

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ANGLICAN COUNCIL
REPORT ON MEETING BRISBANE AUGUST 2006**

The meeting was held in Brisbane August 2006 at The Sisters of the Sacred Advent with 30 participants from all over Australia including the Indigenous Bishops, Bishop Arthur Malcolm, Bishop Saibo Mabo and Bishop James Leftwich. The Secretary of General Synod, (Bruce McAteer), Bishop John McIntyre, Bishop John Harrower and the director of Anglican Board of Missions Linda Kurti also attended. The Primate, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall attended on the Saturday afternoon for a quiet reflection.

The main topics of the agenda included

Elections. For the next three years,
Secretary: Revd Di Langham
Chairperson: Bishop James Leftwich
Deputy Chair: Father Charles Loban
Treasurer: Revd Gloria Shipp.



Revd Di Langham Secretary



Bishop James Leftwich Chairperson



Revd Gloria Shipp Treasurer



Revd Charles Loban Deputy Chairperson

The Covenant document. After lengthy discussion the “Commitment and Affirmation of Faith and Justice” document which was a reworked Covenant document was accepted as the basic document, which was then edited. NATSIAC is presenting this document to the Standing Committee seeking its support for presentation by NATSIAC to General Synod in 2007.

Liturgy.

NATSIAC is in the process of developing liturgy resources for the Anglican Church to be presented to the Liturgy Committee, These include Tombstone Unveiling liturgy, Coming of the Light, NAIDOC Week, Sorry Day, Survival Day and Smoking and welcoming ceremonies.

Future of NATSIAC

The need for a full-time secretariat was discussed. However we need to work towards a vision, and strategic plan. Our 2007 meeting will have an independent facilitator in order to put together a plan for the future. The strategic plan will be based on the NATSIAC Canon, Item 11 Functions of the Council.

- i. To assist in the provision of pastoral care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- ii. To assist, encourage and resource Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministries in Australia
- iii. To assist in the development and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries
- iv. To receive funding from the Church and Governments, to budget resources and allocated funds
- v. To assist in the arrangements for the Scriptures, the liturgy and any other useful document to be translated into languages understood by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons or any group of such persons
- vi. To assist in the provision of Christian education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- vii. To assist in reconciliation amongst Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander peoples and the general community
- viii. To liaise with General Synod bodies
- ix. To assist in liturgical resources
- x. To assist in the provision of theological education
- xi. To celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture within the Anglican Church of Australia
- xii. To be a channel of spiritual growth
- xiii. To do all such actions and things incidental to the above objects or any of them.

Financial support is always an issue with only a few Dioceses giving NATSIAC the General Synod agreement of \$1000 per year per Diocese. It was decided to invoice those Dioceses that have been slow in forwarding their agreed commitment. It was also decided that investigating other avenues for funding is necessary.

Meetings For NATSIAC to function properly, we need to have at least two Executive meetings between Annual meetings. This has to happen whilst the full-time Secretariat is planned and resourced.

Communication. Information to Dioceses and parishes has been poor, so that NATSIAC will be sending a newsletter quarterly together with leaflets about NATSIAC to be part of pew sheets resources.

Anglican Indigenous Network. NATSIAC will be funding two delegates to the meeting in Canada in May 2007. They are Rose Elu and Bishop James Leftwich. Five other delegates will be self-funded.

All delegates were assigned a parish in Brisbane on the Sunday so that each one could share their ministry and the work of NATSIAC. Everyone reported that it was a very fruitful and positive time.



NATSIAC planting a tree at the Sisters of the Sacred Advent centre in Brisbane in August 2006

The next meeting will be held in August 2007 at Tropicano in Cairns as this is the easiest and cheapest for flights for all delegates.