



# Anglican Church of Australia

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Sunday 20 March, 2022

**The Hon. Scott Morrison MP**  
Prime Minister of Australia  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

CC:

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP  
The Hon. Alex Hawke MP

Dear Prime Minister,

Greetings from the National Meeting of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia. Be assured of our prayers for you as you lead our Nation.

We, the undersigned, write to let you know we are calling for a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees from Afghanistan.

Our churches have been communicating with members of Parliament since August 2021 when news reached us of the fall of Kabul. Many wrote because they were encouraged by your Government's initial engagement with the crisis, and others because of the level of compassion they witnessed. It was heartening to hear the proactive approach you had taken, facilitating 32 evacuation flights, and assisting over 4,000 people to escape from Afghanistan. We heard and appreciated your reiteration that the initial intake of 3,000 refugees from Afghanistan would be 'a floor and not a ceiling'.

We hope therefore, that you will understand our disappointment with what has followed. The Government's announcement in January that more places would be provided for refugees has amounted to no additional refugee places and that there would only be 15,000 places allocated to people from Afghanistan within the existing refugee program.

We have learned that the Department of Home Affairs has received applications from more than 145,000 individuals from Afghanistan. We feel that providing only 15,000 refugee places over 4 years from within the existing program is not an adequate response for people for whom we fought and with whom we laboured.

We recognise that the conflicts in Ukraine, Myanmar and Ethiopia are leading to a sharp rise in the number of vulnerable and displaced people seeking refuge.

We believe this is a compelling reason to create a special intake of 20,000 additional refugees from Afghanistan and to include these additional places in your Government's upcoming Federal Budget.

We eagerly await changes to this policy that will demonstrate the compassion and commitment the Australian public expect for the people of Afghanistan, people we walked alongside for two decades of military and humanitarian engagement.

We write adding our voices to the Christians United for Afghanistan in calling for a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees from Afghanistan.

We continue to pray for all those who are displaced in our world, and that our Nation's response will be as generous as possible.

Yours faithfully,

*Gregory Roberts*

ARCHBISHOP OF ADELAIDE & PRIMATE

*Math Brai*  
BISHOP OF BENDIGO

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF NORTH SYDNEY

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF SOUTH WESTERN REGION SYDNEY

*[Signature]*  
ASSISTANT BISHOP, ADELAIDE

*[Signature]*  
ASSISTANT BISHOP, PERTH

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF ARMIDALE

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF ROCKHAMPTON

*[Signature]*  
ASSISTANT BISHOP, MELBOURNE

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF GIPPSLAND

*[Signature]*  
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL BISHOP

*[Signature]*  
(Western Region - Brisbane Diocese)

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF GRAFTON NSW

*[Signature]*  
ARCHBISHOP OF PERTH

*[Signature]*  
Asst Bishop  
Melbourne

*[Signature]*  
Bishop of Riverina

*[Signature]*  
Bishop of Maitland

*[Signature]*  
ASSISTANT BISHOP, BRISBANE

*[Signature]*  
Anglican Bishop to the ADF

*[Signature]*  
ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF TASMANIA

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF NORTH QUEENSLAND

*[Signature]*  
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

*[Signature]*  
BISHOP OF  
CANBERRA + COULBORN

Archbishops and Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia

+ John D BISHOP OF WILLOCHRA

\* Mark Calder Bishop of Bathurst

+ Ian Catts Bishop of Bunbury

+ Denise Foggo A. Bishop. Adelaide

Michael Skuse Bishop of South Sydney

+ John Rosthill A. Bishop, Brisbane

+ Stephen Richard A. Bishop Canberra Goulburn.

+ Guy Pallant Bishop of Ballarat

Guy Hoag

Bishop of Western Sydney

Michael Richards

Bishop for International Relations, Sydney