

## Media Statement

25 September 2017

### **Newcastle Anglican Synod Meets for Ordinary Session**

Newcastle Anglican Synod met for an ordinary business session on Saturday 23 September.

The Acting Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Peter Stuart said, "Once again the Synod was set within the context of responding to historic sexual abuse allegations. We passed a rule to make sure court decisions can be used in church disciplinary processes. We affirmed a budget which maintains the Diocese's commitment to address its past.

"New rules were put in place to improve clergy support and accountability. In the next two months the Diocesan Council will adopt the national child protection approach approved by last month's General Synod.

Bishop Stuart called on the Synod to give serious consideration to the issue of climate change and to join with Christians in Korea praying for peace. The Synod welcomed his proposal to establish a Faith and Order Commission to help Anglicans think through and participate in church and community debates on significant issues.

The Synod began with an address from the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Glenn Davies. This was the first time that Archbishop Davies had been at a Newcastle Synod.

The Synod will meet again on 24th and 25th November to elect the 14th Bishop of Newcastle. It is expected that the names of the nominees will be released to the public on 20th November.

[Ends]

**Please direct all media enquiries to:**

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