



# Anglican Church of Australia

General Synod

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## SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD 3 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

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### BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE SECOND BUSINESS DAY TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

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The business of the Synod will commence at 8.30 am on Tuesday 5 September 2017 in the Wandiny Room (Synod Hall), Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Maroochydore.

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### ORDER OF BUSINESS

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#### 1 SYNOD ASSEMBLES

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#### 2 PRAYERS

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#### 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 8.12]

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#### 4 QUESTIONS

##### Question 1

Dr Leanne Beagley asked

Whilst I welcome the report on the representation of women across the total 27 General Synod bodies, and note with disappointment that only 3 such committees have equal representation of women I ask:

How many of these committees are chaired by women?

##### Question 2

The Rev'd James Warren

Have there been any references to the Appellate Tribunal since their report which appears in Synod papers?

If there have been references what questions have been referred and who requested the Primate to make the referrals?

### **Question 3**

#### **Mr Richard Turnbull**

Given the reference to Doctrine in the business of this General Synod, does the Constitution recognise that at any point in the life of this Church it is possible that the members of the Appellate Tribunal and similarly the members of the House of Bishops may not have a unanimous view about the teaching of this Church on any question of faith?

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## **5 PETITIONS**

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## **6 NOTICES OF QUESTIONS**

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## **7 NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

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## **8 CALL OVER OF THE MOTIONS**

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## **9 ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **Resumption of business**

#### **Safe Ministry to Children (Bills 15 to 19)**

8.10.4 Consideration of Motions 17.15 to 17.19.

### **11.00am**

#### **Finance Motions**

8.10.1 Consideration of Motions 16.3.1 to 16.3.3 and consideration in principle of motions 16.3.4 and 16.3.5.

### **3.30pm**

#### **Episcopal Standards (Bills 20 to 22)**

8.10.5 Consideration of Motions 17.20 to 17.22.

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## **10 REPORTS**

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## **11 MOTIONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

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

Mr Allan Perryman moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding,

16.3.1 That the Treasurer's report on the financial position of the General Synod at 31 December 2016 be received.

16.3.2 That the audited financial statements of the General Synod for the year ended 31 December 2016, as adopted by Standing Committee, be received.

16.3.3 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2017, as approved by Standing Committee, be received.

16.3.4 That the General Synod budget for the year ended 31 December 2018, be approved.

16.3.5 That Synod receives the General Synod forecast budget for years ended 31 December 2019 and 2020.

[See Motion 8.10 (Suspension of Standing Orders) and 8.10.1 to 8.10.2 (Orders of the Day)]

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**16.4 Viability and Structures Steering Group Report to General Synod**  
(Book Ref 2-078) Criterion (b)

Bishop Andrew Curnow AM moving, Bishop John Stead seconding,

The General Synod

- 1) Receives the report of the Viability and Structures Steering Group and endorses the recommendations contained in the report as follows:
    - to help ensure we develop the visionary church leaders required by the future, Bishops (and, ideally, next generation Bishops) should be intentionally equipped and enabled through the establishment of a holistic continuing leadership development program.
    - to improve the quality and consistency of knowledge and best practices across the Church, the apparatus should be established to facilitate collaboration, including the sharing and communication of ideas, resources and information.
    - to enhance the missional effectiveness of the Church, each Diocese is requested to develop a Mission Action Plan, including timelines and resource requirements for implementation, and report back to the Standing Committee.
    - because it is essential that necessary future change is constructively considered on a timely basis, the Bishops are asked to implement a process – to be endorsed at the first national Bishops’ meeting following General Synod – through which, on a regular basis, they would collectively assess any need for significant change and seek to agree how to effect the necessary change.
    - to help ensure the implementation of the recommendations above, the Standing Committee should seek, receive, review and approve sensible resource and funding applications for each of these recommendations.
  - 2) Asks the Standing Committee and the House of Bishops to review and facilitate the progress of implementation of these recommendations and present proposals, with actionable plans, to a meeting of Standing Committee in 2018.
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## **16.5 Liturgy Resources** (*Book Ref 4-048*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, the Rev'd Elizabeth Smith seconding,

The General Synod, noting the changing contexts of mission for the Anglican Church of Australia, requests the Liturgy Commission to continue to develop texts in areas including

- a) Supplementary seasonal, thematic and other material for use with APBA Holy Communion orders;
  - b) Supplementary services of the Word;
  - c) Supplementary orders for baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, commissionings and other pastoral occasions
  - d) Supplementary prayers for various occasions;
  - e) A new liturgical psalter.
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## **16.8 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation** (*Book Ref 4-046*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Tim Harris moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Matthew Anstey seconding,

Noting the five-hundredth anniversary in 2017 of Martin Luther's nailing 95 Theses of protest to the University of Wittenberg's chapel door on October 31, 1517, regarded by many as a significant catalyst in inaugurating protestant reformations in Europe, and recognising Lutherans as partners with Anglicans in ongoing reforming traditions that encompass a variety of denominations and expressions of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ;

and further noting the resolution of ACC 16:16 that:

"The Anglican Consultative Council

1. recognizes the significance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, which will be marked in 2017; and
2. encourages Anglicans across the Communion to be a part of the commemorations by joining in shared services, undertaking study with Lutherans and other ecumenical partners, and engaging with them in mission activities; and
3. recommends that Anglicans engage with the Lutheran World Federation's focus: Liberated by God's Grace,";

The General Synod:

- a) gives thanks to Almighty God that in the grace and mercy of God, the Church continues to be reformed, and seeks ever to be so,
- b) encourages members of the Anglican Church of Australia to join with our ecumenical partners; and especially the Lutheran Church of Australia, in commemorating this occasion, through shared worship, bible study and partnership in mission and ministry projects;

- c) affirms the importance of hearing God's Word in the common tongue, and the practice of regular public reading of the Holy Scriptures through authorised lectionaries; and
  - d) recommends for study and discussion the biblical and spiritual reflections contained in *Liberated by God's Grace: Anglican-Lutheran Reflections* (LWF 2017), produced by the Anglican-Lutheran International Coordinating Committee (ALICC4).
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## **16.9 Church Agencies Network Disaster Operation (CAN DO)**

*(Book Ref 4-037)*

Criterion (b)

Bishop Tim Harris moving, Bishop John Parkes AM seconding,

The General Synod commends the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operation (CAN DO) consortium as a significant and welcome demonstration of ecumenical collaboration, in an important area of global ministry and mission, and urges the Anglican Church of Australia to support the work of Anglican Board of Mission and Anglican Overseas Aid through CAN DO.

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*Consideration of motions 16.11 to 16.13 are an Order of the Day at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017*

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## **16.11 Pioneer Ministry (Book Ref 4-054)**

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, Bishop Tim Harris seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) acknowledges that patterns of faith and belief in Australia are changing and that the Anglican Church of Australia's capacity to participate in God's mission is diminishing when too many congregations struggle with vitality and outreach;
- b) notes the ten-year anniversary of "Building the Mission-shaped Church" report in October 2006 and its call to build capacity for church planting and developing fresh expressions of church as strategies for mission and evangelism;
- c) commends dioceses for undertaking a diverse range of initiatives at revitalising parishes, planting new churches and pioneering different forms of church for people who live in a changing culture;
- d) recognises that the development of pioneer leaders capable of planting new churches or developing different forms of church remains problematic when little consensus about expectations for ordination and lay ministry exists nationally;
- e) requests that the Mission and Ministry Commission:
  - i. convene a national network of pioneer leaders engaged in revitalisation, planting and fresh expressions to meet annually;
  - ii. convene a national research network to foster the theology and practice of evangelism;

- iii. examine how community-based chaplaincy and pioneer ministry intersect to create fresh opportunities for mission in a changing society;
  - iv. explore ways to provide for coaching and training support for lay and women pioneer leaders; and
  - v. seek to engage the annual Bishops' Conference in discussion about mission and evangelism in a changing Australia.
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#### **16.12 Models of Ordained Local Ministry** (*Book Ref 4-054*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, Ms Sue Williams seconding,

The General Synod:

- a) receives the report of the Ministry Commission on Ordained Local Ministry (2 May 2017) and refer it to all Dioceses;
  - b) encourages all Dioceses to consider the recommendations of the Ordained Local Ministry report as it relates to their local context, and
  - c) requests the Ministry Commission to explore ways to facilitate further initiatives in Ordained Local Ministry.
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#### **16.13 Clergy Professional Supervision** (*Book Ref 4-054*)

Criterion (b)

Bishop Stephen Pickard moving, The Rev'd Dr Richard Trist seconding,

That in the light of the increasing challenges facing clergy and lay ministers, and the heightened demand for the accountability of church workers, the General Synod:

- a) recommends that every Australian diocese takes seriously the benefits of professional supervision for its clergy and paid lay workers;
  - b) supports the development of pilot projects in supervision of clergy and lay ministers particularly in rural and regional areas; and
  - c) requests the Ministry Commission to undertake an audit of the extent and types of supervision already occurring across the Australian church, and develop national supervision guidelines.
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#### **16.14 First Nation's Voice** (*Book Ref 4-115*)

Criterion (b)

Dr Carolyn Tan moving, The Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding,

The General Synod:

- 1. Supports the recommendation of the Referendum Council for a constitutionally-entrenched First Nations' Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament.
- 2. Requests the General Secretary to convey this resolution to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

3. Requests the Public Affairs Commission in consultation with NATSIAC to prepare resources, including summaries and theological reflections for use by Anglican parishes, schools and organisations, on the Referendum Council Report and on any subsequent referendum questions.
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#### **16.17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Issues**

*(Book Ref 4-250)*

Criterion (b)

Ms Rose Elu moving, The Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding

The General Synod,

1. Acknowledges that NATSIAC, as the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans in Australia, is committed to the preservation of God's creation; and
    - a) joins with NATSIAC in recognising the implications of Climate Change upon the entire nation, its land, sea and waters but especially in the Torres Strait; and
    - b) forwards the findings and recommendations of the Symposium on Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Change held in Darwin 2016 to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, State Premiers, and relevant ministers.
  2. Acknowledges that NATSIAC has been expressing concern over the use of fracking on traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands for many years, and joins with NATSIAC in condemning practices which seek to pressure elders to submit their traditional homelands and waterways to fracking and other practices that risk destroying hunting and fishing grounds and areas of major cultural significance.
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#### **16.18 Refugees on Manus Island and Nauru** *(Book Ref 4-146)*

Criterion (b)

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt seconding,

The General Synod, in the divine compassion and as a matter of human decency, urges the Federal Government to resettle in Australia, by Christmas 2017, any refugees still imprisoned on Manus Island and Nauru as at 1 November 2017.

That this General Synod urges the Federal Government to partner with the Churches as regards the healing and resettling of these refugees.

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#### **16.19 Refugees from Syria and Iraq** *(Book Ref 4-146)*

Criterion (b)

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev'd Peter Catt seconding,

The General Synod, recognising the exceptional circumstances, urges our

Federal Government, as soon as possible, to make another allocation of 12,000 additional refugee places for people displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq.

That this General Synod, from the experience of its members, affirms the life-saving consequences of the earlier extra 12000 places, particular for Christians and other minorities who had been targeted by ISIS.

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**16.20 Action to contribute to the Paris Climate Accord** (*Book Ref 4-115*)  
Criterion (b)

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, Dr Beth Heyde seconding,

Noting:

- the global groundswell of community and industry support for effective and rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the very challenging goal expressed in the 2015 Paris Climate Accord (to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels);
- the critical importance of community action, both in achieving that goal and in leading governments to act;
- the Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission: 'to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth', and
- General Synod's Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 which required meaningful action and reporting by participating Dioceses on steps taken to reduce their environmental impact;

The General Synod:

1. Encourages Federal and State governments in Australia to act quickly to resolve perceived conflicts of interest between the wider community and commercial beneficiaries of fossil fuels, and show leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through effective market mechanisms based on consistent expert recommendations.
2. Requests each Diocese that has adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress in reducing their environmental impact (as required by s.3(1)), with particular emphasis on energy efficiency in order to minimise contributions to global warming.
3. Encourages Dioceses to make use of standardised instruments such as the Parish Quick Carbon Self-Report instrument (available through the Public Affairs Commission) in order to develop an internal reporting mechanism.
4. Requests all Dioceses to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress made towards divestment from fossil fuels, as encouraged by motion 61/14 of General Synod.
5. Encourages Dioceses to incorporate studies in ecotheology within priestly formation and lay education programs.
6. Encourages Dioceses to give publicity to the work of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) towards spiritually-inspired stewardship in reducing greenhouse gas emissions: and to encourage participation in the work of this multi-faith network and consideration also of secular networks with similar aims to reduce global greenhouse emissions, such as 350.org.



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**16.21 Marriage, same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships** (*Book Ref 4-007*)

Criterion (a)

Bishop Michael Stead moving, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee seconding,

The General Synod:

- (i) recognises that the doctrine of our church, in line with traditional Christian teaching, is that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong union of a man and a woman, and further,
- (ii) recognises that this has been the subject of several General Synod resolutions over the past fifteen years, and also
- (iii) recognises that the nature of marriage is the subject of ongoing conversation within the church and wider community and that we need to listen to each other with care and respect, and therefore
- (iv) asks the Doctrine Commission to facilitate a respectful conversation in our church by means of a collection of essays on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to:
  - a. The doctrine of marriage expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia
  - b. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage
  - c. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship
  - d. Scripture and hermeneutics
  - e. A theology of blessing
  - f. A theology of desire
  - g. Godly disagreement on this issue
  - h. The case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.

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*Consideration of motion 16.22 is an Order of the Day at 9.30am on Wednesday 6 September 2017*

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**16.22 Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017**

(*Book Ref 5-087*)

Criterion (b)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Archbishop Geoff Smith seconding,

This Synod declares that a Bill for the Redress for Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017 is a matter of urgency and permits it to be included in the agenda without previous notice.

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## 12 MOTIONS FOR BILLS FOR CANONS BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE

### 17.4 **Bill 04 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 1-019*)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding,

That the Bill for the Special Tribunal Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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### 17.5 **Bill 05 – A Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 1-022*)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Dr Robert Tong AM seconding,

That the Bill for the Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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### 17.6 **Bill 06 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 1-025*)

Bishop Allan Ewing moving, Mr Doug Marr seconding,

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Revision of Entitlement) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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### 17.7 **Bill 07 – A Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 1-030*)

Archbishop Geoffrey Smith moving, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall seconding,

That the Bill for the Long Service Leave (Notification Of Participating Organisation) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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### 17.8 **Bill 08 – A Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution** (*Book Ref 1-033*)

Dr Robert Tong AM moving, Ms Sue West seconding,

That the Bill for a Canon to Ratify the Amended New South Wales Provincial Synod Constitution be approved in principle.

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### 17.9 **Bill 09 – A Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 1-038*)

Ms Audrey Mills moving, The Hon Peter Young AO QC seconding,

That the Bill for the Holy Orders (Removal from Exercise of Ministry) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.10 Bill 10A – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 5-003)*

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

**Bill 10B – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 5-003)*

Bishop Michael Stead moving, Mr Garth Blake SC seconding,

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Persons) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.11 Bill 11 – A Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-078)*

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Canon Dr Colleen O'Reilly seconding,

That the Bill for the Canon Concerning Services Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.12 Bill 12 – A Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-081)*

Bishop Chris McLeod moving, the Rev'd Canon Bruce Boase seconding,

That the Bill for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.13 Bill 13 – A Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-083)*

Ms Audrey Mills moving, Justice Debra Mullins seconding,

That the Bill for Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.14 Bill 14 – A Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017** *(Book Ref 1-088)*

Bishop Sarah Macneil moving, Bishop Michael Stead seconding,

That the Bill for the Missionary Dioceses (Amendment) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.15 Bill 15 – A Bill for a Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017**  
(Book Ref 5-021)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for a Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 do now pass.

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**17.16 Bill 16 – A Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017**  
(Book Ref 5-054)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for a Disclosure of Information Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.17 Bill 17 – A Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017**  
(Book Ref 5-061)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for the National Register Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.18 Bill 18 – A Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017** (Book Ref 5-068)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for the National Register (Access to and Disclosure of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.19 Bill 19 – A Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017** (Book Ref: 5-069)

Mr Garth Blake SC moving, Ms Audrey Mills seconding,

That the Bill for the National Register (Inclusion of Information) Amendment Protocol 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.20 Bill 20 – A Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017** (Book Ref 5-070)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Archbishop Glenn Davies seconding,

That the Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.21 Bill 21 – A Bill for the Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 5-080*)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Archbishop Glenn Davies seconding,

That the Bill for the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**17.22 Bill 22 – A Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2017** (*Book Ref 5-082*)

Justice Debra Mullins moving, Archbishop Glenn Davies seconding,

That the Bill for the Offences Amendment Canon 2017 be approved in principle.

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**13 MOTIONS FOR RULES BY REQUEST OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**18.3 Bill R03 - A Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties** (*Book Ref 1–103*)

The Ven David Bassett moving, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee seconding,

That the Bill for a Rule to Amend Rule II – Rules for the Appointment of a Standing Committee of General Synod and Defining its Powers and Duties be approved in principle.

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**14 MOTIONS FOR BILLS BY REQUEST OF A DIOCESAN SYNOD OR A DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

**Bill for an Alternative Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017**

Mr Michael Shand QC moving, and the Dr Muriel Porter OAM seconding,

The General Synod declare the Bill for an alternative *Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017* and its accompanying Bills as set out below to be a matter of urgency and permit them to be included in the agenda without previous notice:

*Episcopal Standards (Transitional Provisions, Consequential Amendments and Repeal) Canon 2017*

*Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Amendment No 1 Canon 2017*

*Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Amendment No 2 Canon 2017*

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## 15 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED BY STANDING COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SESSION OF SYNOD

### 21.2 Condemnation and Apology for Domestic Violence

Bishop Stephen Hale moving, The Ven Kara Hartley seconding,

The General Synod affirms that:

1. All human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God, and are precious to him. So their value and dignity should be upheld by all, and rightly commands respect and protection.
2. Healthy Christian relationships are characterised by servanthood and sacrifice, supremely modeled by Jesus Christ. So we encourage healthy marriages and families based on mutual love and respect. No one should feel unsafe in their own home.
3. The Bible always condemns the misuse of power to control or exploit others, and rejects all abuse, whether physical, verbal, or otherwise expressed from one person towards others. Therefore domestic violence is sin, and Scripture should never be twisted to justify or excuse any abuse.
4. No victim of domestic abuse should ever be pressured to forgive, submit to, or restore a relationship with an offender.

Our churches are committed to being safe places for all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, and we will therefore work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse as a first priority.

We grieve with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and pray for their healing and recovery. We give thanks for those women and men, clergy and lay people, who have faithfully supported, cared for and protected such victims in our churches and communities.

However, we also confess with deep shame that domestic abuse has occurred among those who attend our churches, and even among some in leadership. We apologise for those times our teaching and pastoral care has failed adequately to support victims and call perpetrators to account.

We urge Anglican dioceses around Australia to ensure they have policies and good practice guidelines in place, along with education and training, for responding well to situations involving domestic violence within our parishes and organisations.

We also acknowledge our responsibility to work with the police, statutory child protection authorities and specialist agencies in responding to domestic abuse, including our legal obligations in reporting abuse.

Finally, this Synod again upholds *Faithfulness in Service* as our national code of conduct for clergy and church workers, specifically its affirmations that:

- Abuse of power is at the heart of many relationship problems in the Church and the community. In essence, abuse is one person's misuse of power over another. Sometimes abuse will be a one off event and at other times it will be a pattern of behaviour. (§6.2)
- It is important for clergy and church workers to be good citizens and obey the laws of the community, except where those laws conflict with

- Christian convictions. (§6.4)
  - You are not to abuse your spouse, children or other members of your family. (§6.6)
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### **21.3 Domestic Violence Longitudinal Study**

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Bishop Genieve Blackwell seconding,

The General Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee to investigate and if appropriate commission (using contingencies or other available sources of funding) a professionally designed and independent, longitudinal research study into domestic violence prevalence within the Australian Anglican Church population.

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### **21.4 Euthanasia**

Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding,

The General Synod, noting the push for 'assisted dying' in a number of Australian States

- a) Opposes the legalisation of doctor-assisted suicide and/or euthanasia;
  - b) Urges all Australian State and Territory governments to better resource palliative care services, to improve palliative care in the community. Including regional and remote communities, Aboriginal communities and nursing homes, and to provide better training in palliative care for all health professionals; and
  - c) Urges Australian Anglicans to contact their MP's to express their views.
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### **21.5 Apology to the LGBTQI Community**

Bishop John Parkes AM moving, Bishop Ian Palmer seconding,

The General Synod:

1. Offers a heartfelt apology to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer and commits to treating with compassion and care those who struggle in the area of their sexual identity and orientation.
2. Affirms that all people are made in the image of God regardless of sexual identity, and no one is without sin, for all fall short of the glory of God. Yet because God's love knows no bounds and extends to all without distinction and without prejudice, if those who bear the image of God are mocked, excluded or abused on account of their sexuality, God grieves.
3. Seeks forgiveness from God and from our sisters and brothers.
4. Apologises to lesbian, gay and transgender people for the hurt and pain inflicted upon you by words and deeds, including thoughtless words, and actions from people in the church.
5. Repents of and is sorry for words of derision, mockery and exclusion when directed against persons who are different.
6. Is ashamed that Anglican churches sometimes fail to be safe environments where people can speak openly and honestly about

their struggles.

7. Asks forgiveness for the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual violence inflicted upon God's children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer, by what the church has done and failed to do.
8. Commits the Anglican Church of Australia to listening to you and to learning more about our human sexuality and gender and the way this influences our Christian discipleship.
9. Commits the Anglican Church to teaching church members to respect difference and understand the struggles that others endure as we follow Jesus together.
10. Commits to creating churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound; where LGBTIQ+ people will feel safe.
11. Asks and encourages churches to make this apology and live as Jesus's disciples with changed attitudes and conduct.

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## **16 NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM THE FLOOR OF SYNOD**

### **22.1 Bishop Greg Thompson**

Bishop Peter Stuart moving, Ms Sue Williams seconding,

This General Synod gives thanks to Almighty God for the courageous ministry and prophetic leadership by the 13th Bishop of Newcastle The Rt Rev'd Gregory Thompson in calling the Church and especially the Diocese of Newcastle to face their past about child sexual abuse and shape a healthy future in responses to Christ's call to protect, esteem and nurture children and vulnerable people.

Further this General Synod requests the Primate to convey these sentiments to Bishop Thompson.

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### **22.2 Church Law Commission Membership**

The Hon Richard Refshauge moving, Bishop John Parkes seconding,

That having regard to:

- (a) The history of clergy membership on the Church Law Commission;
- (b) The fact that Church Law matters can affect the clergy in a way different to the way it affects the laity;
- (c) The desirability of theological considerations being taken into account and informing Church Law,

the Primate, when appointing members to the Church Law Commission on the advice of the Standing Committee under section 14 of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998, give active consideration to the appointment of at least one member of the Clergy to the Church Law Commission.

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### **22.3 UN Conference on Nuclear Disarmament**

Bishop Philip Huggins moving; Bishop Cameron Venables seconding;

That this General Synod urges our Australian Government to be a strong and positive contributor to the 2018 high level UN Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and aware of current instabilities, we urge that this opportunity be taken to elevate the issue of nuclear disarmament and to build pressure on nuclear-weapon States to agree to specific nuclear disarmament proposals.

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### **22.4 Recommital of Motion**

Bishop Garry Weatherill moving, The Rev'd Scott Lowrey seconding,

That Motion 16.10 be recommitted so that the Church might also be challenged to respond to this challenge.

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### **22.5 Australian Freedom Network**

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Bishop Stephen Pickard seconding,

That this General Synod:

1. Notes the establishment of the Australian Freedom Network (AFN) signed by the Primate on our behalf;
  2. Commends those involved in the establishment of the Global Freedom Network of which the AFN is part;
  3. Acknowledges the continuing reality of human trafficking and slavery, and laments the damage that this does to all involved as a distortion of what it means to be created in God's image;
  4. Commits to personal and organisational behaviour that utilises tools such as the "Ethical Fashion Guide" and information regarding corporate supply chains to inform decisions surrounding consumption so that ethical choices can be made; and
  5. Requests that the General Synod network, Anglican Schools Australia, consider how it may collaborate with the AFN to explore how Anglican Schools in Australia may be supported as they educate students to be ethical leaders in the Australian community.
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### **22.6 Report Content Policy**

The Rev'd Gavin Poole moving, The Rev'd Paul Hunt

Synod requests Standing Committee to consider writing a policy that requires minimum mandatory information to be included in reports to Synod from commissions, task forces and working groups.

Such information should include:

- (a) Expenses incurred compared to budget and reasons for variation;
- (b) Frequency and attendance at meetings;

- (c) Membership changes; and
  - (d) Synod resolutions addressed by the group.
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## **22.7 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel**

Ms Helen Rainger moving, Mr Phillip Davies seconding;

That this Synod encourages members of General Synod and those within their Dioceses to consider marking in some way the World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel, 17-24 September 2017.

Synod notes that resources for liturgy and prayer are available on the World Council of Churches website.

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## **22.8 Scottish Episcopal Church**

Archdeacon Kanishka Raffel moving, The Venerable David Bassett seconding,

General Synod

- a) notes with regret that the Scottish Episcopal Church has amended their Canon on Marriage to change the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman by adding a new section that allows clergy to solemnise marriage between same-sex couples as well as couples of the opposite sex;
  - b) declares that this step is contrary to the doctrine of Christ and the doctrine of our Church, and therefore inconsistent with the Fundamental Declarations of our Church; and
  - c) further declares, by virtue of Section 6 of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia, that the Scottish Episcopal Church has put itself out of communion with the Anglican Church of Australia; and
  - d) prays that the Scottish Episcopal Church will return to the doctrine of Christ in this matter and be restored to communion with the Anglican Church of Australia.
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