for 2026

- General Synod Budget 2027 and Forecasts 2028–2030

15.2 Bills for Canons circulated in accordance with Section 27(1)(i) of the Constitution (Book 1 of the Synod papers)

Bill 01 – A Bill for the Primate Amendment Canon 2026

Bill 02 – A Bill for the Constitution (Publication of Constitutional Amendments) Amendment Canon 2026

Bill 03 – A Bill for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Amendment) Canon 2026

Bill 04 – A Bill for the Constitutional Amendment (First Nations Bishops) Canon 2026

Bill 05 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Composition) Canon 2026

Bill 06 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Constitutions) Canon 2026

Bill 07 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Emergency Arrangements) Canon 2026

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

Bill 09 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2026

Bill 10 – A Bill for the Offences Amendment (Child Protection) Canon 2026

Bill 11 – A Bill for the Suspension of Bishops Canon 2026

Bill 12 – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Adoption and Transition) Canon 2026

Bill 13 – A Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 15.3 Bills for Rules** (Book 1 of the Synod papers)
Bill R1A Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders 2026
Note: an amendment to Rule II is contained in Bill 14 2026, Bill for a General Synod Staff Committee Membership Canon 2026
- 15.4 Commissions** (Book 4 of the Synod Papers)
- Church Law Commission
 - Doctrine Commission
 - Ecumenical Relations Commission
 - Families and Culture Commission
 - Liturgy Commission
 - Mission and Ministry Commission
 - Public Affairs Commission
 - Safe Ministry Commission
- 15.5 Task Forces and Working Groups** (Book 4 of the Synod papers)
- Diocesan Financial Advisory Task Force
- 15.6 General Synod Bodies** (Book 4 of the Synod Papers)
- Anglican Board of Mission – Australia
 - Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited
 - Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd
 - Defence Force Board
 - Long Service Leave Board
 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council
 - The National Home Mission Fund
- 15.7 Networks** (Book 4 of the Synod Papers)
- Advisory Council for Religious Life in Australia
 - Anglican Schools Australia
 - Anglicare Australia
 - Australian Anglican Diaconal Association
 - Australian Cathedral Deans Network
 - Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Inc
 - National Network of Directors of Professional Standards
 - Anglican Registrars' Network
 - Rural Ministry Network
- 15.8 Other Groups** (Book 4 of the Synod Papers)
- Anglican Cursillo Movement of Australia
 - Anglican Mothers Union Australia

- The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia
- Mission to Seafarers
- SPCKA – SparkLit

15.9 Anglican Communion (Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

- Anglican Consultative Council – Meeting of ACC18

15.10 Reports required of the Protection to the Environment Canon 2007 (Book 4 of the Synod Papers)

Reports from the Dioceses of:

- Adelaide
- Ballarat
- Bathurst
- Brisbane
- Bunbury
- Canberra and Goulburn
- Gippsland
- Grafton
- Melbourne
- Newcastle
- Northern Territory
- Perth
- Tasmania
- Wangaratta.

16.14 NATSIAC – Domestic Violence (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Rev'd Canon Di Langham seconding

R38/19

Carried

This Synod:

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

“NATSIAC recognises the devastating impact of Domestic and Family Violence in our society and the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait families among those who suffer. We acknowledge the ongoing legacy of colonisation and the harmful government policies such as the forced removal of children, which have caused inter-generational trauma and long-term negative outcomes.

As Commitment 5 of the Ten Commitments to prevent and respond to DFV in the Anglican Church of Australia, vulnerability to violence is heightened by compounding factors such as gender, race, class, age, colour and ability. Women face a disproportionate risks of homelessness

linked to gendered drivers such as violence, poverty, and housing insecurity are further compounding factors.

These realities are embedded not only in a broader society but also within our churches, institutions and structures.

NATSIAC values its partnership with the Families and Culture Commission in resource development and urges the General Synod to continue to support this work. We call on General Synod to ensure ongoing funding for the development of resources, to prioritise culturally appropriate resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, to strengthen training for clergy and lay leaders, and to promote collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in our churches. By continuing this shared work, we pray for tangible, positive change so that all members of church communities can enjoy safety, respect and equality.”

- b) notes that the Public Affairs Commission supports the NATSIAC motion regarding the prevention of domestic violence

16.19 Safe Ministry Commission – Persons of Concern Policy

(Book 4)

Criterion (b)

R39/19

Bishop Greg Anderson moving, Bishop Ian Coutts seconding
The General Synod requests the Commission, after consultation with Professional Standards Directors, to review the coverage and scope of the Persons of Concern Policy and report to Standing Committee with recommendations.

Carried

16.28 Mission to Seafarers (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

R40/19

Bishop Jeremy James moving, Bishop Darrell Parker seconding

Carried

That this Synod:

1. Receive the report of the Mission to Seafarers Australia Council
2. Encourage all dioceses to observe Sea Sunday annually
3. Call upon the Federal and State Politicians to fulfil their obligations under the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 by funding shore-based seafarer welfare services
4. Request the Primate to convey this resolution to the Prime Minister, Federal Transport Minister, and relevant Shadow Ministers

18 MOTIONS FOR RULES BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

18.1 Bill R1 – A Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders 2026

Mrs Juliet Wenden moving, Mrs Carine Collins seconding
That a Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule I – Standing Orders 2026 be approved in principle. **Carried**

Note – Bill 14 – A Bill for a General Synod Staff Committee Membership Canon 2026 also proposes an amendment to Rule II along with an amendment to the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998.

R41/19 Mrs Juliet Wenden moving, Mrs Carine Collins seconding **Carried**
That the Bill do now pass

17.1 Bill 01 – A Bill for the Primate Amendment Canon 2026

Dr Karin Sowada moving, Bishop Garry Weatherill seconding.

That a Bill for a Primate Amendment Canon 2026 be approved in principle **Carried**

R42/19 Dr Karin Sowada moving, Bishop Garry Weatherill seconding **Carried**
That the Bill do now pass

17.2 Bill 02 – A Bill for the Constitution (Publication of Constitutional Amendments) Amendment Canon 2026

The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding.

That a Bill for the Constitution (Publication of Constitutional Amendments) Amendment Canon 2026 be approved in principle **Carried**

R43/19 The Ven Canon Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding. **Carried**

That the Bill do now pass

17.5 Bill 05 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Composition) Canon 2026

Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding

That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Composition) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

The Chair of Committees moved to defer debate on this matter to later today. **Carried**

17.6 Bill 06 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Constitutions) Canon 2026

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

That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Constitutions) Canon 2026 be approved in principle. **Carried**

The President moved to defer debate on this matter to later today. There was no objection from the members. **Carried**

ORDER OF THE DAY – Monday 10 August before consideration of Bills 03 and 04, 2026 (Motion 16.11)

16.11 Public Affairs Commission – Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia

Criterion (b)

R44/19

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

Carried

That this Synod:

1. noted the standing references to the PAC from General Synod, The General Synod Standing Committee, and the Primate relating to matters concerning the formal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia,
2. noted that the bills under consideration by this synod relating to the position and function of episcopal ministry for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, and the budgetary preparations enabling adequate funding to enable this ministry, flow from the long consultation between the PAC and NATSIAC in direct fulfilment of these references.

Synod adjourned for lunch at 12.32

Synod resumed at 1.31pm

17.3 Bill 03 – A Bill for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Amendment) Canon 2026

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Shannon Smith seconding.

That a Bill for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Amendment) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

Carried

Dr Ian Gibson reported progress and sought leave to sit again
Consideration of the Bill was adjourned.

Carried

17.4 Bill 04 – A Bill for the Constitutional Amendment (First Nations Bishops) Canon 2026

Consideration of the Bill was adjourned.

Carried

17.5 Bill 05 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Composition) Canon 2026

Leave was granted by Synod to move the motion in an amended form.

Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding

Carried

R45/19	That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Composition) Canon 2026 be approved in principle. Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding	Carried
17.6	That the Bill do now pass Bill 06 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Constitutions) Canon 2026 Leave was granted by Synod to move the motion in an amended form. Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding. That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Provincial Composition) Canon 2026 be approved in principle. Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding	Carried
R46/19	That the Bill do now pass 17.7 Bill 07 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Emergency Arrangements) Canon 2026 Bishop Michael Stead moving, the Ven Canon Arthur Copeman seconding. That a Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Emergency Arrangements) Canon 2026 be approved in principle. The President moved to adjourn the debate on this matter.	Carried Carried
17.8	Synod adjourned at 2.20pm Synod resumed at 2.23pm 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. Discussion adjourned – (no particular vote) Synod adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.29pm Synod resumed at 4pm	Carried Carried
16.8	ORDER OF THE DAY – Monday 10 August after the presentation at 4.00pm (Motion 16.8) Mission and Ministry Commission Project – Hope25 (Book 4) Criterion (b) Bishop Richard Condie moving, the Ven Kate Beer seconding	Carried

That the General Synod:

1. Celebrate and give thanks to Almighty God for Hope25 and pray for ongoing Gospel fruit from all that has been undertaken.
2. Maintain evangelism as a strategic priority for the national church and provide resources for its prioritisation.

The President led a Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Synod adjourned at 5.15pm

Resumed 5.30pm

17.7 Bill 07 – A Bill for the Constitution Amendment (Diocesan Emergency Arrangements) Canon 2026

Bishop Michael Stead moved to withdraw item 17.7

Withdrawn

Leave was granted to withdraw item 17.7

17.3 Bill 03 – A Bill for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Amendment) Canon 2026

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, the Rev'd Shannon Smith seconding.

That a Bill for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Amendment) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Bishop Keith Joseph moved amendments

That the first amendment be included in the Bill

Carried

Bishop Keith Joseph reported progress and sought leave to sit again

Carried

17.4 Bill 04 – A Bill for the Constitutional Amendment (First Nations Bishops) Canon 2026

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, the Rev'd Shannon Smith seconding.

That a Bill for the Constitutional Amendment (First Nations Bishops) Canon 2026 be approved in principle.

Carried

Bishop Peter Stuart moved that discussion on this matter be adjourned

Carried

Synod adjourned at 5.50pm after Evening Prayer

President

Date

Minutes of the First day of the Nineteenth General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia
on Monday 10 August 2026

Confirmed by Minutes Reading Committee:

The Venerable David McGougall

Mrs Sue Williams
