MINUTES OF THE FOURTH 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 THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2026

1	**SYNOD ASSEMBLED** The Synod assembled at 8.30am, with the Primate, Bishop Mark Short, presiding **Election Results** The President announced results of elections, and congratulated the elected members. Election details are available in **Annex 1**.	
2	**PRAYERS** The Synod opened with morning prayer led by Bishop Gregy Anderson. **Formal business of Synod started at 9.05am** The President welcomed all members. The President announced results of elections. Election details are available in **Annex 1**. The Venerable Guerin Tueno led prayers. The Timetable below was followed **TIMETABLE OF THE COMMITTEE TO ARRANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS** 11.00am Motion 19.1 - Vision36 Report on Church Planting and Revitalisation 1.30pm Motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5 - Finance presentation and final consideration	
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.	
R71/19	The President moved that the Minutes for Day Two be confirmed.	***Carried***
4	**GENERAL SECRETARY UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS** The General Secretary announced arrangements relating to issues including publication of election results, and airport transportations on Friday after Synod concludes.	

5 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question 1: Bishop's Protocols

Dr Robert Tong AM asked:

Given that:

a) Bishop's Protocols was the subject of a question at the 2001 General Synod;
b) the ACA website under 'Bishops' cites the Bishop's Protocols;
c) the ACA website has the text of the Protocols 1 to 13 last amended in 2017.

Since 2017:

a) have the Protocols 1-13 as published on the ACA website been amended, deleted or otherwise changed;
b) have additional Protocols been adopted? If so, can the text be made available to General Synod and be published on the ACA website?

The President gave the following answer:

a) Yes
b) No

For the information of General Synod members, Protocol 8 (Faithfulness in Service) lapsed in March 2026. It will be removed from the General Synod website. A working group from the college of Bishops has been formed to recommend what if any additions, deletions or alterations should be made to the remaining Protocols.

Question 2: Rev'd David McLennan – Safe Ministry System

The Rev'd David McLennan asked:

In October 2024 a petition by 70 signatories from 8 different Dioceses was submitted to General Synod Standing Committee and referred to the Safe Ministry Commission. The petition requested the Safe Ministry Commission undertake a review of safe ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia, taking into account lived experiences of parishes, church workers and relevant committees under the current settings; and to make recommendations to the Standing Committee to improve and streamline our Safe Ministry system. The petitioners noted their concern that more layers, more questions, more paperwork, and more procedures do not necessarily result in more safety. Can you please update the synod on the steps taken in response to this petition, including resultant efforts to hear and respond to the lived experiences of church workers and ministry units?

The President gave the following answer:

As noted in the Safe Ministry Commission report to GS19, in September 2024 the General Synod Standing Committee

referred an open letter calling for a national review of the safe ministry system to the Commission.
The Commission acknowledged receipt and consulted with those who had sent the letter and other identified stakeholders to assist in determining next steps.
For further information, Synod members may wish to refer to the Safe Ministry Commission Report to GS19 (Book 4, pages 86–89), particularly sections 9.1, *Reviewing safe ministry culture, policies and structures*; 9.2, *Review and Updating of Safe Ministry Documents*; and 9.3, *National Consistency and Capability*.

6 PETITIONS

The President called for petitions.
None were received.

7 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Notice was given of the following question:

1. Financial Distress of Diocese (Reuben Scott)

8 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice was given of the following motion:

1. Motion of Thanks – Bishop Chris McLeod (The Rev'd Cameron Burr)

9 CALL OVER OF MOTIONS

The following motions were passed formally:

16.5 General Synod Expenditure in Future Years

Criterion (a)
Archdeacon Stephen Carnaby sought leave to re-present the motion in a slightly amended form. Leave was granted.
Archdeacon Stephen Carnaby moving, the Most Reverend Kanishka Raffel seconding

R72/19 That this General Synod: ***Carried***

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 uncertainty.

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

Criterion (b)

R73/19 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. ***Carried***

16.9 Public Affairs Commission – Anglican Communion Forest

Criterion (b)

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

R74/19 That this Synod notes: ***Carried***

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.

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

24.2 The publication of A True and Lively Faith

The Rev'd Professor Mark Lindsay sought leave to re-present the motion in a slightly amended form. Leave was granted.

R75/19 The Rev'd Professor Mark Lindsay moving, The Rev'd Nigel Fortescue seconding ***Carried***

General Synod:

1. notes the publication of A True and Lively Faith: Contested Issues in Australian Anglicanism, Volume One as an invitation into a 'particular way of being the church';

2. congratulates the editor, Bishop Stephen Pickard, and the contributors;
3. notes the intention for there to be a second volume, and so encourages the editors to include within that publication contributions from across the breadth of Australian Anglicanism; and
4. encourages generous and respectful engagement with this and other written materials on the nature and future of Anglicanism in Australia.

24.5 Establishment of the Australian Anglican Chaplains Network

Mr James Flavin moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding

R76/19 General Synod: ***Carried***

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 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

R77/19 General Synod, affirming that the Jewish people have been entrusted with the ancient wisdom and oracles of our God: ***Carried with acclaim***

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.

24.9 Inclusion of those with Neurodiversity and Invisible Disabilities

Dr Renae Barker sought leave to present the motion in an amended form and to present a plain English summary on the screen. Leave was granted.

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

R78/19 General Synod: ***Carried***

1. affirms that all people are created in the image of God and that experiences of disability do not negate this essential truth;
2. affirms that the experience of neurodivergence and invisible disability is no bar to the God-given dignity of those individuals, nor of the Spirit's work in giving a variety of gifts including those particular to that experience;
3. 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;
4. noting the example set by the Archbishop of Canterbury in talking about her own dyslexia, encourages clergy and lay leaders who are comfortable doing so to speak openly about their lived experience of neurodiversity and invisible disability, helping people to better understand disability and neurodiversity within the life and leadership of the Church; and
5. 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

R79/19 General Synod: ***Carried***

1. thanks the Hon Treasurer, GSO staff and others involved in the financial presentation made on 11 August 2026;
2. values the information provided;

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.

24.12 Protection of the Environment Canon 2007

The Hon Richard Refshauge AM moving, Bishop Matt Brain seconding

R80/19 General Synod: ***Carried***

1. notes:
   a) the strong support of General Synod for the 5th mark of mission for the care of creation; and
   b) only 14 of the 23 Diocese of this Church submitted a report under the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 to this Synod; and
2. strongly urges:
   a) all those Dioceses who have not adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 to adopt that Canon and to accept the obligation under that Canon to report progress in reducing their environment footprint and;
   b) those Diocese who have adopted the Canon but not submitted a report, as by the adoption of the Canon they have undertaken to each session of the Synod, to do so for the next General Synod and thereafter.

24.13 Doctrine Commission resources

The Rev'd David McLennan moving, the Rev'd Canon Dr Rhys Bezzant seconding

R81/19 General Synod requests Standing Committee to give consideration to the creation of a single online repository for reports of the Doctrine Commission produced since its inception, and future reports as these become available. ***Carried***

24.15 Motion of Thanks – Dr Ian Gibson

Ms Rachel Ellyard moving, Mr Eric Ross-Adjie seconding

R82/19 General Synod acknowledges and gives its deepest thanks to Dr Ian Gibson for his significant and ongoing service and contribution, as Chair of Committees and of the Church Law Commission, to the continued development and strengthening of the Church's legal framework. ***Carried with acclaim***

24.16 150 Years of Mothers Union

The Rev'd Dr Ruth Mathieson moving, The Most Reverend Jeremy Greaves seconding ***Carried***

R83/19 General Synod gives thanks to God for the initiative of Mary Sumner and the ministry of Mothers Union across the Anglican Communion for the last 150 years.

Following the presentation of the current president of the Mothers Union Australia, Dr Robin Ray, this General Synod thanks and encourages the Mothers Union Australia in living out their "vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships that demonstrate the Christian faith in action through care of families." (https://www.muaustralia.org.au)

17 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

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

The Ven Arthur Copeman explained to Members that overnight, the Bill has been split into two, i.e. A Bill for a Miscellaneous Legislative Amendments and Repeals Canon 2026 (Bill 15) and a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (Amendment) Canon 2026 (Bill 15A), and that under Article 27 of the ACA Constitution, 3/4th of affirmative vote in each House is required to permit Bill 15A to be included in the agenda.

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding

That a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (Amendment) Canon 2026 (Bill 15A) be included in the agenda

Voting was conducted by Houses.

Carried

Committee deliberation on A Bill for a Miscellaneous Legislative Amendments and Repeals Canon 2026 (Bill 15) resumed.

Dr Ian Gibson reported the Bill as amended.

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding

That a Bill for a Miscellaneous Legislative Amendments and Repeals Canon 2026 (Bill 15) be approved in principle ***Carried***

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding

R84/19 That the Bill do now pass ***Carried***

The Ven Arthur Copeman sought leave that a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (Amendment) Canon 2026 (Bill 15A) is re-presented the in a slightly amended form. Leave was granted.

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding

That a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (Amendment) Canon 2026 (Bill 15A) be approved in principle. ***Carried***

Synod moved into Committee to consider the Bill.

Dr Ian Gibson reported the Bill as amended. ***Carried***

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding

That a Bill for the Special Tribunal Canon 2007 (Amendment) Canon 2026 (Bill 15A) is not considered as a special bill.

Voting was conducted by Houses. ***Carried***

The Ven Arthur Copeman moving, Mrs Juliet Wenden seconding

R85/19 That the Bill do now pass ***Carried***

President announced that Legislative work for this Synod concluded

Synod adjourned for morning tea at 10.23am

Synod resumed at 11am

The President reminded members that Speakers moving motions shall speak for no more than 10 minutes, and seconders shall speak for no more than 7 minutes.

19 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

19.1 Vision36 Report on Church Planting and Revitalisation

The Most Reverend Ric Thorpe moving, Bishop Peter Stuart seconding

The President sought leave that the motion is amended by adding a new paragraph after paragraph 5:

> ‘Recommended that the Standing Committee uses the learning from, and resources developed for Hope25 to

stimulate evangelism in the national church in the lead up to 2036.'

Leave was granted.

R86/19 The following motion is passed as amended: ***Carried***

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.
6. Recommends that the Standing Committee uses the learning from, and resources developed for Hope25 to stimulate evangelism in the national church in the lead up to 2036.

The President led Synod in prayer.

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

Criterion (a)

Archdeacon Kate Beer sought leave to present the motion in amended form. Leave was granted.

R87/19 The Ven Kate Beer moving, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman seconding ***Carried***

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. In developing such proposals, the Standing Committee shall have particular regard to avoiding, so far as possible, the imposition of new administrative, reporting, time, financial or other burdens on clergy.
4. 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.
5. Encourages those responsible in each Diocese for ministry development and wellbeing to be active in networking and sharing resources across the Australian Church.

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 in October 2025 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.

Amendment:
Add an additional paragraph after paragraph (b):
'Respectfully asks the Primate to act upon NATSIAC's call to General Synod set out in (a) above.'
Mover and seconder accepted the amendment

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Bishop Chris McLeod seconding

R88/19 This Synod: ***Carried***

a) notes the NATSIAC resolution made in October 2025 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.
c) respectfully asks the Primate to act upon NATSIAC's call to General Synod set out in a) above.

The President led Synod in prayer.

Synod adjourned for lunch at 12.36.
Synod resumed at 1.31pm

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 addressed Synod and answered questions from members. The President granted leave for Mrs Tracey Longfield to answer questions from members.

Ms Gillian Harrex sought leave for the term '2029' be added after '31 December 2028'. Leave was granted.

Ms Gillian Harrex moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding

R89/19 ***Carried***

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, 2029 and 2030.

16.13 NATSIAC – Climate Change (Book 4)

Criterion (b)

R90/19 The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, Dr Rose Elu seconding ***Carried***

This Synod:

a. notes the NATSIAC resolution made at the most recent gathering in October 2025, 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.

16.17 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. request 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.

Amendment:

- insert 'recommends to the Standing Committee that it' before 'request the Safe Ministry Commission' in paragraph 1

- insert ‘, and that the Safe Ministry Commission report to the Standing Committee;’ between ‘decision-making’ and ‘and’ in paragraph 1, and
- insert ‘recommends to the Standing Committee that it’ before ‘request that the Safe Ministry Commission’’ in paragraph 2, and
- insert ‘and report on its recommendations to the Standing Committee’ at the end of paragraph 2.

A voice vote was conducted.
The amendment was accepted. ***Carried***

Amendment:
- insert ‘as permitted by the relevant diocesan ordinance’ between ‘accessible’ and ‘for the purposes of supporting consistent practice’ in paragraph 1, and
- remove ‘only to Professional Standards Directors (or their equivalents) paragraph 2

Electronic voting was held.
Yes: 102
No: 117
The President announced that the Amendment was lost. ***Lost***

Synod adjourned at 3.02pm
Synod resumed at 3.04pm
Members of the Minutes Reading Committee reported to the President that the Committee had received copies of the Minutes of Day Three and certified them as correct.
R91/19 The President moved that the Minutes for Day Three be confirmed ***Carried***

Discussions on item 16.17 resumed
Bishop Greg Anderson moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding
R92/19 That the General Synod: ***Carried***
1. recommends to the Standing Committee that it 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 that the Safe Ministry Commission report to the Standing Committee; and
2. recommends to the Standing Committee that it request that the Safe Ministry Commission develop 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,

and report on its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Election Results

The President announced results of elections, and congratulated the elected members. Election details are available in **Annex 2**.

Synod adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.30pm
Synod resumed at 4pm

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

Criterion (b)

Bishop Ian Coutts sought leave to present the motion in an amended form. Leave was granted.

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.

Amendment:

That the motion is represented as follows:

The General Synod recommends to the Standing Committee that it request 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, and
2. report to Standing Committee with its recommendations.

Carried

A voice vote was conducted.

Amendments: ***Carried***

- insert ‘model’ before ‘polices, frameworks’

- remove ‘model’ before ‘legislation to resolve’

R93/19 ***Carried***

Bishop Ian Coutts moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding
The General Synod recommends to the Standing Committee that it request the Safe Ministry Commission to:

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

Amendments:

- insert ‘recommends to the Standing Committee that it’ before ‘requests the Sate Ministry Commission’
- replace ‘requests’ with ‘request’ before ‘the Safe Ministry Commission…’
- insert ‘and that the standing committee’ before ‘to report to the 20th General Synod’
- remove ‘to’ before ‘report to the 20th General Synod’

A voice vote was conducted. ***Carried***

Principles for Child Safe Organisations

R94/19 ***Carried***

Bishop Ian Coutts moving, Bishop Greg Anderson seconding:
The General Synod recommends to the Standing Committee that it request the Safe Ministry Commission to examine and report on the Church’s ongoing implementation and embedding 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; and that the Standing Committee 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)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Greg Anderson sought leave re-present the motion in a slightly amended form. Leave was granted.

The amended motion reads as follows:

> Safe Ministry Commission – Review of Safe Ministry Resources (Book 4)
>
> 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.

Bishop Greg Anderson sought leave to amend 'monitor' in the amendment to 'examine'. Leave was granted.

Amendment

Replace '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' with 'through hearing and taking account of the lived experience and voices of clergy and ministry practitioners; to continue reviewing and updating Safe Ministry Policies and Resources; and to report to the Standing Committee with recommendations and the 20th General Synod on progress'.

Amendment to amendment

Insert 'but not limited to' between 'through' and 'hearing and taking account of'

A voice vote was conducted on the amendment to amendment. ***Carried***

A voice vote was conducted on the amendment. ***Lost***

R95/19 **Review of Safe Ministry Resources** ***Carried***

Bishop Greg Anderson moving, Ms Dianne Shay seconding

The General Synod recommends to the Standing Committee that it request the Safe Ministry Commission to examine 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 that the Standing Committee report progress to the 20th General Synod

The President and other Members thanked the Commission for its work.

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 sought leave to re-present the motion in a slightly amended form. Leave was granted.
The amended motion reads as follows:
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", and in the light of the Anglican Consultative Council resolution of July 2026:

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 of Creation in Christ;
2. Encourages dioceses to consider local observance of a Day of Prayer for Creation and /or a Feast of Creation in Christ on 1 September each year; and
3. 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 Christ in the Anglican Church of Australia.

Amendments:

- Insert 'Liturgy Commission, in consultation with' after 'Requests the' in paragraph 3
- Add 'the' before 'the Public Affairs Commission' in paragraph 3
- Remove 'Primate, the Bishops' Meeting' before NATSIAC in paragraph 3
- Remove 'and the Liturgy Commission' before 'to develop and promote resources' in paragraph 3

The amendments were accepted by the Mover and Seconder.

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

R96/19 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," and in the light of the Anglican Consultative Council resolution of July 2026: ***Carried***

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 of Creation in Christ;
2. Encourages dioceses to consider local observance of a Day of Prayer for Creation and / or a Feast of Creation in Christ on 1 September each year; and
3. Requests the Liturgy Commission, in consultation with NATSIAC, the Doctrine Commission, and the Public Affairs Commission, to develop and promote resources for a theologically wholesome, culturally adapted, and liturgically rich Day of Prayer for Creation and / or a Feast of Creation in Christ in the Anglican Church of Australia.

20 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR DIOCESAN COUNCIL

20.1 Salvation Exclusively in Jesus

The Rev Canon Dr Mark Thompson sought leave to re-present the motion in an amended form. Leave was granted.

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

R97/19 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). ***Carried***

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 (sic) 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).)

20.2 Minimum Requirements for Ordination

Bishop Michael Stead sought leave for this matter to discussed tomorrow. Leave was granted.

The President ended the formal business of today's Synod with prayers at 5.42pm.

The President invited member of the Standing Committee to attend a separate meeting, and led remaining members to Evening Prayer.

Synod adjourned at 6.23pm.

_____

President

_____

Date

Minutes of the Second day of the Nineteenth General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia on Thursday 13 August 2026

Confirmed by Minutes Reading Committee:

Name _____ _____

Name _____ _____