



Australian bishops support First Nations peoples

The Australian Bishops present at Lambeth support the First Nations peoples (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) of Australia

The Australian bishops present at the Lambeth conference 2022 celebrate the support of the bishops called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference 2022 for the [Statement of Support regarding Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world](#).

The Statement recognized and regretted the impacts of colonization that [stripped](#) Indigenous peoples of their agency, identity, languages, cultures and governance; colluded with the Doctrine of Discovery (in the Australian context, the aspirations and impact of British imperialism), including corrosive government policies; denigrated their spiritual heritages; prohibited ceremonies and stole their land.

We also acknowledge that many First Nations peoples rejoice in the gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and now serve the church in leadership throughout Australia.

With deep repentance the Australian bishops present at Lambeth 2022 recognize that the Anglican Church of Australia colluded in the above and within our own history aided the forced removal of First Nations children from their parents (the Stolen Generations) which has resulted in inter-generational trauma for many First Nations peoples. The Anglican Church of Australia acknowledges its own sinfulness in this regards, has sought forgiveness, but continues to walk with First Nations peoples on the long journey of reconciliation.

The Australian bishops present at Lambeth 2022 recognize the issues brought about by the colonization of Australia on the First Nations peoples that need our prayer, advocacy, and action include: poverty; climate change, in particular, but not exclusively, rising sea levels that are having devastating consequences for the Torres Strait Islander peoples; inadequate housing; under

employment; youth suicide; appallingly high levels of youth and adult incarceration; deaths in custody; substance abuse and addiction; domestic and other forms of violence, low levels of education, and the ongoing presence of racism among the general population of Australia and its institutions, including the church.

The Australian bishops present at Lambeth 2022 acknowledge the riches that First Nations cultures bring to the Australian people and rejoice that this is beginning to be valued by many in Australia and the Church. We support the ‘Uluru Statement from the Heart’ and encourage a First Nations voice to be heard in the federal and state parliaments of our land. We join with the bishops present at Lambeth 2022 in committing ourselves to ‘walk with and support Indigenous peoples around the world’.

The Australian bishops present at Lambeth 2022

The Most Revd Geoff Smith – Primate

The Most Revd Dr Kay Goldsworthy

The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier

The Rt Revd Chris McLeod

The Rt Revd Dr Keith Joseph

The Rt Revd Cameron Venables

The Rt Revd Jeremy Greaves

The Rt Revd John Roundhill

The Rt Revd Grant Dibden

The Rt Revd Dr Greg Anderson

The Rt Revd Dr Mark Short

The Rt Revd Dr Richard Treloar

The Rt Revd Dr Peter Stuart

The Rt Revd Dr Matthew Brain

The Rt Revd Ian Coutts

The Rt Revd Charles Murry

The Rt Revd Sonia Roulston

The Rt Revd Carol Wagner

The Rt Revd Dr Paul Barker

The Rt Revd Dr Brad Billings

The Rt Revd Kate Prowd

The Rt Revd Jeremy James

The Rt Revd Clarence Bester

The Rt Revd Genieve Blackwell

The Rt Revd Donald Kirk

The Rt Revd Murray Harvey

The Rt Revd Dr Tim Harris

The Rt Revd Denise Ferguson

The Rt Revd Peter Grice

This article first appeared [on the Anglican Board of Mission website.](#)

Date Created

August 15, 2022