

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
ANGLICAN COUNCIL CANON 1998**

Canon 17, 1998 as amended by
Canon 01, 2004¹

A canon to make provision for formalising a Council to represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Church.

The General Synod prescribes as follows:-

Part I - Preliminary

1. This Canon may be cited as the "National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council Canon 1998".
2. This Canon is divided into the following parts -

Part I - Preliminary.

Part II - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.

Part III - Non-diocesan representatives of General Synod.

3. (1) Parts I and II of this Canon shall come into force on 1 April 1998.
- (2) Part III of this Canon shall come into force on the date on which the Constitution Alteration (Composition of General Synod) Canon 1998 comes into effect.

Part II - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council

4. There shall be a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, which in this Canon is called "**the Council**".
- 5.² The members of the Council shall be -
 - (1) each Aboriginal bishop and Torres Strait Islander bishop holding an office in this Church who shall between them have episcopal care of the Council;
 - (2) three persons in holy orders and three lay persons residing in the Torres Strait Region of the diocese of North Queensland (or if there is no such Region, residing in the Torres Strait) nominated for membership by the bishop of the diocese of North Queensland;

¹ To be replaced by Canon 01, 2014 when it comes into effect on 1 January 2015.

² Amended by Canon 01, 2004.

- (3) four persons nominated by the bishop of the Northern Territory and four persons nominated by the bishop of North West Australia;
 - (4) one Aboriginal person and one Torres Strait Islander person resident in each diocese other than those referred to in sub-sections (2) and (3) nominated for membership by the bishop of that diocese;
 - (5) not more than ten other persons elected by the Council.
6. To be qualified to be a member of the Council a person must -
 - (a) be a communicant member of this Church;
 - (b) have attained the age of 18 years;
 - (c) be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
 - (d) in the case of a person in holy orders (other than a diocesan bishop) hold a licence from a bishop of a diocese of this Church.
7. Each member nominated by a diocesan bishop or elected by the Council shall hold office until 30 April in the second year following his or her appointment and shall be eligible for reappointment provided that he or she remains qualified for appointment.
8. A person shall cease to be a member of the Council should he or she resign to the Primate, cease to be qualified to be a member of the Council, have his or her estate administered in insolvency or be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be incapable of managing his or her affairs.
9. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council are to be elected at the first meeting of the Council after 1 May in each even year to hold office until 30 April in the next following even year.
10. The Council may co-opt no more than two persons who may, but need not be, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons as consultants to the Council for such term as the Council thinks fit. A consultant has the right to receive all notices of meeting and minutes and to speak at meetings of the Council, but not to propose motions or vote.
11. The functions of the Council are:-
 - (1) to assist in the provision of pastoral care to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people;
 - (2) to assist, encourage and resource Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander ministries in Australia;
 - (3) to assist in the development and recognition of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander ministries;

- (4) to receive funding from the Church and Governments, to budget resources and allocate funds;
 - (5) to assist in the arrangements for the Scriptures, the liturgy and any other useful document to be translated into languages understood by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons or any group of such persons;
 - (6) to assist in the provision of Christian education for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people;
 - (7) to assist in the reconciliation amongst Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander people and the general community;
 - (8) to liaise with other General Synod bodies;
 - (9) to assist in the provision of liturgical resources;
 - (10) to assist in the provision of theological education;
 - (11) to celebrate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture within the Anglican Church of Australia;
 - (12) to be a channel of spiritual growth;
 - (13) to do all such acts and things incidental to the above objects or any of them.
12. The Standing Committee of General Synod may confer additional functions on the Council by resolution, provided that, unless such resolution is confirmed by the General Synod at its next succeeding ordinary session, the additional functions shall then lapse, but not so as to affect the validity of anything done before such lapsing.
 13. The Council may, within its budget, make contracts and appoint such staff as it considers necessary to fulfil its functions.
 14. The Council shall appoint up to six of its members to be its contracting agents. A contract signed by two contracting agents shall bind the Council.
 15. The Council shall comply with the Financial Protection Canon 1995 and all other relevant canons and rules of the General Synod.
 16. The Council shall report in writing to each ordinary session of General Synod as to its activities, needs and any other matter it considers appropriate.

Part III - Non-diocesan representatives of General Synod

17. The Council is appointed to be the body for the purpose of sub-section 17(8) of the Constitution to recommend to the Primate the names of persons for appointment as non-diocesan representatives of the General Synod. At the request of the Primate the Council shall provide the names of the persons elected by the Council for nomination to the Primate.
18. A person who is qualified to be a member of the Council is qualified to be a non-diocesan representative of the General Synod if that person is not a diocesan bishop or (with regard to the General Synod) a clerical or lay representative of a diocese.
19. When the Primate by mandate summons the diocesan bishops to convene clerical and lay representatives to an ordinary or special session of the General Synod the Primate shall -
 - (a) appoint non-diocesan representatives of the General Synod being persons nominated by the Council, each of whom shall hold office so long as he or she remains qualified to do so until his or her successor is appointed or until he or she sooner resigns;
 - (b) call such non-diocesan representatives to the session of the General Synod;
 - (c) cause bills for canons and other documents circulated to dioceses or accompanying the mandate to diocesan bishops to be sent to non-diocesan representatives of the General Synod.
