



STRAIGHT

TALKING

A Social Responsibility Toolkit



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Foreword

Social Responsibility Toolkit

In 2004 the Social Policy Unit at Mary Sumner House published *Straight Talking*, a Social Policy Toolkit to assist MU members in understanding and being able to apply socially responsible techniques to their ministry to Encourage and Promote Christian Marriage and Family Life.

While *Straight Talking* provided wonderful resources for all MU members, it was specifically aimed at members in the United Kingdom where there are two very large differences from the situation we find in Australia. First, the Church of England is an established church and the relationship between church and state is profoundly different from the relationship of church and state in Australia, and the way MU is able to influence politicians at all levels. The second difference is that in Australia we deal with three tiers of government rather than two, and there are variations in each state.

Along with these major differences there are many smaller differences. This new publication has tried to take all these into consideration to provide a resource for all MU Australia members. Within the pages of this manual are resources for diocesan and branch Social Responsibility coordinators, and also MU members as individuals who are trying to live their lives in the way God would have us all live.

I am incredibly grateful to Mr Chris Cleal, the Administrative Support in the Parish of Goondiwindi, who undertook so much of the work in adapting *Straight Talking* for an Australian environment. Without his work this manual would not have seen the light of day in the three year target I set myself to have it completed. However, any mistakes are mine – I hope I have been a faithful editor of the work of others, and have not left too many glaring errors.

The Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman, BTh. Grad Dip Past Couns. Cert Min.

Australian Social Responsibility Coordinator 2007



Preface

Social Responsibility Toolkit

The aim

The aim of this toolkit is to enable, support and empower members with the skills and confidence to engage in social responsibility in their communities.

Political institutions and decision-making bodies listen to grass-roots groups with direct experience of the issues. For MU Australia to be a relevant political force and to represent the concerns of its members and their communities, more engagement with and participation in these institutions and bodies is needed. The purpose of this position is to bring an increasing number of members into contact with the social responsibility process.

MU Australia encourages all of its members to take an active interest in social issues, and believes that we all have a role to play in our communities.

Why develop a toolkit?

MU Australia is aiming to develop social responsibility activities at all levels. The purpose of this toolkit is to:

- Develop members understanding of social issues
- Explain to members how to engage with social issues
- Enable members and MU Australia to be more effective in social responsibility

This toolkit has been designed as:

- A reference point
- A source of information
- An easy to use, accessible guide

Who is it for?

We hope this toolkit will support and inform:

- Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinators in their role
- Members already engaged in social responsibility
- Members interested in learning about social responsibility



How to use this toolkit

The toolkit is divided into seven sections. Each addresses a different aspect of social responsibility, but each is related to and substantiates the others to complete the whole picture.

- **Sections 1 to 3** introduce and explore social justice issues and how to engage with the process, the different levels of social responsibility and how they interact, and the relationship between social responsibility and prayer & spiritually.
- **Sections 4 and 5** explain national and international politics, including church governance.
- **Section 6** invites members to 'have a go' at some of the activities described in the toolkit.
- **Section 7** contains single-page, easily photocopied, information sheets summarising important aspects of the toolkit. This is even though members can photocopy and distribute any part of the toolkit if they wish.



In Brief

Prayer and Spirituality

Social Responsibility is rooted in Gospel values and puts our faith into practice. Examining prayer and spirituality helps us understand the context in which social responsibility works. Prayer and spirituality express and develop our faith, deepen our relationships with God and the world, and help us to discern and use our gifts.

Prayer and spirituality enable us to:

- Worship together building a sacramental and global community
- Engage with Scripture creatively
- Articulate our faith confidently
- Apply Gospel values to everyday situations
- Support each other in any situation
- Share and learn from each others experiences
- Understand our vocations using our God-given talents
- Understand the mission of MU Australia
- Commit MU Australia to renewed faith, service, reflection and action

Social responsibility takes these values and enables us to:

- Translate prayer into action
- Research and find ways to resolve worldwide inequalities
- Articulate our concerns locally, nationally, and internationally
- Campaign and lobby against injustices such as poverty, all forms of violence, gender issues, international debt relief and parental rights
- Improve local communities
- Contribute to government consultations

In each diocese we have Social Responsibility and Prayer & Spirituality Coordinators who support each other and members in their communities.

Section 1

Introduction





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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 What is Social Responsibility?

Social responsibility can be defined as the process whereby a decision or initiative taken by a person with authority will affect the welfare of people in a community.

Individuals and communities can engage with social issues by influencing people in power, and their policies, structures and systems to achieve change. We want those in power to act more justly in the policies and practices implemented, so we become involved in social responsibility.

We can engage in social responsibility by:

- Identifying the needs that arise from social problems
- Voicing these concerns
- Finding ways of resolving issues
- Influencing the policies and initiatives of decision-makers

There are many different activities that can be used for carrying out social responsibility. These include awareness raising, education, lobbying, praying, campaigning, organising discussions, responding to consultations and networking.

Groups or individuals can be involved in social responsibility. It can be a one-off activity or an ongoing process, and it can be targeted at policy, practice, law, and different levels of awareness. Social responsibility can be undertaken by the individuals affected, on behalf of others, or by both.

Social responsibility is determined at local, state, national and global levels; members can engage with the process by informing and shaping strategy and policy making at each level accordingly. Often, there are advantages to working at each of these levels on social problems. For example, HIV and AIDS can be tackled locally by raising awareness about them in the community, or by lobbying governments to launch a public campaign and internationally through the UN.

1.2 Why Engage in Social Responsibility ?

We engage in social responsibility to try to achieve positive change and improvement in the lives of families worldwide. Social responsibility is one route by which we can work to alleviate poverty and suffering and challenge inequalities and injustices faced by women and families.

Social responsibility empowers and enables individuals and communities to be their own advocates for change. Anybody can engage in social responsibility, it is not only the realm of experts and professionals. Knowledge and confidence develop through discussion groups, raising awareness and educating about issues. Opportunities to express and listen to opinions are created. By organising campaigns, meetings and writing letters, a vehicle to influence change is provided. Social responsibility invites and promotes involvement and participation of individuals and communities.



Social responsibility complements the project and outreach work of MU Australia, such as the parenting program, that directly help people. Social responsibility can expand the capacity of a project beyond the immediate beneficiaries by changing the policies, practices or laws that cause or compound problems.

1.3 Why is Social Responsibility Important?

MU Australia is involved in Christian social responsibility. There are two fundamental themes in Scripture that promote Christian ethical thinking and involvement in politics and society: caring for others and stewardship.

The principle of caring for others can be found throughout the Bible, in the basic requirement of God's people to love their neighbours as themselves. Responsibility and obligation go hand in hand, so where we can engage in social responsibility, we should.

The principle of stewardship can be found in Genesis, where we are told to care for God's world: "Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." *Genesis 1:26*

Our Christian stake in social responsibility is shown by concern for the way in which women, men and children are treated. Through social responsibility we work towards compassion, justice and reconciliation in our local communities and across the world. In so doing, we are living out Christ's teaching and bringing about the vision of his kingdom on earth.

Social responsibility is important for Mother's Union throughout the world and society because:

- It can express our Christian values and concern
- It enables us to apply Christ's teaching in our relationships
- We all have a responsibility to each other in society
- We're on the ground working with families and living in families
- It gives us and the families we work with a voice
- It supports and expands our project work
- We use our experience and expertise to make a real difference
- It enhances our reputation
- It helps us to implement and fulfil MU Australia's aims and objectives
- It achieves justice and equality

From the project work carried out and experienced in communities we can campaign or lobby for change. Likewise, what we learn or achieve through social responsibility could lead to the creation of a new project. Social responsibility depends on good projects for information and experience; projects rely on social responsibility to influence structural and political processes.

Social responsibility has an interface with the departments of MU Australia. Liaison between the Social Responsibility Department and other departments, at both Australian and Diocesan levels, helps to promote and raise awareness of social issues. At a cross-unit level, social responsibility empowers the Australian and Diocesan executives to help the wider membership gain the confidence and knowledge needed to create positive change in their communities.



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1.4 Social Responsibility and the Family

As part of our Christian social responsibility, MU Australia continually reviews its outlook on the influence we have in the community concerning the welfare of the family. Our duty is to put the Christian point of view without prejudice, believing Christian values are good community values.

Our special concern is the strengthening and preserving of marriage within Christian family life. Where necessary, we take affirmative action to achieve the aim of the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

An important step towards such positive action, was the concluding statement to The Mother's Union World Conference in 1979.

"This conference re-affirms its belief in the paramount importance of Christian Family Life in the creation of a stable society. It calls on members of the worldwide Mother's Union to impress on Church and State (or Government) in their own countries, the necessity of providing for the proper development of future generations and the subsequent enrichment of humanity".

We continue to support social responsibility in the family by re-affirming and adopting policies that hold:

- All parts of a family to be valuable as individuals
- The family unit to be the best setting for the growth of children and individuals
- There is a necessity to develop the marriage relationship as well as the parenting relationship

In the light of rapid social changes in society and its effect on relationships, we have widened our vision by facing the realities of family life today. While holding on to our aim and objectives, we feel:

- The Australian Government should be pressed to establish a Family Policy Unit - this could produce regular Family Impact Statements and should have input from the local community when developing policy.
- A national children's Advocacy Centre should be developed to consider all aspects of legislation as it affects children.
- It may be necessary, in the interests of the child, to on occasion separate the child from the family.
- In the cases of prolonged physical and/or emotional conflict within a marriage, it may be that the most creative outcome for all involved for the relationship to be terminated.
- It should be recommended to bishops and theological colleges when training clergy and laity, that more emphasis be placed on marriage preparation and enrichment programmes to equip them for their pastoral role in this area.

Section 2

The Social Responsibility Process

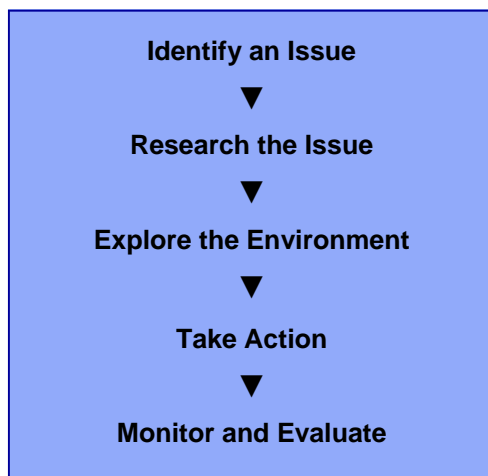




Section 2 The Social Responsibility Process

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We can use the term social responsibility to describe a whole range of activities used to create change. Together these activities are known as 'advocacy'. Both terms cover everything from campaigning and lobbying to education and awareness raising. The Bible shows that Jesus was an advocate for the poor and needy. In all of our advocacy work we need to be guided by Christ's teaching and the Holy Spirit.



The Social Policy Process

In order to be effective in our social responsibility work we must follow a process. Each point is a stepping stone to engaging with social responsibility successfully. It is a fluid process that can be used and adapted in many different ways. There is no right or wrong way to carry out social responsibility, it varies depending on individuals, circumstances and the problem. However, to be successful in achieving positive change it is necessary to undertake preparation and evaluation as well as action. This will ensure that you achieve the best possible outcome.

2.1 Identifying Issues

There are many issues that affect marriage and family life and therefore the work of MU Australia. In fact, there are far too many to be actively engaged with at any one time. Social Responsibility Co-ordinators, by necessity, need to select and prioritise the issues.

Faced with such a huge range and diversity of issues it is easy to think that there is nothing we can do to make a real difference. But the fact that we cannot do everything, does not mean we should do nothing. This is why prioritising and focusing is essential to social responsibility.

In selecting issues it is vital we keep up to date with what is going on in our local, state, national and global community. Read or watch the news! Social problems often headline the news.

- Read a newspaper
- Watch the news
- Log onto the internet
- Listen to the radio
- Read MU and church newsletters
- Talk to people

The well-balanced Christian has the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other - and reads them both!



When selecting an issue it is useful to consider the following:

- It must be a social problem or concern i.e. communities should be experiencing and/or be aware of the issue
- Is it important to the community that the problem is tackled?
- Is it a local, state, national or international issue?
- Do you think challenging relevant policy has the potential to make a positive impact on people's lives?
- Does it affect the overall aim and objectives of MU Australia?

Armed with this information you can select and prioritise your issues.

MU worldwide has covered many issues including euthanasia, child care, bullying, violence against women, literacy, sexuality, drugs and media influence.

2.2 Researching an Issue

Once you have decided which issue to tackle, you will need to research it thoroughly before taking any action. Research is about processing information in an objective manner taking into account the whole picture and ensuring accuracy and reliability.

Research can be defined as the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information.

When you begin to engage with a topic look at the range of information available. Many people or organisations have interests at stake when making their arguments, so try to collate a balanced range of evidence. For example, the newspapers you read may present arguments which are determined by their political position. Understanding the background of your sources will enable you to make better use of the material. This will help you to understand all sides of the issue, and develop a more comprehensive case.

Ideally, when researching the issue you should:

- Establish the key questions you want to answer and themes you will need to explore to do so
- Identify gaps in your knowledge about specific issues
- Refer to and learn from the teachings of Jesus and the Bible as they inform everything we do
- Understand the law and current situation regarding policy and practice
- Explore the arguments for and against the current policy
- Explore the arguments for and against alternatives so that you are as prepared as possible if questioned or challenged about your ideas
- Look at examples of both good and poor practice
- Keep informed of the issue and any developments - in law, policy and practice but also in terms of public feeling and press coverage
- Collate statistics, facts and case studies to support your arguments
- Consider the consequences of action and non-action - you can then say why you are advocating change and importantly, ensure that taking action won't make a situation worse



2

Identify where you can find the relevant information. It is better to use a variety of sources if possible. You can start with 'secondary information' that has already been collected by another organisation, the various levels of government or international institutions, such as the UN. This can be in the form of statistics, facts, case studies, reports and documents.

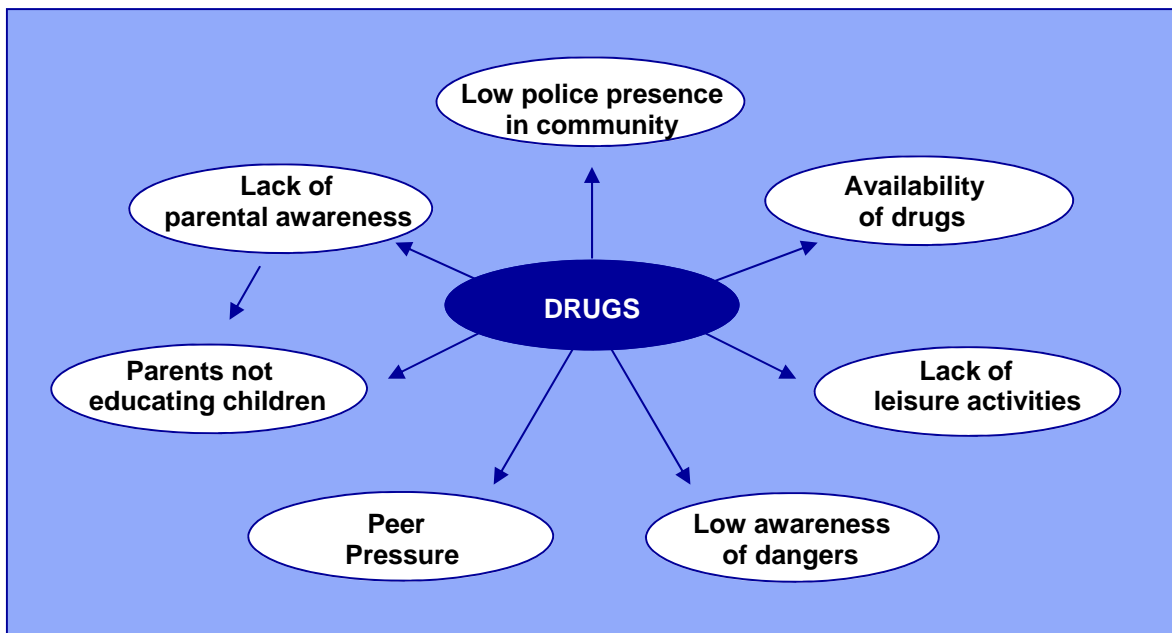
Or you can produce 'primary information', where you collect it yourself. You can interview people, carry out a consultation or visit a project. Secondary research is easier to do than primary, and should be done first. Where secondary information is unavailable or insufficient, then you should conduct primary research.

When undertaking primary research you will need to plan it well. Think about who you want to use in your research; someone from an organisation, members or service users?

There are many elements to an issue. You cannot deal with them all at the same time. Begin to focus!

Spider Diagrams

Now that you have a good overall understanding of the issue it is a good idea to begin focusing on certain elements. To tackle a social problem effectively you have to consider its root causes; spider diagrams can help you to do this. The body of your diagram states the core issue (i.e. the social problem) you have prioritised, whilst the legs identify the causes. This exercise can be done individually or as a group activity (which often produces better results). It can be used for whichever social problem you have prioritised. Let's take drugs for instance.



The problem of drugs will not be solved easily; there are many varied causes of drug abuse in communities. By doing the spider diagram you are able to select one area that you could tackle and have an impact upon. In this instance it could be awareness raising among parents.



When you have finished your research and have all the information you want, you need to collate and analyse it. You should summarise and conclude each of your research areas so that they are accessible to others and can be used to support any letters you write, for example to your state or federal MP or the press.

When presenting your argument, you should offer credible solutions to the current situation. Use your research to develop recommendations or proposals for your argument.

Following on from your research you should:

- Consider the issue in a holistic way by bringing all your information together and examining the whole picture
- Be confident of where you stand and why, so that you can justify your points
- Be precise about what it is you want addressed
- Consider whether you have the capacity to address the issue, e.g. time and money (is it possible to achieve changes in policy?)

To engage in social responsibility effectively, it is vital to have thoroughly explored the issue. You can then discuss the issue confidently, are ready to respond if challenged and can offer further information if requested. Most importantly, you need to be sure that you are advocating positive change.

2.3 Exploring the Environment

Once you understand your issue you should explore the 'environment'. By 'environment' we mean the context in which decisions, policies and laws are made. These vary depending on the issue and what you want to achieve, e.g. you might begin with awareness raising in MU Australia, then externally, and then with your state or federal MPs.

You should consider the following:

- Your target
- Your allies
- Your adversaries
- The channels of influence available to you
- The events and opportunities you can access

Targets

Targets are the people who make the decisions and policies with which you are concerned. They could be individuals or organisations, such as the private sector, public sector, governments or other bodies. In order for long-term change to occur, social structures, policies and laws have to change - one way to challenge these is to target the people who make these decisions.

If you are aiming to influence policies concerning children expelled from school, your targets could be: Parents and Citizens Associations, School Boards, State Education Departments, Local Councillors and State and Federal MPs. This demonstrates the whole range of decision makers; you could choose to target one or several.



2

Secondary targets

These are the people or institutions that can significantly influence your primary target more than you can. Sometimes you may not be able to approach your target directly, or your influence may not be enough. In this situation, secondary targets can be the answer, as they will in turn influence your primary target for you. By involving others in your activities you are bringing more pressure to bear on your target.

If you are unable to influence your local government authority or the police that anti-social behaviour should be higher priority in your community, you could approach the local media with human interest stories.

To raise awareness your target is usually the general public so you should consider what type of information you are sending out and to whom. Different groups within communities will need to be targeted in specific ways.

If you are seeking to raise awareness about drugs in the community, the information you provide to young people will differ greatly from that you would give to parents. The first may be about the dangers and peer pressure whilst the later might explore the signs and symptoms of drug use.

Interest Groups

Interest groups are organisations that have an interest or stake in a certain issue. There are interest groups on an issue that take radically opposing viewpoints and those who fall into the moderate ground. You can build relationships with individuals and organisations that are committed to achieving change and can work with you on your issue. It is vital to have allies when you are engaging in social responsibility, as they will offer you support, solidarity and strength. Furthermore, you will be able to share experiences, knowledge and resources, command a stronger voice and ultimately have more impact.

By working with other groups and individuals, you can create and build relationships which help to strengthen communities. You should:

- Work out which people or groups agree or disagree with your position
- Find out how important the issue is to these groups
- Try to establish the level of influence each group has on the issue (in the community or within a government)

Consider Forming Alliances

Find out which groups share your concerns about the issue. When you think about potential alliances be aware of each group's agenda in taking on the issue; are you happy aligning yourself with the group? Consider its public image and the type of activities it has undertaken in the past.



Persuade Others

Can these groups exert influence with decision-makers? Can they generate wider public interest on the issue? Use your resources to try and persuade them of the issue's importance. Present a case encouraging support for your campaigns.

On the issue of domestic violence it would be a good idea to approach groups that have knowledge and expertise and have considerable influence with the various levels of government. You could persuade and help your local Community Concern organisation to make more literature on domestic violence available.

2

When thinking about working with allies, you will need to consider in what capacity you want to do so. The definitions of the terms below do vary sometimes, but regardless of what you call your relationship with an ally, you must be sure of what is wanted from that relationship.

If you are only looking to share ideas then make this clear; other organisations can not make statements using MU Australia's name if you do not give them permission. When beginning a relationship, ensure you are both clear about its nature.

It is unlikely that groups will agree on everything their members are doing or working towards; however it can be useful to compromise on small things in order to achieve bigger goals.

Networking - information sharing
Networks - information sharing and perhaps co-ordination of work and activities
Coalitions - groups working together on a specific issue
Alliances - a long-term arrangement
Forum - representatives of groups coming together to share ideas
Umbrella Organisation - an organisation that is made up of many smaller organisations

Types of Relationships

There are umbrella organisations lobbying on behalf of their members for many issues. The MU worldwide is part of the coalition group that led the Jubilee Debt Campaign. It was formed for the purpose of achieving improvements on one issue - debt cancellation. There are a number of potential benefits in working with others:

- Advertising and promotion to wider audience
- Increases pool of skills
- Avoids duplication
- Mutual support
- Builds Contacts
- Co-ordination of activities
- Protective umbrella
- Discussion of ideas
- Sharing of resources and tasks
- Dissemination of information
- Stronger voice
- Exchange of information
- Wider perspectives
- Increases influence

CAUTION: When joining forces with another organisation make sure you are clear about what their agenda is. Think about the reputation the organisation holds and about how it will affect MU Australia.



2

MU Australia and the Church

It is also worth looking at the Church to see if any individuals or dioceses are already carrying out work on your issue; this could be projects or policy. MU and the Church should always be your first port of call when looking for allies; often we look to external networks without having explored the wealth of experience we have in our own network. In so doing, we can collaborate and support each other, sharing best practice and workload. This approach would prevent individuals/groups feeling isolated and unnecessarily repeating work.

Social Responsibility Co-ordinators at both the diocesan and national level have resources and information on various issues. After building relationships at the grass-roots level across dioceses, we can take advantage of also working at the national level. These resources are available to members in any work they undertake. The MU Australia Social Responsibility Department is also a member of Anglicare Australia with its extensive collection of resources.

Domestic violence is an issue on which branches and dioceses could work together to share best practice. They could liaise with Social Responsibility Co-ordinators across MU Australia; in the dioceses, at the national level and with Anglicare Australia. The various Social Responsibility Departments could provide information and resources, and could all use members' achievement in local, diocesan, national and international policy campaigns.

Events and Opportunities

Make a note of conferences, consultations, meetings, political elections, state, national or international campaigns and awareness days around which you can work. If the various governments are releasing a consultation document on your issue, add it in to your plan of action.

2.4 Setting Objectives

Now that you have done your research on the issue and the environment, it time to define your aim and objectives. Your aim states what it is you want to achieve on an issue. The objectives are smaller goals that will enable you to reach you aim.

Your objectives should be S.M.A.R.T

Specific - what exactly do you want to happen?

Measurable - how will you know when you have achieved it? You need to be able to monitor your progress and outcomes.

Achievable - can you achieve your goal with the skills, time and resources you have?

Relevant - is it relevant to your diocese/community and the aim and objectives of MU Australia? Also consider what MU Australia is doing nationally.

Time-bound - when do you want to achieve your objectives?

If you are not SMART in your objectives then they will be difficult to achieve and evaluate. Being specific in this way will encourage you to be focused and will improve your social responsibility work. It will also give you confidence when you can see that you are achieving your objectives, and will enable you to re-evaluate if necessary.



A smart objective would be to subscribe to www.aph.gov.au/house/news - the website of "About the House" - for information on the Australian Government and its enquiries.

Speaking out

Based on your aim and objectives, you need to decide what you want to say to people and the core information you want them to grasp. You need to state the change you want to occur and when you want it to happen. You can include the reasons for change and the action you think needs to be taken. For maximum impact, you should be concise, brief and accessible.

If you would like to produce a more detailed account of problems, solutions, reasons, case studies etc. then you should write a separate supporting document. If it is an issue on which MU Australia is active, then there will be supporting documents and papers that you will be able to access.

You should adapt what you say to suit your audience. That is not to say your core argument (what you want changed and when) alters, only the way you present it. The way you present your case to the media will differ from the way you present it to politicians. They have different agendas and priorities. You need to understand these and use them to your advantage. Journalists need something that will sell their newspaper something that will attract public attention. Different newspapers have different priorities and take opposing positions on issues. The same is true of politicians. Political parties have different priorities and positions on issues and have many demands on their agenda and resources.

Approaches

There are a number of approaches you can adopt when trying to achieve change in social policy. Awareness raising, persuasion and co-operation can prove to be very effective methods.

- Give your audience information and raise their awareness about your issue. Explore and explain both the problems and solutions, giving facts and examples.
- Persuade people that something needs to be done about the situation and action taken. Prove your case and show them evidence of good practice and projects.
- Co operate with your allies and targets to bring about positive change. Be prepared to work alongside others to achieve your goal. It increases impact when groups work together. The Jubilee Debt Campaign is an excellent example of different organisations working locally and nationally on an issue.

2.5 Taking Action

Awareness Raising

As a grassroots organisation, MU Australia is well placed to raise awareness about issues within communities. The tools below are some ways for members to raise awareness. For instance:

- When you go to the doctor's surgery or the dentist, drop off some leaflets
- When you pick up your children or grandchildren, talk to parents and teachers
- Put posters up in community centres
- Distribute MU Australia newsletters where you work
- Attend local meetings
- Get on the radio
- Write letters



Raising awareness about issues is a key action in social policy. Members can do this as part of their daily routine! Many are doing it already!

Tools

There are many tools and ways to engage with social responsibility. Those listed below can involve individual or group action. Some of the tools can be practised beforehand. There are positives and negatives in terms of time, resources, expense, impact and ability to reach audiences and targets. Guarantee maximum effectiveness by using several tools at once.

2

Lobbying

Through lobbying you seek to persuade individuals or public bodies to support or reject certain issues, policies or laws. Normally it involves a meeting where you give a short presentation about your issue (problem and solution) and then discuss and share ideas on ways forward. Individuals and representatives of organisations often lobby MPs on particular issues.

- Plan in advance
- Be positive in your approach
- Try to shape and respond to government policy: don't just criticise it
- Ensure your objectives are achievable
- Pursue any action points agreed

Meetings

The group will most probably be aware of the issue and the viewpoints so keep your presentation concise to spend valuable time discussing proposals.

- Be well briefed before you attend meetings
- Be clear about what you want to say and achieve
- Express your key points first
- Be polite, listen and allow others time to speak
- At the end, restate any agreements, dates and action points
- Thank them for the meeting

Events and Workshops

Organise events in your diocese to explore and discuss social responsibility issues. Involve local branches, deaneries and the community as a whole. You could:

- Invite a speaker to give a presentation on an issue. This could be your state or federal MP, a representative from another organisation or someone who is working in the field.
- Ask a small group of local members to research an issue and make a presentation.
- Organise a 'Moral Maze' where you invite a panel of 3 or 4 experts and another of witnesses. Appoint a chair and explore the issues in front of an audience (members and non-members).
- Hold a 'Round table' discussion with community leaders, your local state or federal MP, church leaders, community workers and a chair. For this type of discussion you would want a maximum of about 20 participants, all of whom would need to be well briefed.
- Organise a day of workshops where delegates are divided into small groups to do participatory work. Incorporate media into the day; there are excellent media representing social issues.



Organise a Prayer Meeting

Make sure you keep your church informed of what your branch or diocese is doing and the issues in which you are interested. Organise a prayer meeting for those who want to support your work spiritually. Members who are engaged in social responsibility will appreciate the support. You could incorporate Bible study into your meeting and explore Christ's teachings in relation to social responsibility. Ask your Prayer & Spirituality Co-ordinators to help organise these meetings.

Church Service

Organise a church service in support of particular issues or social responsibility generally. Consult with your church and ensure you publicise the service as widely as possible. Ask your Prayer & Spirituality Co-ordinators to lead the service. Incorporate readings, Bible passages, prayers, singing, drama and preaching but also allow some quiet time for reflection. Have a display at the service detailing and demonstrating your work.

Project Visits

If your social responsibility work has grown out of a really good project, you can use this to encourage change. It can be very convincing and persuasive to demonstrate practical alternatives when pressing for policy and structural change across a community.

Consultations

Consult members and the community about their experiences and opinions on an issue or service. You can use the information to support any proposals you make to officials or politicians: e.g. if you are writing to your local councillor, state or federal MP.

Before embarking on any consultation it is vital to plan and prepare in advance. Consider the purpose of the consultation; is it to find out about:

- Improving a service?
- Developing a new service?
- General policy development?
- Raising issues?
- Possible work for the future?
- Trying to resolve a social problem?

Decide beforehand what you anticipate the outcomes of the consultation to be; is it to help you:

- Plan your work?
- Retrieve information?
- Inform your policies?
- Observe opinion?

There are many different methods you can employ to consult with people, including:

- Written surveys and comments
- Questionnaires
- Public meetings and events
- Face to face interviews
- Telephone interviews
- Workshops



2

Consider the process of the consultation itself; is it going to be a posted questionnaire, a survey filled in at meetings, or will you be holding a special event for verbal discussion? These will need to be well organised and given plenty of time. It can be better to hold consultations where you receive an immediate response (i.e. by telephone or at a meeting) but remember that people will then have less time to consider their answers and complete their response.

You will need to decide how the information is going to be used and presented (into a report, for example) and how it will be conveyed back to the participants. You can simply feed back to participants or you can suggest appropriate next steps and ask them to remain actively involved.

Most importantly, evaluate the exercise so that you learn from your successes and mistakes and can make improvements next time.

Briefing Papers

It may be appropriate to send relevant organisations or people a briefing on how a project or policy is progressing, why it is good or bad for the community and what you would like done about it. You can include statistics, facts, case studies and other research material. Tailor your briefing paper appropriately, depending on which person or organisation you send your paper to. If MU Australia has briefing papers on the topic then you can also include and adapt these.

Letter Writing

One of the best ways of communicating your views about an issue is to write a letter to the government. Your state or federal MP has the job of representing the views of their electorate, and this makes their office a good first point of contact for raising local issues.

Receiving individual letters from many people is usually more effective than simply signing a petition or a postcard. Taking the time to compose a letter and explaining your concerns shows real commitment and interest. (See the appendix)

Guidelines for Letter Writing

- The letter should be concise - no longer than one side of a sheet of A4.
- Make sure the letter is well presented. Where possible type it. If you don't have access to a word processor then ensure your writing is easy to read.
- Ensure the letter is properly addressed. If you are not aware of any honorific, then write out the member's full name followed by MP. If writing to your MP in his or her capacity as a Minister of a certain government department, ensure the relevant job title is included.
- Be precise about the points you want to make. Always be polite, courteous and reasoned - back up your position with evidence. For instance, quote statistics if they are from a reliable source; give personal examples so that the MP can refer to the written details of your case.
- If you are writing about current legislation, bear in mind that there are various stages a bill has to go through in any state or the federal parliament, before it becomes law. Try to find out what stage the relevant legislation is at and relate it to your letter.
- MPs are more likely to take an interest in an issue about which you write on your own behalf, rather than on behalf of your diocese within MU Australia. They might otherwise consider your letter to be from a lobbying organisation as opposed to a concerned constituent. Encourage as many members as you can to write individually.



- If you do choose to write as a member of your branch of MU Australia, be clear about how many members share the view you are putting forward. Remember - as a member you cannot write on behalf of the whole organisation but you can refer to any press release or statement from MU Australia on that issue.
- Individual letters from a number of individuals will be far more effective than one letter from a group leader. Previously prepared letters where individuals just add their address and signature tend to be less effective. If you want others to write a letter, explain the main points to them verbally, and ask them to use their own words.
- If writing to your MP, suggest what action you would like them to take (such as supporting readings on a bill).
- In addition to letters many representatives will welcome communication by fax or email. The best way to find out these contact details is to look at the organisations website.

You may only write as a member and not as a representative of MU Australia. Only the Australian and Diocesan Presidents can write on behalf of MU Australia.

Newsletters

You need to make a newsletter attractive and clear. If you have written an article as part of your diocesan newsletter you should give brief details about the issue with suggestions for further reading, information and a contact name. In addition, make use of newsletters from other organisations who are concerned about the same issue as you; this will enable you to reach a different audience.

The Media

The media are an important means of communicating major political stories of the day. They are often used to influence policy and to rally the public to put pressure on governments. The local media can be excellent channels for getting your voice heard and raising awareness about issues. A note of caution; the media have their own agenda so don't always be led by them!

Writing an article

- The role of the media is to inform, educate and entertain. Information must be accurate, concise and interesting.
- Every news story and every feature article needs the following information: Who, What, When, Where and How? And also, So What? - the significance of what was said or done, when, where, how and by whom.
- The introduction should answer as many of the above as possible.
- There are many ways to structure a story - usually the most important information first.
- Media articles can be very short - so text will most probably be cut from the end of the article.
- Delete all unnecessary words - write simply using short sentences and familiar language.
- Use examples to illustrate your points.
- Explain what you are talking about - the reader may have no prior knowledge.
- Statistics can make your article authoritative - but don't use too many and be accurate.
- Make your article interesting and different.



Press Releases

- Every news editor receives dozens of press releases a day so make it exciting, interesting and easy to read.
- While keeping your point of view, you should write it in the style of the newspaper you are targeting. You might have to write several if you want to reach both local and national newspapers.
- The point of the press release has to be very clear.
- The point of the story should always be an outcome or conclusion, never a process. The fact you are consulting the community is not a story - the outcome is!
- The press release should be typed out very clearly on headed paper, double spaced with wide margins, and preferably on one piece of paper. Add 'Notes to Editor' on a second page with supporting information if necessary.

In brief:

- **Keep it short and simple**
- **Important information in first paragraph**
- **Attention grabbing headline that sums up story**
- **Give your story an angle**
- **Provide one or two quotes**

Journalists

- Make friendly contacts with journalists. If you are invited to a reception or significant event contact the press officer who may be able to give you contacts.
- Try to seek out journalists that are sympathetic to the MU or its aim and objectives. If you are concentrating on a particular issue find out which journalists cover that area.

When talking to them:

- Take a few moments to consider the question, think carefully about what you say. Be positive!
- Always state the facts as far as you know them; never exaggerate or make them up if unsure.
- Take notes of who you are speaking to and where they work. Note down what is said as soon as possible.
- Never admit liability of any kind!

How to prepare for an interview

- Know your subject well. Have a shortlist of key points.
- Clarify the length of the interview to gauge how you will get your key points in.
- Ask if someone else is being interviewed on the same subject. If so, try to find out their opinion.
- Find out if it will be live or pre-recorded. If pre recorded, you can ask for errors to be edited.
- Don't be afraid of repeating yourself if a point has been missed or ignored.
- Always assume your audience does not know a great deal about the subject.
- Wear camera and microphone friendly clothes (no rustling, bold prints or all black/white clothing).



How to give a good interview

- Be yourself and speak normally
- Be concise, speak clearly and make simple statements
- Ignore the camera and never look at it
- Look as though you are enjoying yourself
- Know what you want to say
- Use facts and figures to support your arguments
- Keep your audience in mind and give answers that are relevant to them
- Do not use jargon
- Appear to co-operate, do not be hostile

Leaflets and Posters

When raising awareness about an issue draw people's attention with simple, neat, good quality and attractive leaflets and posters. These have the capacity to reach a large audience if you distribute them well. Design for impact. Information must be in clear, short, snippets that will make people want to find out more. A poster is designed to attract people's attention but does not give many details, so have a leaflet ready that expands this information.

A poster is distinguished from other types of media by the fact that it speaks to the audience 'on the move'. Newspapers, leaflets and newsletters are designed for the reader who has time to read for a while. On the other hand, the poster must capture attention and get the message across in a matter of seconds. It must make the reader want to take the desired action through a brief message packed with punch or veiled in subtlety. Its purpose is usually to announce an event, develop an attitude, promote a service or sell a product.

The characteristics of a successful poster are:

- It grabs people's attention
- It must be convincing
- A striking use of colour is important
- Keep it simple

There are certain design qualities that will improve your poster:

- **Balance** - using either symmetry or a central focal point with variations on either side
- **Movement** - whereby you draw the viewer's attention from one part of the poster to another
- **Emphasis** - using text, colour or bold font to highlight the most important information
- **Unity** - you should make sure that your poster holds together and looks coherent by your use of background, for example

Think carefully on the colours chosen; are they to emphasise a point, be symbolic, or to attract attention? Think also about lettering: keep it simple, easy to read, appropriate and attractive.

Postcards

Distributing postcards can be a simple approach for reaching a wide audience. Deposit them at festivals, stalls, charity shops, bookshops, arts centres, libraries, community groups, women's centres, surgeries, laundrettes, post offices and churches. Ensure they are eye catching and easy to read.



2

Which tool will have the greatest impact?

When deciding which tools you will use, think about the following:

- How much will the activity cost?
- What resources do I need?
- How long will it take?
- How many people will need to be involved?
- How many people will it reach?
- What am I trying to achieve? (awareness raising, policy change...?)
- Do I want the activity to involve other people?

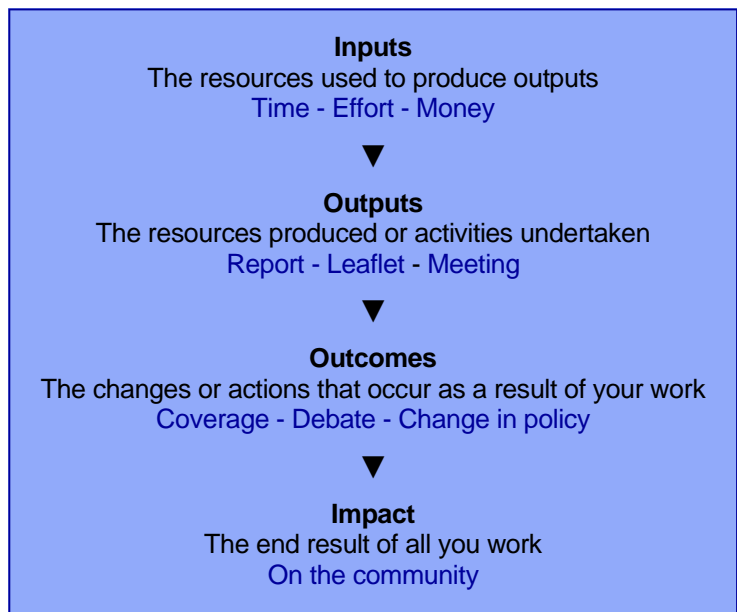
For example, it is counter-productive to use tools that will only reach a small audience if your purpose is to raise awareness in the community. For raising awareness you would need to distribute leaflets and posters and organise a community meeting or church service. For lobbying your MP you would need to hold a meeting with him/her or write a letter. Tools are most effective when they have been chosen appropriately.

How can you engage?

- Letter writing
- Meeting elected representatives
- Attending and organising seminars, meetings and church services
- Raising awareness in your community
- Developing links with organisations and representing MU Australia
- Keeping up to date with news and politics

2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

Achieving positive change can be a slow process. Even though monitoring and evaluation can be difficult and time-consuming, they are worthwhile exercises in the long-term. As you engage with an issue, follow and track any developments or changes in practice, policy or law. This will help you to monitor progress and the influence you and similar organisations are exerting. When monitoring and evaluating it can be helpful to think in terms of the diagram.





As you go through the social responsibility process, record the different tools and approaches you use to achieve your aim and objectives. Remember to keep referring back to these as a measuring stick. Assess the effectiveness of the tools in order to learn from your experiences which ones suit you? Which work best in particular situations? Which tools complement each other? Communicate and share your experiences with others so that a continual cycle of information flows and best practice can be built.

Some questions to think about

- How effectively did you use your inputs to achieve outputs?
- Did your outputs achieve the outcomes you wanted?
- How much impact did the outcomes have on policy/practice?
- Could the community see/experience a real difference?

Section 3

Co-ordinating Social Responsibility





Section 3 Co-ordinating Social Responsibility

3.1 Social Responsibility and Prayer & Spirituality

This section looks at the relationship between social responsibility and prayer and spirituality. It offers practical ideas for engaging with responsibility in spiritual and creative ways in dioceses.

Social responsibility considers individuals in different societies, and the structures of societies that enable humanity to come to its fullness. In the context of Christian Faith, Scripture, writings of theologians, Church Documents and the witness of just persons and their communities, social responsibility is given a deeper meaning and a compelling reason for its purpose.

The purpose of social responsibility in the context of our Faith is three fold:

Personal - to guide individual consciences in making just decisions e.g. the treatment of women and children, a fair wage, respect for the environment

Ecclesiastical - to shape the response of the church to social issues e.g. racial attitudes, political involvement, care for the poor and vulnerable, and respect for the practice of other people's faith

Governmental - to influence the activities of the public sector e.g. economic policies, international relations, peace and war strategies

These purposes - personal, ecclesiastical and governmental - are the reasons why social responsibility is so important in the world today, and is an integral part of evangelisation.

Social justice and the common good are built up and torn down in the countless decisions and choices we make. We therefore have a responsibility both to our neighbour and all human beings across the world. So how best can we carry the values of our faith into family life, the workplace and the public arena? How best can we be responsible in what we do in our daily lives?

First we need to understand how social policy allows God to reveal the truth to us. As we think about our Christian beliefs and social responsibilities, we gain a deeper insight into what God is like, which in turn feeds our spirituality. In other words, God can use social responsibility to reveal himself to us and to others. The more we know of God, the stronger our relationship with him becomes and the more we become aware of the needs of others.

3.2 Applying Faith to Responsibility

Here is a set of Bible quotations and reflections from people around the world drawing on responsibility and faith issues. (They are grouped in pairs.) You can use these quotations:

- To begin a discussion about a particular issue
- As part of an opening or closing prayer and/or in a worship setting in church
- To explore further what these quotations are saying to us about responsibility and faith
- As headings or conclusions on Power Point presentations, OHTs, hand-outs and other written information



1. Bread for myself is a material matter, but bread for my neighbour is a spiritual matter. *Nikolai Berdyaev*

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself." *Luke 10:27*

2. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. *Martin Luther King Jr*

"The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one to intervene..." *Isaiah 59:15-16*

3. You can't divorce religious belief and public service.. I've never detected any conflict between God's will and my political duty. If you violate one, you violate the other. *James Earl Carter Jr*

"And God placed all things under his (Jesus') feet and appointed him to be head over everything..." *Ephesians 1:22*

4. But I can tell you that equating development with money, evaluating the human condition only in coin, is a great untruth. Human development cannot be equated simply with income level. For poverty is not just about low incomes; it is about loss of dignity, being treated as nothing, and basic needs not being met. *Njongkulu Ndungane, Archbishop of Cape Town*

"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:13-16*

5. Racism is a gaping wound in the body of Christ We are each of us made in God's image and to deny the humanity of any one individual is to strike at the wholeness of God's creation. *Rt Hon Paul Boateng MP (British)*

"God alone has all wisdom and power. He determines the course of world events; he removes kings and sets others on the throne. He gives wisdom to the wise." *Daniel 2:20-21*



6. Religion is like fire. It warms hut it also burns. And we are the guardians of the flame. *Chief Rabbi. Dr Jonathan Sacks*

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." *Genesis 1:26*

7. Let us not despair. Let us not lose faith in man and certainly not in God. We must believe that a prejudiced mind can be changed, and that man, by the grace of God, can be lifted from the valley of hate to the high mountain of love. *Martin Luther King Jr*

"You have already been told what is right and what Yahweh wants of you, only this, to do what is right, to love loyalty and to walk humbly with your God." *Micah 6;8*

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8. A central task of the Church in the coming years will be to strengthen and nourish the humanity of those involved in the struggles of the political order. This task is dangerous, it is full of risks, and it is essential if a Christ centred politics is to be sustained. *Kenneth Leech*

"The Lord has made himself known, he has executed his judgement... For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever... (O Lord) do not let mortals prevail.., let the nations know that they are only human." *Psalms 9:16b, 18-20*

9. These days the metaphor slips off the tongue rather easily. 'Hunger and thirst for justice' we know the words. Do you know or remember what hungry and thirsty people feel? The experience is weakening, frustrating. To be hungry is not to have had what you need to live; to be thirsty is to be trapped in a body that has become a burden. *The Archbishop of Canterbury. Rowan Williams*

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, brothers, sisters, relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." *Luke 14:12-14*

10. Talking of love is no love, it is the acting of love in righteousness, which the Spirit... delights in. And this is to relieve the oppressed.., to open bags and barns that the earth may be a common treasury.., for the earth was not made for a few to live at ease upon.., but.. for all to live comfortably upon. *Gerrard Winstanley*

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." *James 1:27*



11. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. *Margaret Mead*

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1:8*

12. Do not turn your back on the needy, but share everything with your brother and call nothing your own. For if you have what is eternal in common, how much more should you have what is transient. *The Didache*

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." *Philippians 2:3-4*

13. Perhaps peace is not, after all, something you work for, or fight for... Peace is something you have or do not have. If you are yourself at peace, then there is at least some peace in the world. *Thomas Merton*

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." *Romans 12:2*

14. Between the finger of God and the finger of man stretching out to each other and almost touching, there seems to leap an invisible spark: God communicates to man a tremor of his own life, creating him in his image and likeness. That divine breath is the origin of the unique dignity of every human being, of humanity's boundless yearning for the infinite. *Pope John Paul II*

"People cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful." *Job 35:9*

15. True reconciliation.. means taking sides on behalf of the weak and the downtrodden, the voiceless ones. We cannot be neutral in situations of injustice and oppression and exploitation. *Desmond Tutu*

"Make your views heard.. pronounce an upright verdict, defend the cause of the poor and the destitute." *Proverbs 31:8 9*



3.3 Co-ordinators and Social Responsibility

What is the Social Responsibility Department?

The Social Responsibility Department is concerned with:

- Promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- Helping those whose family life has met with adversity

The aim of the Social Responsibility Department is to:

- **Be aware** of trends in society which undermine family relationships and endanger the nurturing of children in a loving and secure environment
- **Be informed** and seek out the facts and present precise information to members for their consideration and response
- **Take appropriate action** by responding to concerns affecting families and children, and advise members how they can respond for the best result

The head of the Social Responsibility Department is the Social Responsibility Co-ordinator.

Why do we need a Social Responsibility Co-ordinators?

Social Responsibility is a fundamental and integral part of the work undertaken by MU Australia. It is vital that the dioceses engage in social responsibility in order to achieve positive change in their local communities and beyond. Social Responsibility Co-ordinators help facilitate the response needed to meet the aims and concerns of MU Australia.

To be effective, members will need co-ordinated support to carry out social responsibility initiatives. This is the key role of the Social Responsibility Co-ordinator.

Each MU Australia diocese can campaign, raise awareness and express collective opinion on issues in its own right. As social responsibility relates to all aspects of MU work, it is vital to identify one person who can co-ordinate members in their response to the issues.

What is the function of the Social Responsibility Co-ordinator?

Social responsibility at the diocesan level involves:

- Organising social responsibility meetings and events
- Co-ordinating campaigns
- Working with the Diocesan Prayer & Spirituality Co-ordinator
- Communicating with their Diocesan Council - in particular their Diocesan President
- Communicating with the Australia Social Responsibility Co-ordinator

Social responsibility within the diocese involves:

- Supporting members involved in social responsibility
- Acting as a point of contact and support
- Helping members to understand and engage with social responsibility
- Helping with specific initiatives your diocese is working on



The Social Responsibility Co-ordinator co-ordinates and supports local members and activity. The Social Responsibility Co-ordinator is not the person who does everything.

In real terms, the way in which the functions of the Social Responsibility Co-ordinator are carried out may vary between dioceses. Tasks undertaken might be shared with others. However, the Social Responsibility Co-ordinators will need to ensure they are kept fully briefed.

Guiding points

- Be the main **point of contact** for social responsibility in your diocese.
- **Keep up to date** with what's going on with social problems and policies and their development (through newspapers, television, contacts, mailings).
- **Provide support, information and advice** to others exploring issues and engaging with social policy. This may be simply pointing them in the right direction.
- **Raise awareness**, share and explore ideas about social responsibility issues. Organise or facilitate local discussions, consultations or events. Post information on the web or make posters. Get help with these activities from fellow members.
- **Get the views of the diocese heard** in the wider world - public bodies, organisations etc. This can be done by writing to the various governments and relevant bodies, the local press. If other members are doing this, it is important to be kept informed and in turn inform others.
- **Organise campaigns and lobbying**. This is almost certainly a diocesan activity that will need to involve numerous members and units.
- **Develop links** with others interested in the same social responsibility issues both within MU Australia and within other organisations. If not the representative at an external meeting, speak to the person who is to receive regular feedback.
- **Help local groups and members to understand social responsibility** and its importance. **Encourage** them to engage with the issues. This toolkit is a good starting point.
- **Record and monitor** diocesan social responsibility activity to co-ordinate its effectiveness.
- **Pass on social responsibility information** to other people within the dioceses and between dioceses. This will keep people informed of what is happening in the diocese and will encourage their support or even their involvement.

Responsibilities

Social Responsibility Co-ordinators exist at the diocesan and national level. The Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator functions to bring the Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinators up to date on topical issues. They may also ask for responses from the Diocesan Co-ordinators on certain issues. The Diocesan Co-ordinator in turn, informs the Australian Co-ordinator of social responsibility matters their diocese feels need to be considered at the national level.

Diocesan Co-ordinators and members should maintain critical and responsible viewing of all media. Where an article is perceived to either undermine *or* affirm family values, individual members may take appropriate action, using constructive criticism or encouragement and praise. They should keep their branch and Diocesan Co-ordinators informed of their actions and outcomes. Diocesan Co-ordinators then convey this information to the Australian Co-ordinator.



However, any action taken by an individual must be solely on a personal basis, and not in the name of MU Australia. Any action perceived to be needed on behalf of MU Australia should only come from the Australian Co-ordinator, in consultation with the Australian President. The Australian Co-ordinator can contact Young Media Australia for advice on controversial issues.

At the diocesan level, no individual member can speak on behalf of MU Australia. This can be only done by the Diocesan President, who sends a copy of what is said on any matter to the Australian President and the Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator.

Other Ministries

Many dioceses have specialised ministries undertaken by their Social Responsibility Department. Perhaps the most common are:

- **Hospital Visiting** - members are trained to visit hospitals, nursing homes, etc bringing Christian love and friendship to new mothers and those who are ill. Some dioceses also offer accommodation to those who need to come to capital cities or larger towns to be family members during treatment.
- **Neo-Natal Work** - members are involved with making Neo-Natal specialised clothing for presentation to Maternity Units. They also provide grieving gowns and shawls to parents of non-surviving babies, as well as baptismal gowns when urgently needed.
- **Court Work** - where members offer cups of tea or coffee to those spending long times waiting in court rooms. Advice is not offered. A listening ear and a smile are offered instead.

3.4 Linking Social Responsibility

Social Responsibility Departments engage in complex and interconnected issues. The foundation of the Departments is good communication - a two-way process. The Australian Co-ordinator needs to hear the concerns of members through the Diocesan Co-ordinator. Branch members depend on the Diocesan Co-ordinator to pass on information from the Australian Co-ordinator.

Policy work undertaken at the local level can be relevant to, and fed into diocesan, national or international work, and vice versa. It is also useful to share information across branches and dioceses so that everyone can support and learn from each other. The information flow should be both vertical and horizontal. Out of local work it may become clear that the issue is in fact best tackled at national level because the causes of the problem arise outside the community.

Collaboration at the respective levels can link the comparative advantages, such as access to different sources and resources, and the ability and capacity to influence different audiences. Furthermore, issues have different impacts at each level and people will therefore hold diverse views. Priorities within these issues will also vary.

Sharing information up, down and between the different levels of MU Australia provides legitimacy and relevancy to the policies MU Australia advocates. It also encourages members to support each other. Working and communicating in such a manner empowers and enables all members in an active way, whereby they can articulate their needs and reach beyond their own boundaries.



3.5 Integrating Social Responsibility

Previous sections have discussed the need for social responsibility to be active at local, diocesan, national and international levels. In other words, social responsibility needs to be part of the overall working and structure of MU Australia and MU worldwide. There needs to be understanding and commitment from **all members and departments** as to the value and importance of social responsibility to the purpose of MU Australia.

Social responsibility should not be isolated as it can both inform and be informed by other work. Social Responsibility Co-ordinators are dedicated people who can provide impetus, ideas, contacts, skills and information to ensure that social responsibility is used to its full potential.

3.6 Prayers and Reflections on Social Responsibility

Prayer for Social Responsibility

Lord, we pray that through social responsibility
we may create a vision of your kingdom here on earth.
We ask not to fly from the world but to be engaged within it;
where there is injustice let us find ways to eradicate it,
where people's basic human rights are so exploited
that they have no life left to call their own -
may we not stand aside
but fight for equality and for dignity.
May we be a voice for change where there is none,
may our hearts not grow cold when our simple compassion
might find our neighbour's food and clothing.
May our politics be based upon gospel values,
our motives be to serve our God alone,
and through God, to transform this world.
Amen

Prayer for World Leaders

All powerful God,
who has ruled the world from the beginning;
look upon our leaders as they strive to govern their people.
Guide them with your wisdom,
give them humility to serve,
and reveal to them the injustices that they can challenge.
May all world leaders become true servants of God,
that they will rule with fairness and in peace,
and not by oppression or violence.
May world leaders value peace above power,
equality more than status,
their people's welfare more than personal ambition,
Amen.



In The Same Spirit - Prayer for Understanding

We will not all stand in the same place on many issues,
but we can stand in the same spirit of our faiths.
And that spirit must be one of hope, love and justice.
Whatever our faith, the route to which we come to God,
must be based on humility and not selfishness.
We must refrain from using language
which stereotypes or labels others as inferior or evil.
We must guard against a desire for power.
Religious, military, political or economic power
should not be sought at the cost of other people's lives.
We must not deny another person their basic right to live
or their desire to live as we would wish to live.
Amen

3

Reflections

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience,
we are spiritual beings having a human experience.
Teilhard de Chardin

A candle is a protest at midnight.
It is non-conformist.
It says to the darkness,
'I beg to differ.'
Indian Proverb

The fruit of SILENCE is prayer
The fruit of PRAYER is faith
The fruit of FAITH is love
The fruit of LOVE is service
The fruit of SERVICE is peace.
Mother Teresa

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate;
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond all measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?'
Actually, who are you not to be?
You are a child of God.
Your playing small doesn't serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.
And we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.
Nelson Mandela

Section 4

National Politics





Section 4 National Politics

Social responsibility aims to achieve changes in government policy, structure, legislation and practice. To be effective advocates we need to have a thorough understanding of government.

4.1 Government Explained - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Introduction

Australia has a federal system of parliamentary government. Powers are distributed between a national or federal government and the governments of the six states of the federation: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia.

Territories are areas outside the jurisdiction of the states. The federal government retains powers over all territories. Of the nine territories, only three territories - the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), the Northern Territory (NT), and Norfolk Island - are self-governing.

The national or federal parliament consists of the Queen (represented by the Governor-General) and two Houses (the Senate and the House of Representatives). The parliament of each state or territory has a similar structure. Each has a royal representative and two legislative bodies (with some exceptions), known as the upper and lower houses of the parliament.

4

Powers

A new Commonwealth law can only be enacted, or an existing one changed, by the authority of federal parliament. The Commonwealth can only pass laws on certain matters. These include:

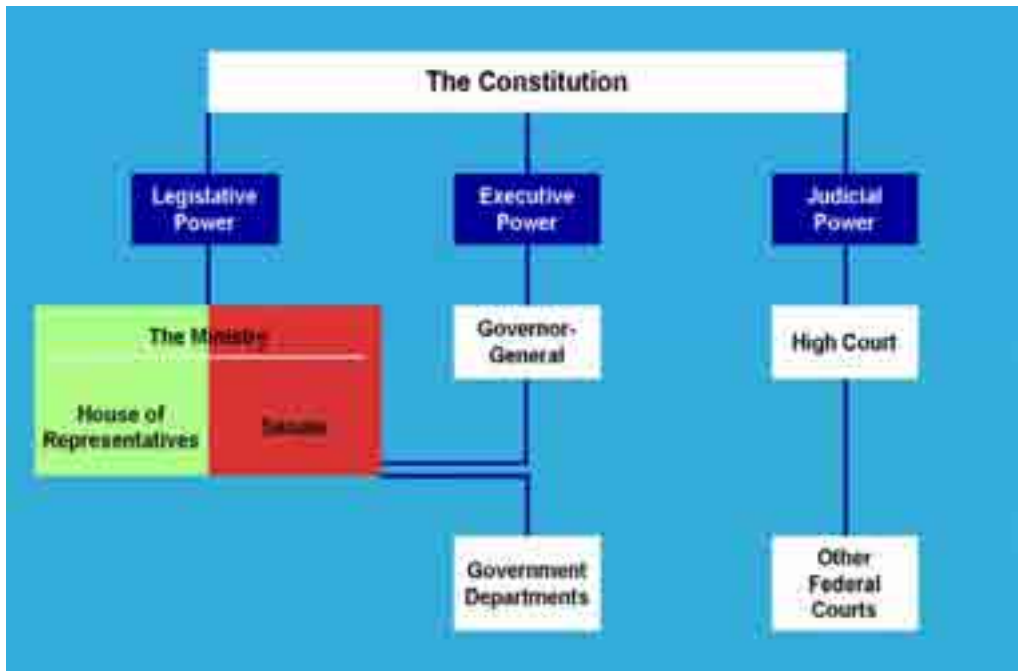
- trade
- foreign affairs
- defence
- immigration
- taxation
- marriage and divorce
- currency
- employment
- post and telecommunications
- pensions

The States retain legislative powers in many other areas. By agreement with the State Governments, powers are shared with the Federal Government on some matters.

Separation of Powers

Governments are seen as having three powers - legislative to make laws; executive to enforce laws; and judicial to interpret laws. Separation of powers holds that the three powers should be held by separate bodies - the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary - to act as checks and balances on each other.

With parliamentary government the legislative and executive functions overlap, as members of the Executive Government - the Ministers - are drawn from the Legislature. However, there are still checks and balances between the Executive and Legislature. Ministers are subject to the scrutiny of the Parliament, and usually the Executive does not control both Houses of Parliament.



Executive Government

Governors-General are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. They perform a number of functions including constitutional and statutory duties. On virtually all matters, however, the Governor-General acts on the advice of the Ministry.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the Governor-General, who by convention, appoints the parliamentary leader of the party, or coalition of parties, with a majority of seats in the House of Representatives. This majority party becomes the government and provides the ministers.

The Cabinet is the key decision-making body of the government and comprises senior ministers. All major policy and legislative proposals are decided here.

Senior ministers administer the major departments. Other ministers are responsible for particular areas within a major department or a smaller department. Ministers are appointed from both Houses of Parliament, although most are from the House of Representatives.

In some matters the Constitution gives the Governor-General powers to act independently. These include the power to dissolve, in certain situations, both Houses. This is known as a 'Double Dissolution'. However, other than in exceptional circumstances, the Governor-General will follow the advice of a Prime Minister who retains the confidence of the House.

Judicial Power

The functions of the High Court are to interpret and apply the law of Australia; to decide cases of special federal significance including challenges to the constitutional validity of laws; and to hear appeals, by special leave, from Federal, State and Territory courts. Judges of the High Court are appointed by the Governor-General.



The House of Representatives

Composition

The House has 150 Members each representing a single-member electoral division. The term for each House is three years, after which general elections for a new House must be held.

Functions

- *Makes laws* - The House's central function is the consideration and passing of new laws and amendments or changes to existing laws.
- *Determines the Government* - The party (or coalition of parties) with a majority of members in the House forms the government. The party or parties not in the government may form the opposition. The opposition works to act as a check on the policies and decisions of the government. A government must retain a majority to remain in office.
- *Publicises and scrutinises government administration* - This includes debate on legislation and ministerial policy statements, discussion of matters of public importance, urgency motions, committee investigations, question time, and censure motions.
- *Represents the people* - Members may present petitions from citizens and raise citizens' concerns and grievances in debate. Members also raise issues of concern with Ministers and government departments.
- *Controls government expenditure* - The Government cannot collect taxes or spend money unless allowed by law through the passage of taxation and appropriation bills.

4

Committees

The House has a comprehensive system of parliamentary committees investigating government administration and service delivery. The proceedings of any committee are recognised as proceedings of Parliament and attract the same privileges and immunities as Parliament itself.

Committee Types

- Standing committees, with continuing roles, are appointed for the life of a Parliament.
- Select committees are created as needed, to inquire into and report upon a particular matter.
- Joint committees draw their membership from, and report to, both Houses of Parliament.
- Statutory committees are those established by Act of Parliament, that is, by statute.
- Domestic or internal committees are those concerned with the powers and procedures of the House or the administration of Parliament.
- Investigatory committees are those with investigatory powers.
- General purpose standing committees are appointed to inquire into and report upon any matters referred to them by the House or a Minister.
- The Main Committee was established as an alternative venue to the main chamber for debate. It is not an investigatory committee and cannot hear witnesses or take evidence.
- The House does not have dedicated legislation committees. However, a bill may be referred to a standing committee which specialises in the subject area of the bill.



Committee Operations

Committees with powers to undertake inquiries usually follow a typical pattern in their operations.

- Once received, the terms of reference for the inquiry are usually advertised
- Submissions are sought from government and non-government agencies, and persons or organizations with a specialist knowledge or interest in the inquiry
- Some witnesses, having made submissions, are invited to attend public hearings to further investigate and test submitted material
- On-site inspections, background briefing and seminars (where appropriate) are held
- After analysing all material, sometimes with the assistance of expert advisers, a report is prepared setting out the committees conclusions and recommendations
- The report is presented to the House for possible debate, with copies distributed to various sources such as the parliament website and state libraries
- The government considers the report and presents a response to the House

Committee reports usually recommend government action - such as the introduction of legislation, procedural changes or policy review. The Government may accept or partially accept the recommendations and announce its intention to take action, whether through legislation or the use of ministerial powers.

The Senate

Composition

The Senate consists of 76 senators, twelve from each of the six states, elected for a period of six years from multi-member electorates. Half the Senate retires every three years. There are two senators each, from the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Powers

The Senate's law-making powers are equal to those of the House, except that it cannot introduce or amend proposed laws that authorise expenditure or impose taxation. The Senate can, however, request that the House make amendments to a bill or refuse to pass a bill.

Committees

The Senate's committee system is similar to that of the House of Representatives. The Senate acts as a house of review and can be a powerful check on the government of the day.

Bills

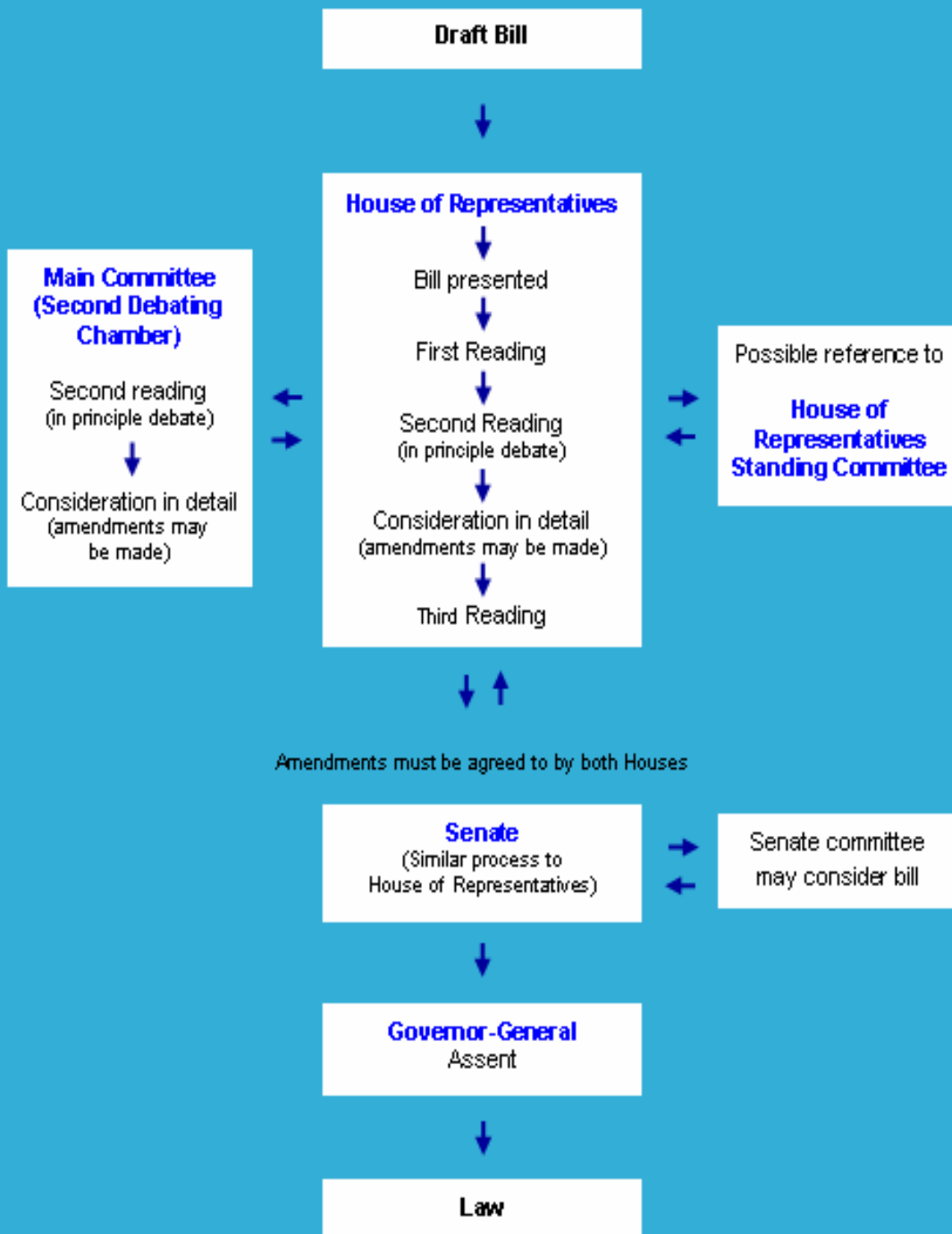
Proposed laws (known as Bills) must be passed by both Houses and be assented to by the Governor-General before becoming Acts of Parliament. With the exception of laws relating to revenue and taxation a proposed law can be introduced by either House.

Any Member can introduce a bill, but most are introduced by government ministers. Bills introduced by other Members are called private members' bills. Original ideas for legislation arise from various sources: e.g. party policy, suggestions by Members and Senators, parliamentary committees, community interest groups, government departments.



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Bills may be introduced first in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, but must be considered by each house in turn.





Federal Parliament Websites

General Parliament Websites - www.aph.gov.au

- Members - www.aph.gov.au/house/members
- Senators - www.aph.gov.au/Senate/senators
- Proceedings - *broadcast on radio, television and the Internet.*
- Internet - www.aph.gov.au/live
- Hansard - www.aph.gov.au/hansard - transcripts of debates
- Daily Bills List - www.aph.gov.au/bills - bills currently before Parliament
- Acts - scaleplus.law.gov.au - current acts

House of Representatives Information - www.aph.gov.au/house

- Current Sittings
- Current Committees
- Official Records and Business
- Notice Paper - all business awaiting attention
- Daily Program - ('Blue Program') - business expected to be dealt with on a particular day
- Votes and Proceedings - official record (minutes) of proceedings
- Work of the Session - consolidated list of business already dealt with

Senate Information - www.aph.gov.au/Senate/work

- Current Sittings
- Weekly Routine of Business
- Notice Paper - Official list of business (agenda)
- Order of Business - ('Senate Red') - business proposed for each sitting day
- Dynamic Red - results of proceedings as they happen
- Journals - official record (minutes) of proceedings
- Senate Daily Summary - summary of each day's proceedings
- StatsNet - detailed statistics of business
- Questions on Notice Summary
- Committees at Work
- Business of Committees - lists time, place and business of forthcoming committee meetings and hearings, with list of known persons scheduled to appear as witnesses
- Senate Committee Transcripts



4.2 Government Explained - STATE

Powers

Australia has three levels of government: federal, state, and local. Each has different areas of responsibility. Each has its own legislative or law-making body. The Federal Government is responsible for the nation as a whole. It can only legislate on certain matters seen as part of these responsibilities. The States retain legislative powers in many other areas including:

- school education
- police
- fire
- ambulance
- local government
- hospitals

By agreement, the State and the Federal Governments share powers in some areas.

The territories, by contrast, are directly subject to the Federal Government. The Commonwealth Parliament has powers to legislate in the territories, not possessed in the states. Most territories are directly administered by the national government, the exceptions being the self-governing Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory. Even though these two territories can enact their own laws, these can be overridden by the Federal Parliament.

Executive

Each state has a Governor, appointed by the Queen, on the advice of the Premier. In practice executive power is exercised by the Premiers. The Administrators of the Northern Territory and of Norfolk Island are, by contrast, appointed by the Governor-General. The Australian Capital Territory has neither a Governor nor Administrator, but the Governor-General exercises some powers that in other jurisdictions are exercised by the Governor or Administrator.

Parliament

Each state has a bicameral (two house) parliament except Queensland. The lower house is called the Legislative Assembly or House of Assembly. Members of the lower house are generally elected from single-member electorates. The upper house is called the Legislative Council. Members are generally elected from multi-member electorates. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are unicameral with only Legislative Assemblies.

Head of Government

The head of government of each state is the Premier, appointed by the state's Governor. In normal circumstances the Premier, is the leader of the party or coalition which exercises control of the lower house (in the case of Queensland, the only house) of the state Parliament.

The head of government of the self-governing territories is the Chief Minister. The Northern Territory's Chief Minister, chosen from whichever party controls the Legislative Assembly, is appointed by the Administrator. In the Australian Capital Territory, members of the Legislative Assembly vote directly to elect a Chief Minister.



Judicial Power

Judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court of each state and territory. A system of subordinate courts exists. The High Court of Australia and other federal courts have overriding jurisdiction on matters which fall under the ambit of the Australian Constitution.

Committees

All legislatures refer issues of particular importance to parliamentary committees. As in the federal parliament, a committee is appointed to investigate policy issues, proposed legislation or government activities. Members of the public can participate in the inquiry process by making submissions, giving oral evidence, attending public hearings, and obtaining copies of reports.

Bills

All legislatures use comparable procedures for passing a bill. In bicameral legislatures, the proposed law is introduced in one house (most commonly the lower house), where it must pass through three stages. If it survives this it passes to the second house (most often the upper house) acting as a house of review, where it must pass through the same process again. If both houses agree on it (or its version as amended by either house), it passes on to the Governor or Administrator. Here, it receives the Royal Assent, after which it becomes an Act of Parliament and is enacted in law. In unicameral legislatures, the bill only passes through the lower house.

State and Territory Parliamentary Websites - With Links to State Members

Members of Parliament for all the various legislatures can be accessed from these sites.

- Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory - www.legassembly.act.gov.au
- Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory - www.nt.gov.au/lant
- Parliament of New South Wales - www.parliament.nsw.gov.au
- Parliament of South Australia - www.parliament.sa.gov.au
- Parliament of Tasmania - www.parliament.tas.gov.au
- Parliament of Victoria - www.parliament.vic.gov.au
- Parliament of Western Australian - www.parliament.wa.gov.au/index.htm
- Queensland Parliament - www.parliament.qld.gov.au

State and Territory Legislation Websites

- ACT Legislation Register - www.legislation.act.gov.au
- Current NT Legislation Database - notes.nt.gov.au/dcm/legislat/legislat.nsf?
- Government of NSW Legislation - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au
- Legislation (SA) - www.parliament.sa.gov.au/leg/5_legislation.shtml
- Queensland Legislation - www.legislation.qld.gov.au/OQPCHome.htm
- Tasmanian Legislation - www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p
- Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents - www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au
- Western Australian Legislation - www.slp.wa.gov.au/statutes/swans.nsf



4

Entity	Executive	Head of Government	Upper House of Parliament	Lower House of Parliament	Members of Parliament
Australia	Governor-General	Prime Minister	Senate	House of Representatives	Senator Member of the House of Representative
New South Wales	Governor	Premier	Legislative Council	Legislative Assembly	Member of the Legislative Council
Victoria			Abolished		Member of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland			Legislative Council	House of Assembly	Member of the House of Assembly
South Australia			Legislative Council	Legislative Assembly	Member of the House of Assembly
Tasmania	Chief Minister	None	None	Legislative Assembly	Member of the Legislative Assembly
Western Australia					
Australian Capital Territory	Administrator	Chief Minister	None	Legislative Assembly	Member of the Legislative Assembly
Northern Territory	Administrator	Chief Minister	None	Legislative Assembly	Member of the Legislative Assembly

* Note: **MP** (Member of Parliament) is an acceptable, and more commonly used term, for members of each lower house.



4.3 Government Explained - LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The six states and the Northern Territory have established one further level of government. Local governments (also known as local councils) handle community needs such as:

- sewage, water treatment
- health regulations
- public recreation facilities
- town planning
- local roads
- libraries
- animal control
- traffic control

It is the state or territory government which defines the powers of each local government. They also decide the geographical area for which they are responsible. Each local government has the equivalent of a legislature and an executive only. The naming conventions for local governments vary across Australia and they can be called cities, shires, towns or municipalities.

Local laws

Each council has its own local laws. Through these, local governments can:

- establish permit or licence regimes for regulating activities
- create offences for unacceptable behaviour
- allow for the issue of compliance or abatement notices

Councils can prosecute an individual for an offence against a local law. Most prosecutions are the result of a complaints raised with a council.

Accountability

- Council meetings are generally open to the public. This ensures the process of decision making is transparent. The minutes of meetings are available to the public.
- Councils must adopt corporate and operational plans, revenue policies and budgets and must report on their performance in financial statements and annual reports.
- Councils must consult with the community before making any new local laws, or preparing planning schemes and the corporate plan.

Local Council Websites - With Links to Local Councillors

- **SA** - www.lga.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm
- **WA** - www.councils.wa.gov.au
- **Qld** - www.lgp.qld.gov.au
- **NSW** - www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_home.asp
- **NT** - www.lgant.nt.gov.au/home/home
- **Norfolk Island** - www.norfolk.gov.nf
- **Tas** - www.lgat.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm
- **VIC** - www.dvc.vic.gov.au



4.4 Government Explained - CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Organisation

The Anglican Church of Australia is organised into 23 dioceses further grouped into 5 provinces.

The Parish

Parishes are defined by a geographical area or region. Responsibility for local decision making is taken by the Parish Council (in some dioceses the Vestry). The serving Priest (also Rector or Vicar) usually acts as Chairperson. The Parish Council is elected from members by the annual meeting of the parish. It discusses and make decisions on budgets, building maintenance and local ministry needs . In consultation with parishioners, it usually coordinates the parishes approach to ministry, worship, pastoral care, outreach and commitment to overseas mission work.

Regional

Parishes are bound together into a diocese, which usually encompasses a much larger geographic unit. Each diocese is lead by a diocesan Bishop responsible for ordaining and licensing ministers, and doctrine and worship within the diocese. The Bishop chairs a synod consisting of both Clergy and Laity. All ordained clergy incumbent of parishes are represented. Each parish elects lay persons to represent them. Decisions made by synods must be passed by both clergy and laity and be agreed to by the diocesan bishop.

National

At the national level the church meets every three years at General Synod, a meeting of representatives from all 23 dioceses. The General Synod consists of three Houses, namely the:

1. **Bishops** - consisting of all 23 diocesan bishops (assistant bishops do not sit here)
2. **Clergy** - including priests as elected representatives of the dioceses
3. **Laity** - who are elected representatives of the dioceses

Decisions on important matters made at General Synod must pass all three houses. While there is a General Synod, the dioceses are essentially independent. Canons (or rules) passed by the General Synod must be adopted by each individual diocese.

International

The Anglican Church of Australia belongs to the world-wide Anglican Communion. There are 38 provinces in the Communion plus five regions. While provinces are legally independent of each other, family bonds of a shared Gospel, heritage, worship, and approach to ministry are strong. The **Archbishop of Canterbury** is seen as the focus for unity within the Communion, while common ground is found in three major mechanisms or instruments. These are namely the:

- **Lambeth Conference** - a meeting of bishops throughout the Communion occurring every 10 years
- **Anglican Consultative Council** - the voice of lay people involved in the governance of their own provinces, which meets every 3 years
- **The Primates' Meeting** - made up of each of the 38 Provincial heads or Primates meeting every year or so to consider matters of doctrinal, moral and pastoral concern



Governance

Overview

The General Synod is the principal decision making gathering at the national level. It consists of representatives from each of the twenty three dioceses elected on a proportional basis according to the number of active clergy in each diocese. The synod is presided over by the Primate.

The Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is elected by the General Synod and is responsible for the affairs of the General Synod between meetings.

Commissions

Different parts of the church sometimes seek advice about various matters. Seven commissions have been established to respond to requests for advice referred to them from the Primate, the Standing Committee, or the General Synod. These are:

- *Doctrine* - examines questions about the Church's theological position on issues
- *Ministry* - examines questions of competency within those participating in ministry
- *Liturgy* - examines questions associated with the texts used for public worship
- *Church Law* - examines questions of Church law concerning the constitution and canons
- *Ecumenical Relations* - encourages lateral dialogue with other Christian Churches
- *Professional Standards* - develops and implements safe ministry policies
- *Public Affairs* - examines questions which impact on life in Australia and the wider world

Working Groups

At times, specific matters can require the attention of small groups of representative specialists. Working Groups established by the General Synod or its Standing Committee deal with these. The groups will often invite submissions or comment from members of the Church or the public at large. Some current groups include the Child Protection Committee, Refugees, Women in the Episcopate, and the Environment.

Task Forces

The Standing Committee can establish a Task Force when it believes that the Church would benefit from specific advice on any issue, project or activity. The findings of a Task Force report are not necessarily taken as official or institutional pronouncements.

Legislation

The General Synod is able to make canons, rules and resolutions relating to the order and good government of the Church. This includes making or declaring:

- canons in respect to the ritual, ceremonial and discipline of the Church
- statements as to the faith of the Church
- views on any matter affecting the spiritual, moral or social welfare of the Church



Types of Legislation

- A *Canon* - the name given to any Church legislation that has been passed by the General Synod. A Canon is known as an Ordinance or Act in various dioceses.
- A *Bill* - any proposed canon in draft form which is yet to be passed by the Synod.
- *Rules* - any measure necessary to control and regulate the administration of a canon.

The Legislative Process

The process by which the General Synod considers legislation is relatively straightforward.

1. *Circulation*. All bills are generally circulated to each representative at least three months before the General Synod convenes.
2. *Approval in Principle*. Once the Synod has convened, it must initially approve the bill in principle. Members can indicate their interest in making any amendments at this point.
3. *Committee*. If amendments are foreshadowed, the whole Synod becomes a committee to consider the bill, clause by clause. Considerable time is then allowed for debate.
4. *Voting*. A simple majority vote is all that is required for the bill to become a canon, unlike in the dioceses where all legislation must also receive the bishop's assent.

Special Bills

Measures concerning "the ritual, ceremonial or discipline of the Church" are treated in a particular way to protect the independency of the dioceses. Such measures are considered as a *special bill* and the bill must receive a vote of at least two thirds of each house. As a provisional canon it is then referred to the dioceses. If all dioceses assent to it, it is duly passed. If some withhold their consent, the provisional canon is then recommitted to the next General Synod. Should it then be approved by at least two thirds of the members of each house then the bill is duly passed.

Judiciary

The Anglican Church of Australia maintains a series of courts designed to resolve matters of ecclesiastical conflict and to deal with matters of ecclesiastical offences. The courts' jurisdictions are ordered hierarchically, beginning with tribunals at a diocesan, provincial then national level.

Tribunals

- *Diocesan Tribunals* - Each diocese maintains its own tribunal to deal with breaches of faith, ritual, ceremonial and discipline of the Church within their jurisdiction. Before a charge is brought, it is referred to a board of enquiry who decide if the matter is to proceed to a hearing.
- *Provincial Tribunals* - These tribunals may be established to hear and determine appeals from any determination of a diocesan tribunal within the same province. The tribunal is by way of a re-hearing. A determination of a provincial tribunal may be appealed to the Appellate Tribunal.
- *Special Tribunal* - This national tribunal has the jurisdiction to hear and determine charges against any member of the House of Bishops (diocesan bishops only) concerning breaches of faith, ritual, ceremonial or discipline. A determination by this tribunal may be appealed to the Appellate Tribunal.
- *Appellate Tribunal* - This national tribunal can hear and determine appeals from the Special Tribunal or an appeal from a diocesan or provincial tribunal.



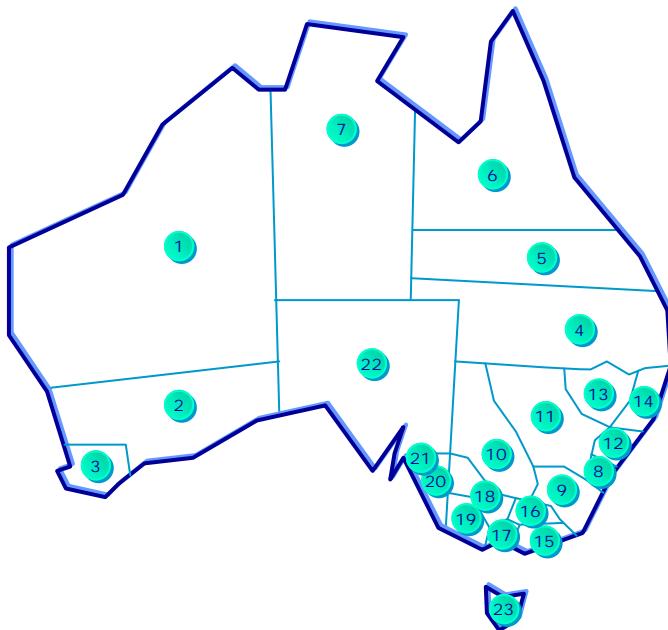
Dioceses

Province of Western Australia

1. North West Australia - www.anglicandnwa.org
2. Perth - www.perthanglicans.com.au
3. Bunbury - www.bunbury.org.au

Province of Queensland

4. Brisbane - www.anglicanbrisbane.org.au
5. Rockhampton - www.anglicanrock.org.au
6. North Queensland - www.anglicannq.org
7. Northern Territory -
www.northernterritory.anglican.org



Anglican Church of Australia
www.anglican.org.au

Province of South Australia

20. The Murray - www.murray.anglican.org
21. Adelaide - www.adelaide.anglican.com.au
22. Willochra - www.diowillochra.org.au

Province of New South Wales

8. Sydney - www.sydney.anglican.asn.au
9. Canberra Goulburn -
www.canberragoulburn.anglican.org
10. Riverina - www.anglicanriverina.com
11. Bathurst - www.bathurstanglican.org.au
12. Newcastle - www.angdon.com
13. Armidale - armidaleanglicandiocese.com
14. Grafton - graftondiocese.org.au

Extra Provincial Diocese

23. Tasmania - www.anglicantas.org.au

Province of Victoria

15. Gippsland - www.gippsanglican.org.au
16. Wangaratta - www.wangaratta.anglican.org
17. Melbourne - www.melbourne.anglican.com.au
18. Bendigo - www.bendigoanglican.org.au
19. Ballarat - www.ballaratanglican.org.au



Organisations

These are *some* of the national organisations operating within or under the auspices of the Anglican Church of Australia. Representatives can be found in most dioceses.

Anglican Board of Mission - Australia (ABM) Ltd

ABM is responsible for providing overseas partner Churches with assistance with evangelism, ministry, church and community development, and emergency relief.

phone: 1300 302 663

website: www.abmission.org

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC)

NATSIAC formally represents the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans. It helps provide pastoral care as well as helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministries.

National Home Mission Fund (Anglican Outback Fund)

This fund promotes the Anglican Church's mission in outback areas, by supporting clergy and parishes in various dioceses.

Anglicare Australia

Anglicare Australia is a network of care and social justice agencies that helps assist needy families, youth and children, the aged, unemployed and homeless Australians.

phone: 02 6230 1775

website: www.anglicare.asn.au

Bush Church Aid Society (BCA)

BCA's priority is mission to the isolated, remote urban and rural people of Australia. It nurtures faith and ministry, strengthens local communities and provides care and advocacy services.

phone: 02 9262 5017

website: www.bushchurchaid.com.au

Brotherhood of St Laurence

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is an independent organisation with strong Anglican and community links that fights for an Australia free of poverty.

phone: 03 9483 1347

website: www.bsl.org.au

Mission to Seafarers - Australian Council

The Mission to Seafarers *cares* for seafarers of all nationalities and creeds.

phone: 07 4771 2247

website: www.mts.org.au

MU Australia

MU Australia is a women's organisation that aims to share Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening, and supporting marriage and family life. It is part of the worldwide Mothers' Union.

website: www.mu.org.au



Social Issues

The website of the Anglican Church of Australia (www.anglican.org.au), links to various social issues of national importance. Much of the material is in the form of resolutions passed by General Synod. These expressed the general opinion of Synod at a given time, and were not necessarily the view of all Anglicans. With different representatives the overall opinion of Synod has changed, particularly as new members reflect the various changes in society that occur during the time intervals between each Synod. Issues examined on the website include in part:

- *Energy, Environment and Climate Change* - An report released on this issue is "*Common Belief: Australia's Faith Communities on Climate Change.*" The report is noted for examining moral issues, as well as technological issues, in relation to global warming.
- *Euthanasia* - This issue came to prominence when the Northern Territory government legalised euthanasia, before being overruled by the Federal Government. A resolution on this matter has been noted as drawing a distinction between euthanasia and the overall circumstances in which medical assistance can be withheld or withdrawn.
- *Family Issues* - Anglicare Australia produces an annual report called *State of the Family*. The 2006 issue examined the changing nature of families, especially those most disadvantaged by current social, economic and cultural shifts. Resolutions on this issue include sole parents, remarriage of divorced persons, mixed marriages, institution of marriage, civil celebrations, holy matrimony, marriage guidance, etc.
- *Cloning and Genetic Therapy* - In general, the opinion expressed by bishops and other Church representatives has been against the cloning of human beings and the destruction of human embryos to harvest stem cells. The site links to a number of responses, discussion papers, and submissions of importance to the debate on the issue.
- *Professional Standards* - A Child Protection Committee has been established to co-ordinate a national approach to sexual abuse. This is particularly in relation to the problem being national in character and the need for public awareness of a co-ordinated effort. A number of documents, including codes and protocols, have been circulated to the dioceses to use as a basis in formulating a set of common and appropriate policies.
- *Homosexuality* - The Anglican Church does not have a formal, official policy on the issue of homosexuality. Resolutions on this issue include commitment to a Christian response, the liturgical blessing of people in same sex relationships, the ordination of people in same sex relationships, membership within the Body of Christ, the role of Scriptures, etc.
- *Reproduction - IVF and Abortion* - Resolutions on this issue include abortion on demand, sexually transmitted and drug related diseases, responsible parenthood, etc.
- *Immigration and Multiculturalism* - Resolutions on this issue include asylum seekers, exclusion of immigrants by racial origin, inequality of sexes in immigration, etc.
- *Reconciliation and other Indigenous Issues* - Resolutions on this issue include the state of indigenous health, mandatory detention, reconciliation, the Stolen Generation, native title, the National Aboriginal Anglican Council, the doctrine of Terra Nullius, bishoprics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Aboriginal land rights, advancement of Aboriginal and Islander Australians, status of Aborigines, Aboriginal welfare, etc.

Resources on these issues have been developed by the Social Responsibility Committees of dioceses that have a committee. Some resources are available online from the above website. There are also links to the various social issues websites offered by some dioceses.



4.5 Engaging with the Governments

Christian social concern brings a distinctive understanding to the process of government. The ideas of stewardship and neighbourly love give dignity and value to community life. We have a responsibility to God, through our stewardship, for the exercising of political power over individuals and communities. Christians should consider whether the political process reflects a proper understanding of how people are made in God's image. The church has an invaluable opportunity to create change within communities whilst affecting change in government.

Every level of government described in this section has a far reaching impact on people's lives. It is one thing to understand how they work, but what about engaging with institutions and elected representatives? How can communities ensure that their views are voiced and heard and that the people elected justly represent them?

MU Australia tries to influence government legislation by speaking out as an organisation to ensure members' voices are heard. Everyone has an opportunity to influence governments' agendas to a greater or lesser extent. Individual action can have a significant impact on government policy, particularly if citizens and Christians take the right to vote seriously. When voting for your local councillors, or state and federal MPs, you should explore and examine the policies they are advocating and the impact these will have on your community.

Before trying to influence government, remember that the influence you hold as an individual or group is determined by three factors:

- **Expert Knowledge** - how do external people and organisations view you?
- **Legitimacy** - does your group have the right to speak out on a particular issue?
- **Representation** - does your group represents the views of others?

To be effective in exercising influence you need to be clear about who you wish to target, what you believe they can do for you and what you envisage as the end result of your action. At whichever level you choose to work, try to identify individual decision makers whose power enables them to make changes. Identify potential 'influencers' surrounding them as well. These people fall broadly into three categories:

- **Decision Approvers** - have the ultimate responsibility for passing the decision - for instance government cabinet members or local councillors.
- **Decision Stakeholders** - have an interest in the decision - these may be organizations or specific government departments.
- **Decision Advisers** - advise around the decision - those who are seen as a specialists in this area, including the public servants who will draft policy.

Clarify who you wish to influence

- Consider which level you wish to target? If this is on a local level, speak to councillors. If at state or federal level, look at who to influence in the various parliaments.
- Consider at which point you need to intervene. Campaign groups often target relevant legislation. They may speak to the policy advisers responsible for drafting the legislation and then try to persuade state or federal MPs for amendments or changes as the legislation passes through relevant parliament.



Identify decision makers with relevant interests

- Within the institution you are targeting, check for groups or individuals interested in your issue. On a local level, council committees address specific issue areas. Find out who sits on these committees, and which council members have been active in relevant areas. In a similar way, a number of focus groups are active in state or federal political institutions. Consider which MPs sit on relevant select committees or have expressed sympathy for your agenda.
- Monitor parliamentary questions, debates, etc. to establish who is sympathetic to your values.
- Read the local press to find out what your local councillors are working on - go along to meetings or get hold of the minutes to see when relevant issues come up, and check which councillors support your cause or work in relevant areas.
- In addition to your formal lobbying, be aware of informal channels of influence and processes that accompany formal decision making. Successful lobbying depends heavily on relationship building. Make MU Australia known at meetings, talks and among interest groups - this will help establish a strong reputation and develop potentially valuable contacts and networks.

Get people to support your cause

- After identifying potential target groups, establish working relationships with decision-makers. Elected representatives need good causes that the public can identify with, so try to get someone to champion your cause. If they agree, be sure they genuinely support the issue.
- Ensure the concern is widely recognised, write individual letters, and try to get representatives to raise the matter in their level of government.
- You may also want to meet your local council or parliamentary representatives. Councillors and MPs are often willing to meet constituents. Start the process with a formal letter stating the issue concisely, follow up with a phone call and then confirm the meeting in writing. Make sure that you leave your contact details and then stay in touch, providing updates on issues.
- Having a well respected government representative on board will help your campaign. Whilst you should always feel able to write to those in higher offices, such as cabinet members or party leaders, your cause will be aided by having the backing of other elected representatives.

Act as a Resource

- Ensure your group is seen as knowledgeable on a specific area. Politicians at all levels have heavy workloads and little spare time. They rely on organisations like MU Australia for information about specific subject areas. Develop a two-way relationship; as well as recognising they can assist you, ensure you act as a valuable resource in turn. Provide knowledge that others can access - well-researched and accurate briefings will enhance your credibility and act as a valuable lobbying tool.
- Maintaining good sources of information is vital to the planning process of any campaign or lobbying you undertake. In addition to having accurate statistics and briefings in place to support your cause, make sure you keep up with political developments. Keeping on top of issues helps develop educated opinions and enhance confidence when articulating views

Section 5

International Politics





Section 5 International Politics

5.1 AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD

Treaties

A treaty is an agreement between countries binding at international law. Treaties are also known as conventions, protocols, or covenants. They can be bilateral, between two countries, as in the ANZUS Alliance; or multilateral, between three or more countries, as in the UN Charter.

Declarations, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child, are not treaties. They are not intended to be binding. Such declarations may lead ultimately to the negotiation of a convention, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sanctions

Sanctions are punitive or coercive measures against a state or its nationals. Australia imposes two types of sanctions regimes.

1. United Nations Security Council sanctions against nations posing a threat to international peace and security. These include arms embargoes, travel sanctions, financial restrictions, and import/export bans. E.g. the implementation of sanctions against North Korea, due to their nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery.
2. Bilateral sanctions on certain countries and individuals to support its foreign policy objectives. These are similar to those of the UN. E.g. the implementation of sanctions against Zimbabwe, as Australia felt the government of Zimbabwe needed to take steps to restore the country to democracy and the rule of law.

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Security

Australia works with other countries to promote security in the Asia Pacific region. It achieves this, among other ways, through the:

- **ANZUS Pact** - is a treaty between Australia and the United States covering mutual aid in the event of armed attack. Australia and the US conduct a variety of joint activities, including military exercises, and operate several joint defence facilities in Australia.
- **Five Power Defence Arrangements** - were established between the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore. The five nations will consult each other in the event of external aggression or threat of attack against Malaysia or Singapore.
- **ASEAN Regional Forum** - brings together most Asia Pacific countries in informal multilateral dialogues to help address security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The closeness of the relationship with the US has been supported by cooperative military action in Iraq and Afghanistan. There has also been substantial policy convergence between Australia and the US, particularly in the area of regional and global terrorism.



Terrorism

Australia has a number of strategies in place with domestic and international terrorism. These include:

- the Australian Anti-Terrorism Act 2005 (Revised), legislation intended to hamper the activities of any potential terrorists in Australia
- bilateral memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on counter-terrorism with a number of countries to help deal with the extremist organisations in this area
- making it a criminal offence in Australia to hold assets that are owned or controlled by terrorist organisations or individuals, or to make assets available to them

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD's)

Superpower arsenals containing WMD's have been significantly reduced, and Australia no longer considers these a central threat to peace. Other developments, such as WMD's falling into the hands of terrorists, are seen as a security threat. Australia's works to contain this possibility.

An increasing number of countries are using nuclear power and mastering nuclear technology. Such countries could develop nuclear weapons. Australia's policy is to contain the numbers of such countries. As a party to setting international standards on the legitimate use of nuclear power, Australia hopes to ensure that the uranium mined in and exported from this country is not diverted to the nuclear weapons programs of other countries.

Peacekeeping

The Australian Defence Force has acted as UN and multinational peacekeepers and observers. E.g. the deployment of Australian military personnel to East Timor to help control outbreaks of violence. Australian military personnel have also served in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in a number of countries. E.g. RAMSI, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Island, helped restore law and order and stabilise government in the Solomon Islands. The Australian contingent comprised Australian Defence Force personnel, Australian Federal Police and personnel from the Australian Protective Service.

International Aid

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), manages Australia's official overseas aid program. AusAID's primary focus is on the Asia Pacific region. It aims to assist developing countries in reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development. E.g. Australia and Papua New Guinea are working together in the Enhanced Cooperation Program to help Papua New Guinea strengthen the areas of law and order, justice, economic management, public sector reform, border control, and transport security and safety.



Immigration

Legal migration into Australia occurs through the Migration Program or Humanitarian Program. To be accepted under the *migration program*, a person must be a skilled migrant or sponsored by a family member. The *humanitarian program* is designed for refugees and others with humanitarian needs.

Illegal Immigrants

All illegal immigrants face mandatory detention. Any illegal immigrant who arrives at an excised place, offshore islands excluded from the Australian Migration Zone, could be moved to an offshore detention centre. It is here that any claim for protection is considered. They have no right to apply for a visa, even as refugees, and have no recourse to Australian courts.

Unauthorised arrivals within the Australian Migration Zone (i.e. usually the mainland), are normally placed in mainland detention centres where any protection claims can be assessed. If they are recognised as refugees fleeing persecution, they could be issued a temporary protection visa. This is the main type of visa issued to a refugee released from a detention centre.

5.2 HUMAN RIGHTS

Numerous declarations, conventions and covenants have been adopted by the United Nations (UN) with particular relevance to human rights. The major legal instruments are:

1. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which sets out the human rights and fundamental freedoms to which, without any discrimination, all people are entitled.
2. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* and *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* which, as the two international covenants on human rights, are seen as interconnected and interdependent to each other.

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Other important Human Right legal instruments adopted by the UN are:

- *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*
- *Convention on the Political Rights of Women*
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*
- *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment*
- *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*
- *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*



Women's Rights

All the major human rights instruments include gender as one of the grounds upon which states may not discriminate. Other statutory bodies, legal instruments, etc. that deal with women's rights and the status of women include:

- *Committee on the Status of Women*
- *Convention on the Political Rights of Women*
- *Convention on the Nationality of Married Women*
- *Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages.*
- *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*
- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* - described as an "international bill of rights for women".
- *United Nations Decade for Women*
- *Declaration on Violence Against Women*
- *Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women*
- *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*

Children's Rights

A major instrument involved in the protection of children's rights is the *Convention of the Rights of the Child*. The convention stems from the belief that there are basic human rights to which all children are entitled. It details children's social, economic, political, civil and cultural rights; establishing standards in healthcare, education and legal and social services.

5.3 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (to which Australia is a party)

The United Nations (UN)

Any nation wishing to address international issues may join the UN forum. The primary objectives of the organisation, as laid down in its Charter, are to avoid the recurrence of violent conflicts, affirm fundamental human rights, guarantee respect for international law, and improve living standards across the globe.

A major commitment by all member states of the UN, has been to meet the targets of the eight Millennium Development Goals. These address key elements of human development and are to met by the year 2015. The goals are to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.



The UN charter established six principal organs as part of the UN system.

1. The *General Assembly*, the focal point of UN, consists of all nation members, It can not enforce its own decisions. They are recommendations only. Subsidiary bodies include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
2. The *Security Council* is charged with maintaining international peace and security. Its decisions are legally binding on member states. It encourages peaceful agreement by assisting in negotiations or by authorising peacekeeping operations. However, it has the power to enforce decisions by imposing sanctions or authorising collective military action.
3. The *Economic and Social Council* promotes global economic and social development. It coordinates the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
4. The *Trusteeship Council* was set up to monitor UN trusteeship arrangements. The Council has not met since the last of the trusteeships gained independence.
5. The *International Court of Justice (ICJ)* is the judicial organ of the UN. Its central task is to hear and adjudicate legal issues between UN member states.
6. The *Secretariat* is the administrative organ of the UN, consisting of the Secretary-General and UN staff, who work for the other five organs of the UN.

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is an international grouping of nations sharing historic links with the United Kingdom. The supreme executive body is the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The Commonwealth works to promote good governance among member countries and has played an increasing role in protecting human rights in member states.

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Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD is the main forum for monitoring and evaluating economic trends and developments in its member countries. The organisation has extensive records on its member economies and publishes a wide range of this material. The published data is used by both member, and non-member countries, to compare trends and developments in their economies.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The WTO is international body established to promote and enforce global free trade. It administers and polices a large number of free-trade agreements within the multilateral trading system, oversees world trade practices, and adjudicates trade disputes between member states.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC is a forum for member Asia-Pacific economies to meet and pursue common trade and economic goals. APEC's "three pillars" - trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation - form the basis of its work.



ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the Southeast Asian region. The ASEAN Regional Forum is the principal body on security dialogue in Asia.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation aims to facilitate trade and investment in the region. The Association disseminates information to help the business community better understand barriers that exist to trade and investment within the region.

Pacific Islands Forum

The Pacific Islands Forum is a regional political organisation in the Pacific. It brings together the Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing States of the Pacific islands region. Forum meetings focus heavily on regional trade and economic issues. However, good governance and security have recently become part of the Forum's agenda.

5.4 TRADE RELATIONSHIPS (to which Australia is a party)

Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER Agreement)

The Australia New Zealand CER Agreement is the main instrument governing economic relations between Australia and New Zealand. Its central provision is the creation of a Free Trade Area between the two countries. Due to the CER Agreement all tariffs and quantitative restrictions on trade in goods between the two countries have been eliminated.

ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) - Australia New Zealand CER Trade Agreement Closer Economic Partnership

The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) comprises the ten countries of ASEAN. An AFTA and Australia New Zealand CER linkage has been confirmed and the two regions are working towards economic integration through a Closer Economic Partnership (CEP).

Free Trade Agreements - FTA's

Australia has signed or is pursuing a number of FTA's with several major trading partners. The FTA with the US is of special importance in terms of the potential gain to the Australian economy and the active benefits of integration with the US economy. This is even though various concerns were expressed about the FTA diverting trade from Australia's other partners; effecting the local content provision in TV and film; not allowing access to agriculture products due to a heavily subsidised and protected American market; and affecting the provision of medications at greatly reduced prices, through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).



5.5 THE ENVIRONMENT

Antarctica

Activities in Antarctica and its surrounding seas are governed by the Antarctic Treaty. With Antarctica being the last great wilderness on earth, the Madrid Protocol was created under the Antarctic Treaty System to make certain mutually agreed resolutions on the environment legally binding upon member nations. The protocol deals with environmental impact assessments, conservation of Antarctic fauna and flora, waste disposal and management, prevention of marine pollution, area protection, and management and liability.

Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body responsible for assessing the state of knowledge about climate change. Its findings provide the rationale for international action. The basis for the international response is the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Kyoto Protocol to the Convention was developed through the UNFCCC and sets emissions targets for certain UNFCCC parties. Australia has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, even though it has stated its commitment to meeting agreed limit emissions.

The Ozone Layer

The Montreal Protocol on the Depletion of the Ozone Layer sets out a mandatory timetable for the phasing out of ozone depleting substances (e.g. Chlorofluorocarbons – CFC's). Depletion has been linked with the subsequent increased penetration of cancer related Ultra-Violet radiation. Depletion was also thought to be causing the appearance of a highly reduced area of ozone (the Ozone hole) over the Antarctic. The maintenance of a global alliance to protect the ozone layer is seen as an important measure in helping preventing depletion of the layer over Australia.

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Whaling

Australia is a member of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), whose purpose is to provide for the conservation of whale stocks. Over the decades, most members have abandoned whaling, but continued to view the IWC as the forum for conserving whale populations.

Australia's opposition to commercial whaling is based on the following principles:

- commercial whaling is no longer required to meet essential human needs
- even with modern improvements, commercial whaling methods continue to involve unacceptable levels of cruelty
- communities world-wide are increasingly recognising and benefiting from the protection of whales through, for example, whale-watching

Some IWC members have continued to authorise whaling operations, ostensibly for scientific research, whilst deriving commercial benefits from the operations. Australia is opposed to "scientific research" whaling programs and has called for an end to commercial whaling.

Section 6

Have a go!





Section 6 Having a go!

The purpose of this section is to give members the opportunity to experience some of the processes explained in the toolkit. Members can use these group activities to practice 'having a go' at social responsibility.

The exercises will help:

- Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinators understand their role
- Branches help their members understand what social responsibility is and how to get involved
- Individual members develop appropriate skills

6.1 Prayer Meeting - Group Discussion

Aim

To enable members to experience the practicalities of organising a prayer meeting. Prayer meetings can be used to raise members' awareness of social responsibility and develop an understanding of how social responsibility stems from our faith.

Background

You want to raise the profile of social responsibility with members and the church. Organising a prayer meeting will provide a valuable opportunity for reflection and prayerful consideration. Time and space in which members can contemplate and question issues is essential to allow people to develop their understanding. Members will be able to establish an appreciation of the values underpinning social responsibility and their understanding of God's will. Prayer meetings nurture the spirit, offer social interaction and present opportunities for members with different interests to support the work of others.

Action

Imagine your group has been asked to organise a prayer meeting. Discuss the following points:

- Who will help organise the meeting?
- Where will you hold the event?
- How will you advertise the event?
- Will you have a particular theme for the meeting?
- Which quotes and reflections will you use?
- Will you have speakers? Who? Speaking about what?
- Will you have displays? Displaying what?
- How will you facilitate discussions about social responsibility issues and faith?

Give reasons for your choices; for example, this is a good venue because it is accessible and has plenty of room to disperse small Bible study groups.



Below are two examples of reflections that could be used in a prayer meeting. They raise valuable points regarding the relationship between social responsibility and Christianity. They are also examples of questions that could be used to start discussion.

- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." *Philippians 2:3-4*
- "No one should be so contemplative that in contemplation he does not think of his neighbour's needs: no one so active that he does not seek the contemplation of God" *Augustine of Hippo, City of God*

Ask members to draw upon their own values and experiences when considering the quotes. Offer them the opportunity to study the Bible and seek guidance. Work in small groups to share members' interpretations of the quotes.

For example: What priorities and themes can we read in them? Are the quotes about social responsibility in particular? What can we learn from them about individuals and societies? How should members respond to these instructions? Do they say anything about the relationship between responsibility, prayer and projects?

Action

Choose two different Bible quotes or reflections that you think would be good starting points to get members thinking about social responsibility and their faith. Think of appropriate questions.

6.2 Local Consultation - Role Play

Aim

To equip members to undertake consultations within their own diocese. Consultations are used to allow individuals and organisations to speak confidently on behalf of those they represent.

Background

Imagine your local council is thinking of allowing an organisation to develop an area of land, within easy access of a primary school, into a facility with accommodation for the rehabilitation of drug offenders. The issue is proving contentious and the council has asked local groups to comment.

You want to comment as a local community group. However, you are uncertain about members' feelings. Before you speak on behalf of local members, you need to consult them.

Action

- There are 150 members in your diocese
- You have 6 weeks to submit comments to the council
- You want to write to the council giving them your results



Divide into groups A, B and C and imagine:

Group A is producing and posting a tick box questionnaire for members

Group B is producing and posting a questionnaire requesting members' comments

Group C is organising a local meeting so members can verbally discuss their comments

In your groups discuss the advantages and disadvantages of your method of consultation:

- What preparation is involved?
- Is there enough time?
- How will you explain the background to participants?
- What questions will you need to ask?
- How will you phrase them appropriately?
- How will you collate the responses?
- How will you present the responses to the council? Consider both the possibility of a consensus and a diversity of views.

6.3 Social Responsibility Consultation - Ideas

Aim

To illustrate to members how to feed consultations into their Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator, giving a voice to members' work, concerns and recommendations for action.

Background

Social Responsibility Co-ordinators work to represent members' interests in their public representations and therefore need to keep informed about membership activities and opinions. Imagine the Co-ordinator has asked for feedback to contribute to a consultation on federal government support for families. The Co-ordinator needs to know how well families are supported in communities and recommendations for more effective support.

MU Australia members could do this in a variety of ways, for instance:

- Allocate time in a meeting to brainstorm the different ways in which you can see families are supported in the community. Try to think both inside and outside the church community. E.g. consider child care centres and tax support.
- Highlight all the ways in which you see that federal government policies are either helping or hindering families. Try to think about this from the perspectives of different family forms. E.g. single parents and two parent families may have very different views of child care centres and tax support.
- Approach volunteers to do a bit of research! Ask people you know are involved in different community projects, or work with relevant organisations, to write a paragraph talking about their experiences and thoughts on what the government is doing well for families and where it could improve support. Try to draw responses from a range of people.

Think of the different methods of consultation that have been illustrated in this toolkit!



6.4 Lobbying - Role Play

Aim

To expose members to a realistic enactment of a lobbying meeting. The activity will help to develop confidence and can be used as a learning experience.

Background

Members in a local branch have been volunteering at a community and family disability support centre. The facilities are not purpose-built and members would like the relevant state government body to fund a purpose-built centre. In response to letters from members, the local state MP and a manager of the government body have agreed to meet to discuss the issue.

Action

Members should divide into two groups of 2 or 3 and assume the following roles:

Group 1 Lobbyists - including a MU Australia volunteer at the disability support centre, the parent of a young client, and the manager of the centre. Group 1 is concerned that clients are not receiving the full benefits of the support services due to the inadequacy of the facilities. Their aim is to discuss encourage the MP and manager to help support funding from the government.

Group 2 Targets - the MP and manager from the government. Group 2 is concerned about the cost of purpose built-facilities and the financial implications of building such facilities for other support centres wishing the same.

Preparation for meeting

Each group should meet separately to prepare for the lobbying meeting. Allow approximately 30 minutes. Within the two groups you might have different priorities and ideas so you will need to:

- Negotiate your priorities and come to some agreements
- Agree what you will say in the meeting
- Decide who will lead your group

As a group, before the meeting you will need to be clear about:

- What you want to achieve
- On what you are prepared to compromise
- How you will deliver your argument (with case studies, statistics, etc)

The Lobby Meeting

The lobbyists should join the targets and commence the meeting. All the 'rules' for a meeting should be followed. The meeting should last approximately 20 minutes.

De-brief

Immediately after the meeting, each group should reconvene separately to evaluate their performance and achievements. The two groups should then assess the meeting together, to share their experiences, thoughts and ideas. What went well? What could be improved?



6.5 Letter Writing - Group Discussion

Purpose

To give members the opportunity to identify and use appropriate information and techniques in letter writing.

Background

Imagine members have approached their Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator about concerns over the rise in HIV and AIDS reported in the news. They are keen that MU Australia write to the federal government asking them to initiate a public campaign to raise awareness. The Co-ordinator realises that letter writing would have more effect if members wrote individual letters.

Action

What would the Co-ordinator have to consider if they were helping members to write about an issue? Discuss in groups:

- Who would they talk to beforehand?
- What information would they want to find out and include?
- To whom would they write the letter?
- How would they present information to members to enable them to write individually?

6.6 Media Interview - Group Discussion

Purpose

To develop members' confidence in dealing with the press

Background

There has been media coverage and controversial debate in your local community about a priest who refused to marry a couple in church because one partner was a divorcee.

Action

Your local newspaper has telephoned you to ask: "What is MU Australia's opinion about remarriage in church after divorce?"

In small groups, discuss the points you would make to the journalist about marriage in church after divorce. Think about the following:

- The position of the Anglican Church in Australia
- The position of each individual diocese
- The diversity of membership within MU Australia
- The aim of MU Australia
- Pastoral implications
- The need to inform the Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator of your actions



6.7 Job Description - Task

Aim

To help clarify the role of the Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator for the current post holder or to help recruit a Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator.

Action

To write a job description for a Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator. Think about:

- The skills that are needed
- The types of activities and issues on which your diocese focuses
- How you envisage the Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinator relating to other units and co-ordinators
- How you prioritise the different aspects of the job
- Whether you want the Social Responsibility Co-ordinator to concentrate on co-coordinating members' responsibility activities or to act as a leader in social responsibility

Section 7

Sheets for Photocopying





Social Responsibility

Explained

Social responsibility can be defined as: a decision or initiative that is taken by a person with authority that will affect the welfare of people in a community or country.

Individuals and communities can engage in social responsibility by influencing people in power, policies, and structures to achieve change. We want those in power to act more justly and equitably in the policies and practices implemented, so we become involved in the process of social responsibility.

We can engage with social policy by:

- identifying the needs that arise from social problems
- voicing these concerns
- finding ways of resolving issues
- influencing the policies and initiatives of decision makers

There are many different activities that can be used for carrying out social responsibility, including:

- Awareness raising
- Lobbying
- Praying
- Campaigning
- Organising discussions
- Responding to consultations
- Writing letters

Groups or individuals can carry out social responsibility. It can be a one off activity or an ongoing process. Social responsibility can be undertaken directly by the individuals affected, on behalf of others, or by both.

Social policy is determined at local, state, national and global levels. Members worldwide can engage with the process by informing and shaping strategy and policy making at each level.



Social Responsibility

Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinators

The key role of the Social Responsibility Co-ordinator is to co-ordinate members and activities

Guiding points

- Be the main **point of contact** for social responsibility in your diocese.
- **Keep up to date** with what's going on in the news locally, nationally and internationally.
- **Provide support, information and advice** to others exploring issues and engaging with social responsibility.
- **Raise awareness**, share and explore ideas about social responsibility issues.
- **Get the views of the diocese heard.**
- **Organise campaigns and lobbying activities.**
- **Develop links** with people interested in relevant social responsibility issues both within MU Australia and within other organisations.
- **Help local groups and members to understand social responsibility** and its importance. **Encourage** them to engage with the issues.
- **Record and monitor** social responsibility activities in the diocese to co-ordinate their effectiveness.
- **Pass on social policy information** to other people - within your diocese, between dioceses and to the Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator.
- Set up a **fast track system** in the diocese to support individuals engaging with social responsibility and representing you at different organisations.

At the diocesan level, no individual member can speak on behalf of MU Australia. This can be only done by the Diocesan President, who sends a copy of what is said on any matter to the Australian President and the Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator.



Guidelines

Letter Writing

One of the best ways of communicating your views about an issue is to write a letter to the relevant level of government. Your local councillor, state or federal MP has the job of representing the views of their electorate.

Receiving individual letters from many people is very effective. Taking the time to compose a letter and explaining your concerns shows real commitment and interest.

- The letter should be concise – no longer than two sides of an A4 paper.
- Make sure the letter is well presented - type if possible.
- Ensure the letter is properly addressed with the correct title.
- Always be polite, courteous and reasoned.
- Be precise about the points you want to make. Back up your position with evidence, quote statistics if they are from a reliable source and give personal examples.
- When writing about an issue relate it to current legislation if appropriate.
- Encourage others to write individually. If you want others to write a letter explain the main points and ask them to use their own words. It is far more effective.
- You cannot write on behalf of MU Australia, but you can refer to any MU Australia information that you have used in coming to your position on a matter.
- When writing to an MP or local councillor, suggest what action you would like him or her to take.
- Send or take a copy of your letter to your branch Social Responsibility person.
- If you are writing on behalf of a group, make sure you are clear about how many are sharing your views.

You may only write as a member and not as a representative of MU Australia. Only the Australian and Diocesan Presidents can write on behalf of MU Australia.



Letters to Councillors and Members of Parliament

- Letters to Shire, City or Town councillors can be sent to the office of the local government in your area.
- Letters to members of Parliament are sent C/- Parliament House in your State or Territory Capital, if it is concerning state government responsibilities.
- For Commonwealth matters: Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
- If your complaint is about a specific area ,address your letter to the appropriate minister with copies to your local member. You can also send a copy to your Premier, Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.
- If you do not receive a reply, do not hesitate to write again, and also include a copy to the Ombudsman.

My Local Government Representative:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:..... Fax:.....

email:.....

My Local State/Territory Member:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone: Fax:.....

email:.....

My Federal Member:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:..... Fax:.....

email:.....



Media Complaints

- Write immediately
- Identify the offensive advertisement, article, programme or display.
- Identify the medium and format
 - Medium: Radio or television: station, date and time.
Newspaper, magazine: name issue and date.
Internet: full web address.
Outdoors: billboard location or transit route.
 - Format: advertisement, news program, drama, newspaper column, feature, article, etc.
- Include a copy of print material
- You may wish to refer to the *Advertising Code of Ethics*, which states:
 - Clause 5: Advertisements shall not engage in unlawful discrimination and shall not demean the dignity of men women or children. And/or*
 - Clause 6: Advertisements shall not contain anything which in the light of generally prevailing community standards is likely to cause serious offence to the community or a significant section of the community.*

ABOUT	WRITE TO	SEND COPIES TO
Advertising	Station manager Editor/publisher Advertising agency Advertising Standards Council	Product owner Interested parties
TV/Radio	Station manager Australian Broadcasting Authority	
Print	Editor/publisher Australian Press Council	



Sample Letter (for media comment)

Date:

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to express my concern about

(name of ad/item/programme)

I saw this ad/item/program

(when, where, station/publication name)

I have enclosed a photocopy of the print items

I believe this ad/item/programme contravenes Clauses 5 and 6 of the *Advertising Code of Ethics*, which states:

Clause 5: Advertisements shall not engage in unlawful discrimination and shall not demean the dignity of men women or children. And/or

Clause 6: Advertisements shall not contain anything which in the light of generally prevailing community standards is likely to cause serious offence to the community or a significant section of the community.

Other comments

I encourage you to use positive and realistic images which reflect the diversity that is Australian life.

I look forward to your early reply.

Name:

Address:

Copy to:



Contact Addresses for Media and Advertising Complaints:

<p>The Chairperson Australian Broadcasting Authority Head Office PO Box Q500 Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230 www.acma.gov.au</p>	<p>Office of Film and Literature Classification 23-33 Mary Street Surry Hills NSW 2010 www.oflc.gov.au</p>
<p>The Outdoor Advertising Assoc of Aust. PO Box 6049 Delivery Centre French's Forest NSW 2086 www.bandt.com.au</p>	<p>The Director Commercial Acceptance Division Federation of Australian Commercial Television Station (FACTS) 44 Avenue Road Mosman NSW 2088 www.facts.org.au</p>
<p>Australian Competition & Consumer Commission PO Box 10048 Brisbane Adelaide St QLD 4000 www.accc.gov.au</p>	<p>The Federal Director Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters Ltd Suite 10 82-86 Pacific Hwy St Leonards SW 2065 www.commercialradio.com.au</p>
<p>Australian Consumers' Association 57 Carrington Road Marrickville NSW 2204 www.accc.gov.au</p>	<p>The Executive Secretary Australian Press Council 149 Castlereagh St Sydney NSW 2000 www.presscouncil.org.au/</p>
<p>Australian Copyright Council 245 Chalmers St Redfern NSW 2016 www.copyright.org.au</p>	<p>Community Broadcasting Association of Australia PO Box 564 Alexandria NSW 2015 www.cbaa.org.au</p>
<p>Commonwealth Ombudsman GPO Box 442 Canberra ACT 2601 www.comb.gov.au</p>	



Tips

Poster Design

A poster is distinguished from other types of media by the fact that it speaks to the audience 'on the move'. Newspapers, leaflets and newsletters are designed for the reader who has time to read for a while. On the other hand, the poster must capture attention and get the message across in a matter of seconds. It must make the reader want to take the desired action through a brief message packed with punch or veiled in subtlety.

The purpose of the poster is usually to announce an event, to develop an attitude, to promote a service or to sell a product. In the case of social responsibility, it is usually one of the first two.

The characteristics of a successful poster:

- It grabs people's attention
- It must be convincing
- A striking use of colour is important
- Keep it simple

There are certain design qualities that will improve your poster. The first is balance, using either symmetry or a central focal point with variations on either side. Second is movement, whereby you draw the viewer's attention from one part of the poster to another with your design. The third is emphasis, using text, colour or bold font to highlight the most important information. The final quality is unity; you should make sure that your poster holds together and looks coherent.

Think carefully about the colours you choose, are they to emphasise a point, be symbolic, or to attract attention? Think also about your lettering; keep it simple, easy to read, and attractive.

An effective poster is always specific - don't incorporate too many messages. It is for a single purpose and based on a single theme.



Appendix Resources

RESOURCES

- **Mia Mia** - contains useful articles for Social Responsibility Co-ordinators as well as an avenue for Co-ordinators to publish their own articles
- **Enews** – an electronic newsletter put out by the Australian Social Responsibility Department containing information to help Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinators
- **Social Responsibility Newsletter** – from the Australian Social Responsibility Co-ordinator and also containing information to help Diocesan Social Responsibility Co-ordinators
- **MU Australia Parenting Program (PEP)** – examines a number facets of parenting. Any enquiries relating to the program should be directed to the Immediate Past President, Mrs Jan Livingstone, email: ipp@mu.org.au, or phone: (02) 4872-4254.

WEBSITES

MU Australia

- www.mu.org.au - MU Australia
- muwarehouse.org.au - MU Warehouse
- www.musydney.org.au - MU Australia Sydney Diocese

Mothers Union Worldwide

- www.themothersunion.org - United Kingdom
- www.canterburyprovincemu.org.uk - Province of Canterbury
- www.muyorkdiocese.org - Province of York
- www.mothersunioncanada.ca - Canada
- www.mothersunion.ie - All Ireland
- www.muscotland.org.uk - Scotland
- www.mothersunionusa.org - United States of America
- www.cariblife.com/pub/mothersunion - Mother's Union of Barbados

Australian Anglican

- www.anglican.org.au - Anglican Church of Australia (with links to diocesan websites)
- www.ministry-development.org/main/resources.html - Anglican Resource Centre
- www.anglicare.asn.au - Anglicare Australia (with links to member agencies)
- www.anglicancursillo.org.au - Australian Cursillo (with links to diocesan websites)
- www.abmission.org - Anglican Board of Mission - Australia
- www.bushchurcaid.com.au - Bush Church Aid Society
- www.churcharmy.com.au - Church Army
- www.cms.org.au - Church Missionary Society
- www.mts.org.au - Missions to Seafarers
- www.spcka.org.au - SPCKA (The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)



Anglican Social Responsibilities

- www.angdon.com/src - Newcastle - Social Responsibilities Committee
- www.anglicantas.org.au/issues - Tasmania - Issues
- www.melbourne.anglican.com.au/main.php?id=987 - Melbourne - S. R. Committee
- your.sydneyanglicans.net/socialissues - Sydney - Social Issues Executive
- www.anglicansrcwa.org/ - Western Australia - Social Responsibilities Commission

International Anglican

- iafn.anglicancommunion.org - International Anglican Family Network
- www.anglicancommunion.org - The Anglican Communion
- anglicansonline.org - Anglicans Online
- www.iawn.org - International Anglican Women's Network

Australian Government

- www.gov.au - Australian Government (with links to all other levels of government)
- www.aph.gov.au - Parliament of Australia (with links to all other parliaments)
- www.familycourt.gov.au - Family Court of Australia

Women's Equality

- ofw.facsia.gov.au - Office for Women
- www.women.gov.au - Australian Government Women's Portal
- www.windowonwomen.gov.au - Window on Women
- www.nwjc.org.au - National Women's Justice Coalition
- www.eowa.gov.au - Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace
- www.wel.org.au - Women's Electoral Lobby Australia
- www.ncwa.org.au - National Council of Women of Australia
- www.nfaw.org - National Foundation for Australian Women
- www.unifem.org.au - UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Australia
- www.un.org/womenwatch - UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality
- www.womensactionalliance.com.au - Women's Action Alliance
- www.wesnet.org.au - Women's Services Network (WESNET)

Family Relationships

- www.youngmedia.org.au - Young Media Australia
- www.aifs.gov.au - Australian Institute of Family Studies
- www.aifs.gov.au/afrc - Australian Family Relationships Clearing House
- www.aifs.gov.au/growingup - Growing Up in Australia
- www.familyassist.gov.au - Family Assistance Office
- www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Family_Life - Family Life
- www.familyrelationships.gov.au - Family Relationships Online
- www.kidsindistress.org.au - Kids In Distress Australia Inc
- www.relationships.com.au - Relationships Australia
- www.raisingchildren.net.au - Raising Children Network



Domestic Violence

- www.aifs.gov.au - Australian Institute of Family Studies
- www.aifs.gov.au/acssa - Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault
- www.aifs.gov.au/nch - National Child Protection Clearinghouse
- ofw.facsia.gov.au - Office for Women
- www.australiasaysno.gov.au – Australia Says No
- ofw.facsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda - Women's Safety Agenda - Elimination of Violence
- ofw.facsia.gov.au/womens_safety_agenda/domestic_violence_help - Domestic Violence Help
- www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au - The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse
- www.kidsindistress.org.au - Kids In Distress Australia Inc
- www.wesnet.org.au - Wesnet –The Women's Services Network
- www.dvcs.org.au - Domestic Violence Crisis Service
- www.relationships.com.au/advice/building-better-relationships/violence-and-abuse-in-relationships - Relationships Australia - Violence and Abuse in Relationships

Human Rights

- www.hreoc.gov.au - Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- www.ahrcentre.org - The Australian Human Rights Centre
- www.amnesty.org.au - Amnesty International Australia
- www.piac.asn.au - Public Interest Advocacy Centre:
- www.australiancollaboration.com.au - Australian Collaboration
- www.ohchr.org/english - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- www.echr.coe.int/echr - European Court of Human Rights
- www.hrea.org - Human Rights Education Associates
- www.huridocs.org - Human Rights Information and Documentation System
- www.hri.ca - Human Rights Internet
- www.hrw.org - Human Rights Watch

Refugees

- www.refugeecouncil.org.au - The Refugee Council of Australia
- www.crr.unsw.edu.au - Centre for Refugee Research
- www.ajustaustralia.com - A Just Australia
- www.unrefugees.org.au - Australia for UNHCR
- www.safecom.org.au/refugees.htm - Safecom - Refugees
- www.ausref.net/ - Australian Refugee Association
- www.chilout.org - Children Out of Detention (Chilout)
- www.ncca.org.au - National Council of Churches
- www.rrt.gov.au - Refugee Review Tribunal



Racism

- www.australiansagainstracism.org - Australians Against Racism
- www.immi.gov.au - Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- www.fecca.org.au - Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
- www.racismnoway.com.au - Racism. No Way
- www.hri.ca - World Conference on Racism

Indigenous Affairs

- www.indigenousjustice.gov.au - Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse
- www.reconciliation.org.au - Reconciliation Australia
- www.oipc.gov.au - Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination
- www.aboriginalemploymentstrategy.com.au - Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- www.ilc.gov.au/ - Indigenous Land Corporation
- www.nntt.gov.au/ - National Native Title Tribunal
- www.aiatsis.gov.au - Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- www.antar.org.au - Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation
- www.indigenousleadership.org.au - Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre
- www.koorimail.com.au - Koori Mail
- www.nasca.com.au - National Aboriginal Sports Corporation of Australia

Poverty

- www.acoss.org.au - The Australian Council of Social Service
- www.makepovertyhistory.com.au - Make Poverty History.
- www.millenniumcampaign.org - The Millennium Campaign
- www.unmillenniumproject.org - The Millennium Project
- www.whiteband.org - The Global Call to Action against Poverty

Homelessness

- www.afho.org.au - Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations
- www.aihw.gov.au/housing/sacs/faqs.cfm - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare - Homelessness FAQs
- www.chp.org.au/ - Council to Homeless Persons
- www.countingthehomeless.com.au - Counting the Homeless - Australian Bureau of Statistics
- www.mission.com.au - Mission Australia
- www.piac.asn.au - Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- www.acoss.org.au - The Australian Council of Social Service



Aids and HIV

- www.worldaidsday.org.au - World AIDS Day Australia
- www.aids.net.au - Australian AIDS Fund
- <http://www.afao.org.au/> - Australian Federation of Aids Organisations
- www.aids.net.au - AIDS Information Services
- www.napwa.org.au - Napwa - National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- www.who.int/en - World Health Organisation
- www.unfpa.org/hiv - UN Population Fund - Preventing HIV Infection
- www.aidsmap.com - Aidsmap - Living With HIV and Aids
- www.aegis.com - AEGIS - Aids Education Global Information System
- www.unaids.org - UNAIDS - Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS

Environment

- www.ipcc.ch - UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- www.environment.gov.au - Department of the Environment and Water Resources
- www.aaen.org.au - Australian Anglican Environment Network (with links to diocesan environment websites)
- www.environment.perth.anglican.org - General Synod Environment Working Group
- www.climateinstitute.org.au/cia1/downloads/041206_common_belief.pdf - Australia's Faith Communities Comment on Climate Change
- www.foe.org.au - Friends of the Earth
- www.cana.net.au - Climate Action Network Australia
- www.acfonline.org.au - The Australian Conservation Foundation
- www.greenpeace.org.au/ - Greenpeace Australia
- www.wwf.org.au - World Wildlife Fund Australia
- www.safecom.org.au/sustainable.htm - Safecom - Sustainable Earth

Euthanasia

- www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/euthanasia - Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- WWW.internationaltaskforce.org/austr.htm - Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide in Australia
- www.euthanasia.com/page7.html euthanasia.com - Euthanasia
- www.vesnsw.org.au - Voluntary Euthanasia Society of New South Wales
- www.actrtla.org.au/euthan.htm - ACT Right to Life Association - Euthanasia
- www.qrtl.org.au - Queensland Right to Life
- www.dwdv.org.au - Dying with Dignity Victoria
- www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/Act1.nsf - Euthanasia Laws Act 1997
- www.mja.com.au/public/issues/178_04_170203/som10499_fm.html eMJA - The Medical Journal of Australia - Debating euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide in Australia
- www.nt.gov.au/lant/parliament/committees/rotti/rotti.shtml - NT Legislative Assembly Select Committee on Euthanasia



In Vitro Fertilisation

- www.ivf.com.au - IVF Australia
- www.abc.net.au/health/features/infertility/ivf.htm - IVF Infertility - ABC Health Matters
- www.ivf.org.au - IVF.org
- www.biotechnologyonline.gov.au/human/ivf.cfm - Biotechnology Online - IVF
- www.nochimera.com/ivf_ethics.html - The Ethics of IVF
- web.aanet.com.au/cmcdonald/Articles - The Ethics of IVF
- www.ivf-infertility.com/ivf/frozen6.php - Embryo Freezing
- www.ivf-infertility.com - IVF-infertility.com

Abortion

- www.abortion.org.au - Abortion Access and Information
- www.apfa.org.au - Abortion Providers Federation of Australia
- www.survivorsofabortion.org.au - Survivors of Abortion
- www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Abortion - Abortion
- www.aph.gov.au/library/Pubs/rp/1998-99/99rp01.htm - Abortion Law in Australia
- www.mja.com.au/public/issues/181_04_160804/dec10242_fm.html - Medical Journal of Australia - Abortion - Australia's Confusing Laws
- www.nswrtl.org.au/abortion.html - NSW Right to Life - Abortion
- www.pregnancyadvisorycentre.com.au/facts_about_abortion.html - The Facts About Abortion

Workplace Agreements

- www.w/workplace/Organisation/Employer/Agreements - Agreements and Awards
- www.workplaceohs.com.au/Workplace-Agreements.asp - Workplace Agreements
- www.actu.asn.au/YourRightsatWork/ your rights at work - Australian Council of Trade Unions
- alp.org.au - ALP Policy (Search for Work Choices)
- www.workplaceinfo.com.au/alert/WorkChoices/AWAs.htm - Australia Workplace Awards

Homosexuality

- www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Homosexuality - Healthinsite - Homosexuality
- www.psychology.org.au/publications/tip_sheets/orientation - The Australian Psychological Society - Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality
- www.stpeters.org.au/ausanglican/sexuality.shtml - Anglicanism and Homosexuality in the 70's
- www.bibleed.com/bibleteachings/pamphlets/homosexuality.htm - Homosexuality & the Church
- www.australianmarriageequality.com - Australian Marriage Equality
- www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/ti29.pdf - Homosexual Law Reform Australia
- www.saltshakers.org.au/html/P/9/B/184 - Homosexuality - The Law in Australia



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