

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND 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 TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2026**

1 SYNOD ASSEMBLED

The Synod assembled at 8.30am, with the Primate, Bishop Mark Short, presiding

2 PRAYERS

The Synod opened with morning prayer led by Bishop Ian Coutts.

Formal business of Synod started at 9.02am

The President welcomed all members and made introductory remarks on procedural matters including electronic voting and debating of Bills.

The President moved that the Proposed Timetable of the Committee to Arrange the Order of Business be adopted *Carried*

**TIMETABLE OF THE COMMITTEE TO ARRANGE THE
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

From 9.00am

Bill 03

Bill 04

Group B Bills – Episcopal Standards

Bill 08

From 1.30pm

Finance Presentation

From 4.00pm

Safe Ministry Commission Motions 16.15 and 16.16

From 5.00pm

Families and Culture Commission 20-minute presentation
and Motion 16.22

The President's Chaplain led prayers.

3 MINUTES

The President announced that the minutes of the previous business day will be read and confirmed on the resumption of business after the afternoon tea adjournment.

4 GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The General Secretary announced arrangements for Synod, including the nominations procedure. The General Secretary

introduced new Chaplains, and reminded members of the Census Night.

5 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question 1: GS18 and GS19 Costs

Dr Laurie Scandrett (Laity, Sydney) asked:

Noting that at GS18 in 2022 the General Synod (R89/18) requested the Standing Committee give serious consideration to holding this General Synod at a suitable but economically priced location in a regional Diocese:

- a) what was the approximate total cost to the General Synod of the GS18 General Synod held in 2022 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast; and
- b) what is the budgeted total cost to the General Synod of the GS19 General Synod being held at the Pullman Hotel Albert Park in Melbourne; and
- c) did the General Synod Standing Committee give serious consideration to holding this General Synod at a suitable but economically priced location in a regional Diocese; and
- d) if so what regional Dioceses did the Standing Committee investigate and seriously consider?

The President gave the following answer:

- (1) \$502,000.
- (2) \$550,000.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The matter has been considered as a case study. The Diocese of Ballarat was used as an example. It was as expensive as having Synod in a central location at a hotel providing all components of necessary services. Extra flights and accommodation, and increased transfer costs offset any savings gained. Further, AV issues, including the ability to hold an online Synod and the ability to have suitable internet for the duration of the Synod, are more challenging in a regional area.

6 PETITIONS

The President called for petitions.

None were received.

7 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Notice was given of the following questions

1. Cost of the Episcopal Standards Commission (Dr Laurie Scandrett)
 2. Faithfulness in Service (Mrs Briony Bounds)
 3. Doctrine Commission Reports (Rev'd David McLennan)
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8	NOTICES OF MOTIONS	Notice was given of the following motion: 1. Proactive youth and children's ministry (Rev'd Canon Craig Roberts)	
9	CALL OVER OF MOTIONS	The following motions were passed formally:	
16.10	Public Affairs Commission – Creation Care	Criterion (b) The Very Rev'd Peter Catt moving, Bishop Matt Brain seconding We, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, are reminded that The General Synod has assented to more than twenty resolutions, and enacted a Canon, on environmental matters. The resolutions state: a) the church's belief that God is the creator of the physical universe and everything in it, and b) that God has called people to care for and steward the creation. These resolutions have addressed topics concerning the state of Australia's natural physical environment including its climate, biodiversity, and land. The resolutions also note that not all is well with God's creation because people have misused it in an unsustainable manner. Therefore, the resolutions, taken as a whole, encourage the church, including its organisations, dioceses, parishes, and individuals to look after, and care for creation. Caring for creation is seen as both a practical response to environmental damage and a spiritual response through prayer and worship. Caring might involve advocacy, using resources wisely and sustainably, measuring the energy use of buildings, and divestment from investments that damage creation. We are asked to pray about the creation and to incorporate creation care in our worship. These resolutions are a public statement that the church cares for God's creation because we are made in God's image to steward what God has given. We are to use the creation and its resources sustainably and in a manner that does not harm our neighbours. We resolve once more not to be forgetful of the decisions made in prior sessions of General Synod which call us to this continued activity. We ask the Public Affairs Committee to make such resolutions readily available to aid memory, and spur action as we seek to care for creation.	

Carried

R48/19

24.4 R49/19	Federal Gambling Reform The Very Rev'd Sandy Grant moving, The Rev Dr Raj Gupta seconding General Synod: Carried 1. out of love for our neighbours, again calls on the Parliament of Australia to enact comprehensive online gambling harm minimisation reforms which implement fully the recommendations of the report of the parliamentary inquiry chaired by the late member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy, entitled "You Win Some, You Lose More"; specifically: a) the banning of gambling inducements, b) the full phase in of a comprehensive gambling advertising ban, c) the closure of streaming and live sport advertising loopholes, d) introduction of harm prevention measures like deposit limits and affordability checks, and e) the creation of an independent national gambling regulator. 2. requests the Primate to write to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition informing them of this resolution and encourages individual members of Synod to inform their own federal MP of General Synod's view, with whatever personal advocacy they wish to add for the welfare and public health of our nation's young people and other vulnerable persons.
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17	MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE
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. Bishop Garry Weatherill moved to re-present the Bill in a slightly amended form. There was no objection from the Members. Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill. Bishop Garry Weatherill proposed to make two amendments of the Bill. The proposed changes were accepted by the Members. Bishop Garry Weatherill moved to re-present the Bill with the accepted amendments. There was no objection from the Members. The Chair of Committees Reported the Bill with amendments, and advised that Synod was awaiting a Certified Copy.
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
R49/19	Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Shannon Smith seconding	Carried
	That the Bill do now pass. Voting was conducted by Houses.	
	ORDER OF THE DAY – Tuesday 11 August	
	Review of the Episcopal Standards Processes	
	17.9-13 Bills 9–13 Review of the Episcopal Standards Processes	
	Dr Ian Gibson gave a presentation on the review of the Episcopal Standards Processes.	
	Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding –	
	That Bills 9, 10, 11 and 12 are withdrawn.	Carried
	Leave was granted to withdraw Bills 9, 10, 11 and 12 (i.e. items 17.9, 17.10, 17.11 and 17.12).	
	Dr Ian Gibson moved that Bill 09A is passed in principle.	Carried
	Synod adjourned for morning tea at 10.32am	
	Synod resumed at 11.02am	
17.9	Bill 09A – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2026	
	Before lunch recess, the President invited Members to consider items 17.9A and 17.3.	
	Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Shannon Smith seconding	
	That a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2026 be approved in principle be approved in principle.	Carried
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	
R50/19	That A Bill for a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Amendment) Canon 2026 be passed	Carried with acclamation
	The President led Synod in prayer. A photo with the NATSIAC representatives was taken to commemorate this event.	
	Synod adjourned for lunch at 12.26.	
	Synod resumed at 1.31pm	
16.3	Motions relating to Financial Matters (Book 3)	
	Criterion (a)	
	A presentation on GS accounts was made by Ms Gillian Harrex and Ms Tracey Longfield.	

	Ms Gillian Harrex moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding	
R51/19	16.3.1 That the Treasurer's report on the financial position of the General Synod at 31 December 2025 be received.	Carried
R52/19	16.3.2 That the audited financial statements of the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2025, as adopted by Standing Committee, be received.	Carried
R53/19	16.3.3 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2026, as approved by Standing Committee, be received.	Carried
17.9	Bill 09A – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2026 Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill. Ms Rachel Ellyard reported the Bill as amended, noting that a certified copy of the amended Bill is being prepared.	
17.13	Bill 13 – A Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2026 Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding That a Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2026 be approved in principle. Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill. Ms Rachel Ellyard reported progress and sought leave to sit again. Deliberation of the Bill was adjourned.	Carried Carried
	Synod adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.30pm Synod resumed at 4pm Mrs Sue Williams reported to the President that the Minutes Reading Committee had received copies of the Minutes of Day One and certified them as correct. Mrs Sue Williams moving, the Venerable David McDougall seconding	
R56/19	That the Minutes for Day One be confirmed	Carried
	ORDER OF THE DAY – Tuesday 11 August at 4.00pm Safe Ministry Commission (Motions 16.15 and 16.16)	
16.15	Safe Ministry Commission – Budget (Book 4) Criterion (b) Ms 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.	

Electronic voting was held on the question 'that the Motion do now pass'. Some members experienced technical issues. The President declared that the item will be re-committed to a vote on the following day.

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| R57/19 | <p>16.16 Safe Ministry Commission – Retiring Members (Book 4)
 Criterion (b)
 Bishop Ian Coutts moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding
 The General Synod expresses its sincere thanks to the retiring members of the Safe Ministry Commission for their faithful, diligent, and wise service in the complex and demanding areas of Child Safety and Professional Standards, and acknowledges with deep appreciation their significant contribution to strengthening the Church's commitment to safe ministry across the nation.</p> | Carried |
| R58/19 | <p>17.13 Bill 13 – A Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2026
 Deliberation of the Bill resumed.</p> <p>Ms Rachel Ellyard reported the Bill as amended, and that a certified copy of the amended Bill is ready.</p> <p>Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding
 That this Bill does not proceed as a special bill. Voting was conducted by Houses.</p> <p>Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding
 That the Bill do now pass</p> | Carried

Carried |
| R59/19 | <p>17.9.1 Bill 09A – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2026
 Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding
 That a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2026 be approved in principle.</p> <p>Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding
 That the Bill not proceed as a special Bill. Voting was conducted by Houses</p> <p>Dr Ian Gibson moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding
 That the Bill do now pass</p> | Carried

Carried

Carried |
- ORDER OF THE DAY- Tuesday 11 August after the presentation at 5.00pm (Motion 16.22)**
- 16.22 Strengthening the Church's Response to Domestic and Family Violence (Book 4)**
 Criterion (b)
 The Reverend Tracy Lauersen, National Program Manager and the Reverend Scott Holmes, Member of the Family and Culture Commission led a presentation on the work of the Families and Culture Commission.

Bishop Genieve Blackwell moving, The Venerable Kara Hartley seconding

R60/19

The General Synod, noting the report of the Families and Culture Commission:

Carried

- a) commends the work of the Families and Culture Commission in resourcing and supporting dioceses in responding to and preventing domestic and family violence, and in their implementation of the Ten Commitments;
- b) laments the continuing presence of domestic and family violence in our churches and in the community, recognising the profound trauma it causes to individuals, families, and communities, and
- c) encourages all dioceses, where this work is not yet in place, to establish a domestic and family violence working group and action plan, and to engage with the key initiatives led by the Families and Culture Commission to prevent domestic and family violence.

Synod granted leave at 5.42pm for the President to lead Members in prayer, after which Synod shall be adjourned

Synod adjourned at 5.57pm following Evening Prayer.

President

Date

Minutes of the Second day of the Nineteenth General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia on Tuesday 11 August 2026

Confirmed by Minutes Reading Committee:

[Name]

[Name]
