

# JUST ACT

ACT WITH JUSTICE IN MIND

News & resources from the Justice and International Mission Cluster

JULY 2023



## COMMONWEALTH BUDGET MEASURES

**The Commonwealth Government handed down a budget on 9 May. Below are measures announced that relate to the areas you, our supporters, have expressed interest in, have campaigned on, and may have received limited mainstream media attention.**

### Climate Change

#### On the positive side:

- \$2 billion to support the development of large-scale renewable hydrogen projects.
- The Government budgeted to spend \$1.6 billion to improve energy efficiency, including for social housing and small businesses. The Government has pointed out that Australia ranks 58th out of 63 countries on energy use per person.
- \$1.4 billion was allocated under the Powering the Regions Fund for clean energy growth.
- \$302.1 million is to be spent over five years to support a climate-friendly, sustainable agriculture sector.
- \$83.2 million over four years was allocated to set up a National Net Zero Authority. The Authority will be responsible for assisting workers, industries and communities to transition to a net zero economy as smoothly as possible.

It will support workers in emission-intensive sectors to access new employment, skills and support as the net zero emissions transformation progresses. It will also coordinate programs and policies across government to support regions and communities to attract and take advantage of new clean energy industries and set those industries up for success.

- A 20% tax deduction for small and medium businesses for spending that moves towards electrification and energy efficiency measures.
- \$20.9 million over five years for a national plan to decarbonise transport and infrastructure.
- A small investment of \$7.4 million to develop fuel efficiency standards.

#### On the negative side:

- The Government will spend \$41 billion over four years on

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the Fuel Tax Credit scheme to subsidise the use of fossil fuels.

- \$6.7 million to support the development of more gas production.

### Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

- No news was bad news, with the Government not announcing any increase in the number of refugees Australia will provide places for. The refugee intake remains at 17,875 places, despite the new Government having promised to increase it incrementally to 32,000 places, including 5,000 places available through sponsorship by community groups.
- The Government has allocated \$136 million over four years to assist survivors of torture and trauma experienced before coming to Australia to seek asylum.
- Payments to support people seeking asylum in Australia have been budgeted at \$37 million in the 2023 to 2024 financial year. In the last financial year, only \$15 million was provided in support payments. In the 2015 to 2016 financial year, support payments to people seeking asylum were \$300 million.
- The Government will provide \$9.1 million over the next year for the Youth Transition Support services. The services improve employment, education and social connections for refugees and vulnerable migrants aged 15 to 25.

### Modern Slavery

- The Government allocated \$8 million over four years to estab-

lish an Anti-Slavery Commissioner. The Commissioner will support businesses and charities to comply with their obligations under the *Modern Slavery Act*.

- There will be penalties for businesses and charities that fail to comply with the provisions of the *Modern Slavery Act*.
- \$23.4 million will be spent on the Support for Trafficked People Program over four years, which provides support to survivors of human trafficking in Australia. In the last financial year, 180 people received support through the Program. The length of support on the Program will be doubled from 45 days to 90 days.

### Curbing Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence

- \$262.6 million to support women's safety in First Nations communities.
- \$159 million over two years to extend the Family and Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses National Partnership Agreement with state and territory governments.
- \$38.2 million to extend the Escaping Violence Payment that provides support to survivors of domestic and family violence and is administered by Uniting Vic.Tas.
- \$10 million over four years to expand family violence provisions within the *Migration Regulations 1994* and support temporary visa holders experiencing domestic and family violence.
- \$8.5 million over four years for early intervention measures to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence. The measures include developing a perpetra-

tor risk assessment framework for service providers that come into contact with survivors, extending the Mensline Changing for Good Service and developing a national perpetrator referral database of services to improve and update intervention services.

- \$6.5 million over four years to work with state and territory governments to strengthen and harmonise sexual assault and consent laws and improve criminal justice responses for victims and survivors.
- \$1.1 million to extend funding for the Department of Home Affairs specialised visa service for temporary visa holders experiencing domestic and family violence.

### Addressing Child Sexual Abuse

- \$134.1 million for the Office of the eSafety Commissioner for enhanced educational, outreach and investigatory activities. The base funding for the Commissioner will increase from \$10.3 million to \$42.5 million annually.
- \$142.2 million over five years to further support survivors of institutional child sexual abuse through the National Redress Scheme.

### Cross-border Crime that Impacts Developing Countries

- \$14.3 million was allocated to strengthen Australia's anti-money laundering law enforcement.

### Tax Reform

- In bad news, there was no change announced to the stage

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## FROM THE JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL MISSION CLUSTER

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3 tax cuts that give away \$69 billion over the next four years, mainly to wealthy Australians who need extra income least.

- In good news, the patent box tax dodge for multinational corporations announced by the Coalition Government will not be proceeded with.
- Legislation will be introduced to require large multinational corporations with revenue over \$1.2 billion to pay at least 15% across their global operations. If they have not paid that level of tax globally, the Australian

Government will be able to claim additional tax to get them to the 15% minimum. The change is expected to raise an extra \$370 million in tax over the next five years.

- There was also bad news with the Government failing to take meaningful action to get multinational corporations that are extracting gas off the coast of Australia to pay a meaningful price for the gas through the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax. The Government has announced a change that will mean the multinational gas corporations need to pay an extra \$2.35 billion over

four years. However, the payment is not additional tax revenue. It is tax contributions they would have had to pay anyway. They just have to pay it sooner. The gas corporations' peak lobbying organisation, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, is supporting the Government's changes, presumably relieved the corporations will not be paying any additional tax. By contrast, a 10% royalty charge on the gas would bring in an estimated \$90 billion from the multinational gas corporations over the next decade. •



## VICTORIAN BUDGET MEASURES

**In the areas we have been collectively advocating on, the Victorian Government budget delivered on 23 May included the following measures:**

- \$77 million for support of survivors of domestic and family violence. The funding includes \$25 million for First Nations frontline family violence services. It also provides \$32 million for family violence case management,

accommodation support, sexual assault support services and men's behaviour change programs;

- \$22.8 million for Specialist Family Violence Legal Assistance in Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Latrobe, Melbourne, Ringwood, Sunshine, Werribee and Geelong;
- \$110 million for Gambler's Help, raising public awareness of gambling-related harm, research into gambling harm and funding

the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission;

- Provide 53,000 rebates of \$1,400 to households that install solar panels;
- Provide up to 4,500 interest-free loans of \$8,800 for households with solar power to install batteries; and
- \$2.9 million for the ResourceSmart Schools program to teach children how to curb pollution and waste. •

## TASMANIAN BUDGET MEASURES

**In areas we have been collectively campaigning on, the budget delivered by the Tasmanian Government on 25 May contained the following measures:**

- \$50 million over four years to deliver the third Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan;
- \$1 million to expand and boost the delivery of the Family Violence Offender Intervention program and violence prevention programs across Tasmanian

prisons;

- \$3.75 million over two years to fund the Renewable Energy Plan; and,
- \$900,000 over three years to progress the development of the Tasmanian Green Hydrogen Hub at Bell Bay. •





# VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SETS AN AMBITIOUS EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET

**We have invited you to be part of actions in support of reducing emissions in Australia.**

There was good news on 16 May, with the Victorian Government announcing that it had set a target of cutting Victorian emissions by 75 to 80% by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2045. The target will be added to the *Victorian Climate Change Act 2017*. The Victorian Government stated that it had al-

ready reduced the state's emissions by 32.3% below 2005 levels.

All government operations will be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2025.

It has started building 4.5 GW of new government-owned renewables, which is the equivalent of replacing the Loy Yang A power station. It provided \$1 billion in the May budget to fund the State Electricity Commission in charge of building the renewables.

There was also \$58.2 million

in the Victorian budget to install 100 new neighbourhood batteries across Victoria. The extra batteries will triple the number of homes with access to a battery.

A further \$27 million was allocated to progress the development of the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal at the Port of Hastings to deliver offshore wind electricity generation.

Thank you to everyone who has taken action in support of Australia reducing its emissions. •

## TASMANIAN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REMAIN NEGATIVE

There was good news on 7 June 2023, with the Tasmanian Government announcing that the state's greenhouse gas emissions have been a net negative for nine years. In 2021, the emissions for Tasmania were -4.8 Megatonne carbon dioxide equivalent, which is the most recent year for which data is available.



## ILLEGAL LOGGING REFORMS

**In the April 2023 JustAct, we invited you to write letters to the Commonwealth Government asking for reforms to improve the laws and regulations that deal with the importation and processing of timber and wood products to exclude illegally logged timber.**

In good news, the Government has announced that it will be implementing the following reforms:

Requiring timber importers and processors to have to provide timber species and harvest location before the timber is imported or processed;

Creating powers to test, seize and impound illegally logged timber; and,

Reforms to allow cases of non-compliance with the law to be

made public to encourage others to comply with the law.

The Government has not yet agreed to make the importation of timber produced with the involvement of corruption illegal. So, please write a letter to the Minister if you did not get a chance to do so in April.

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters in April. •

## COMMONWEALTH BANK ANNOUNCES A NEW GREEN LOANS SCHEME

**The JIM Cluster continues to promote a postcard campaign calling on the Commonwealth Bank to commit to not funding any future fossil fuel projects or the expansion of existing projects.**

On a related issue, there was good news on 20 April with the Commonwealth Bank announcing a new green loans scheme. The

Green Loan is a 10-year secured fixed-rate loan with an interest rate of 1.99% p.a. It has no establishment fee, monthly loan service fee or early repayment fee. Commonwealth Bank customers with a home loan or investment loan can use the Green Loan to buy and install eligible products to make their home more energy efficient. The loan is capped at \$30,000. Eligible products include solar panels, solar hot water systems, batteries, heat

pump hot water systems, electric vehicle charging stations, double-glazed windows and switching from gas to electric cooking appliances.

If you would like more postcards directed to the Commonwealth Bank to stop funding fossil fuel projects, please e-mail [jim@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:jim@victas.uca.org.au). •

# REFORMS TO ASSIST PEOPLE ON TEMPORARY VISAS THAT EXPERIENCE FAMILY VIOLENCE



**In May 2020, we requested you write letters to the Commonwealth Government seeking reforms to better protect people on temporary visas that experience family violence.**

People on temporary visas often face the risk that they will have their visa cancelled if they report family violence, meaning they delay reporting the family violence.

Since May 2020, the JIM Cluster has continued to lobby for further reforms. We have collaborated with Circle Green Community Legal Centre in Western Australia to engage with the Department of Home Affairs to discuss possible reforms.

In good news, at the end of March 2023, the Commonwealth Government announced new policy settings that make it easier for people on temporary visas to gather evidence they have been subjected to family violence. Being able to prove they have been subjected to family violence can allow a person to be moved onto a visa that will enable them to stay in Australia despite having separated from their abusive partner. The new policy will accept evidence from midwives, multicultural support services and family violence crisis support workers that family violence has occurred. The reforms also increase the flexibility around how the evidence can be provided. Risk assessments will

be accepted as evidence. Previously, survivors of family violence were required to get statutory declarations from health professionals, psychologists or social workers as proof they had been subjected to family violence. In some cases, these professionals argued they did not have time to provide their evidence in the form of a statutory declaration, meaning the survivor of family violence was denied a visa that allowed them to leave their abuser and stay in Australia.

In announcing the reforms, the Minister for Social Services, Amanda Rishworth, stated, "We must do all we can to prevent women from having to choose between their safety or their visa status." •

## COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE ON TEMPORARY VISAS

**The JIM Cluster has invited you to take action calling for reforms for people in insecure work, including people on temporary visas.**

We have also made repeated submissions to Parliamentary and Government inquiries and consultations on the issue.

A recently released report by the

Grattan Institute found that one in six people who have recently arrived in Australia are paid below the national minimum wage.

There was positive news on 5 June 2023, with the Commonwealth Government announcing it will introduce legislation to curb the exploitation of people on temporary visas in the workplace. The measures will include:

Make it a criminal offence to co-

erce someone into breaching a condition on their visa; and,

Being able to place a ban on employers who have exploited people on temporary visas from being able to employ further people on temporary visas.

The Government will provide Australian Border Force with an additional \$50 million to enforce the new law. •





# COMMONWEALTH GOV'T STRENGTHENS SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

**In October 2020, we requested that you write letters to the Commonwealth Government seeking reforms to provide better protection for people with disability from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Thank you to everyone who took action at the time.**

The Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Bill Shorten, announced on 10 April a new National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Participant Safeguarding Policy. Minister Shorten said the new policy “represents a shift to a stronger focus on proactive identification, assessment, and management of risk to minimise the likelihood of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.”

The policy was designed with the input of people with disabilities. “People with disability are the experts in their own lives. They understand their disability better than anyone and what they need to be safe”, said Minister Shorten.

The May budget included \$142.6 million to fund the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to protect people on the scheme from abuse, neglect and exploitation. •

## VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES DISABILITY REFORMS

**In April 2022, we requested that you write letters to the Victorian Government seeking reforms to the state’s Disability Act.**

There has recently been good news with the Victorian Parliament passing the *Disability and Social Services Regulation Amendment Bill 2023*. The Bill:

- Promotes the rights of people with disability living in residential services and those subject to compulsory treatment;
- Amends the Residential Tenancies Act to address gaps in residential rights and protections for people living in specialist disability accommodation. People with disability living in group homes will now have the same rights as any other person living in a rented

property;

- Promotes the reduction in the use of restrictive practices, such as the use of physical restraints or medicating people with disability to subdue them;
- Require that compulsory treatment plans are appropriately explained and provided in an accessible format to the person to be treated; and,
- Expands the number and type of properties that community visitors can access. The community visitors program is made up of trained volunteers who visit people with disability to check on their well-being and treatment and report any problems that service providers need to address. The Bill allows the Minister to declare new types of accommodation at which persons receive disability

services, NDIS services or services under the Commonwealth’s ‘Disability Support for Older Australians Program’ to be subject to the community visitors program.

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters in response to the April 2022 action.

In addition, on 10 May 2023, the Victorian Government announced it was providing \$1.8 million to Women with Disabilities Victoria to deliver their Gender and Disability Workforce Development Program. The Program gives workers the skills to prevent violence against women with disabilities. Since it began in 2017, the Program has provided training and professional development to more than 900 participants from disability, social services, local government, prevention and carer workforces. •

# ESAFETY COMMISSIONER RULES ON CODES FOR ONLINE CORPORATIONS

**For over a decade, the JIM Cluster has invited you to be part of actions to address online child sexual exploitation. In the April 2023 JustAct, we invited you to sign a postcard to the Commonwealth Government asking for further reforms. Thank you to everyone that signed and sent off the postcards.**

One of the measures introduced under the Morrison Government was for online technology corporations to develop codes that improve the safety of people using their products, including protecting children from sexual exploitation.

On 1 June 2023, the eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, announced she had rejected two of the eight industry safety codes as they failed “to provide appropriate community safeguards to deal with illegal and harmful content online.” The JIM Cluster had made submissions commenting on improvements needed to the industry draft codes.

The two codes that were rejected cover apps, websites, file and photo storage services like Apple iCloud and Microsoft One Drive, dating sites, online games and instant messaging. The codes did not require file and photo storage services like iCloud, Google Drive and

OneDrive to detect and flag known child sexual abuse material.

The eSafety Commissioner will now move to develop mandatory and enforceable industry standards to cover these areas rather than allowing them to be governed by industry codes.

The eSafety Commissioner reserved her decision on the code covering search engines. She stated that she has concerns that the draft code is no longer fit for purpose following recently announced developments in the field of generative artificial intelligence and its integration into search engine functions. The Commissioner has requested that the relevant corporations submit a revised search engine code by the end of June to address the concerns she had raised. There are risks that generative artificial intelligence will produce deepfake child sexual abuse material or terrorism propaganda based on what it sees online.

The codes and industry standards come into effect six months from the date they are registered. The eSafety Commissioner will be able to receive complaints and investigate breaches of the codes or standards. Corporations that fail to comply with the obligations in the codes or industry standards can be subject to fines of up to \$700,000 a day.

The eSafety Commissioner stated there had been a 285% increase in reports to her office of child sexual

abuse and exploitation material online compared to a year ago.

Over the same period, reports of non-consensual sharing of intimate images and videos doubled. The vast majority of these latter reports involved sexual extortion. In most cases, overseas criminal syndicates threaten the person that they will make intimate images or videos of the person public unless they are paid.

In late March, the Commonwealth Parliament passed amendments to the *Telecommunications Act 1997* to allow telecommunications and online corporations to provide law enforcement agencies and emergency services information and assistance when it would help prevent a serious threat to a person's life or health. Previously, the corporations could only assist when the threat was “imminent”, which meant the corporations could not help in cases where a person was lost or missing. The change was prompted by two cases in NSW where people died as a result of the corporations being restricted from assisting in locating the people in question. The JIM Cluster made a submission to the Senate Environment and Communication Legislation Committee to support the legislation.

More of the postcards calling for reforms to address online child sexual exploitation can be requested by e-mailing [jim@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:jim@victas.uca.org.au). •





# VIC GOV'T INTRODUCES NEW REFORMS TO CURB GAMBLING HARM AT CROWN CASINO

**In June 2022, we requested that you send letters to the Victorian Government to seek reforms at Crown Casino to reduce gambling harm.**

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters in response to the action.

The JIM Cluster has continued to engage with the Victorian Government and provide submissions on the reforms that have been needed.

On 3 April 2023, the Victorian Government announced several reforms:

- Crown Casino will be required to enforce a 15-minute break if a person has been gambling continuously for three hours;
- The casino will be required to

impose a 24-hour break in gambling at the casino for anyone that has gambled for 12 hours at the casino in any 24 hours;

- The casino must not allow a person to gamble for more than 36 hours in a week; and
- Requiring casino staff to interact with people demonstrating observable signs of gambling harm.

If Crown Casino fails to comply with the new requirements, it can have a fine of up to \$100 million imposed.

The Minister also changed the messages gambling corporations need to include in their advertising to better challenge people to think about their gambling activity. The

tagline “gamble responsibly” has been replaced with “Chances are, you’re about to lose” and “You win some. You lose more.”

On 4 May, the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission issued a formal direction to Crown Casino that by December 2023, it must:

- Require that all people gambling on pokies at the casino use a card that has been issued after verifying their identity;
- That people gambling on pokies will not be able to continue gambling after they hit any self-imposed limit they have placed on their card; and,
- Limiting the amount of money that can be loaded onto any pokie at the casino to \$1,000. •

## CREDIT CARD BETTING TO BE BANNED

**“People should not be betting with money they do not have”, said Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland when announcing a ban on credit card use for online betting.**

In August 2021, we requested

that you write to the Commonwealth Government to seek a ban on gambling with credit cards and other forms of credit. It is bad enough when people are harmed by losing all the money they have without the need to go into debt by losing more than they have.

There was good news on 28 April 2023, with the Albanese Govern-

ment announcing it would ban using credit cards for online wagering. In making the announcement, the Government pointed out that 7.2% of Australians either experience gambling harm or are at risk of gambling-related harm. On average, for every person harmed by gambling, six others are impacted. •



## ACTION ON GAMBLING ADVERTISING IS STILL NEEDED

**At the end of March 2023, the Australian Gambling Research Centre released a report revealing the extent of harm gambling is causing Australians.**

About half of people in Australia who gambled in the last year were classified as being at risk of experiencing gambling harm.

The research found that two in three adults believed wagering advertising was “too common”. Furthermore, 53% of those surveyed

thought gambling advertising “normalises gambling among children.”

Exposure to wagering advertising had the most significant impact on people aged between 18 and 34 and people at risk of gambling harm. It was found that one in five young women and one in seven young men started gambling for the first time after seeing or hearing a gambling advertisement on television.

Dr Rebecca Jenkinson, Executive Manager of the Australian Gam-

bling Research Centre, said, “This research shows that exposure to wagering advertising is leading to riskier betting behaviour and escalating the likelihood of experiencing gambling harms.”

The JIM Cluster has postcards calling on the Commonwealth Government to ban gambling advertising by wagering and online gambling corporations. To order postcards for your faith community or family and friends to sign, e-mail [jim@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:jim@victas.uca.org.au). •

## THE NEED FOR THE PROTECTION OF GIG WORKERS CONTINUES

**In October 2022 we sent you a postcard that asks the Commonwealth Government to introduce reforms to address the exploitation of people working in the on-demand gig economy. Exploitation is often part of the gig economy business model.**

Uber has implemented an advertising campaign to try and deter the Albanese Government from introducing reforms that would protect Uber ride-share drivers and food delivery riders from exploitation.

The advertising campaign involves billboards, posters, and digital and print advertisements that argue that drivers and riders like the flexibility of being independent contractors that do not have the same rights and safe working conditions as employees.

There was good news on 1 May, with the Victorian Government announcing a Gig Worker Support Service. The Government estimates that 350,000 Victorians work in the gig economy. The Support Service will provide information and advice online and over the phone, as well as refer workers to appropriate

agencies to resolve disputes. Gig workers will be able to contact the service for assistance with the following:

- Understanding their rights, protections and entitlements under workplace and related laws;
- Making informed decisions about working for a platform corporation; and,
- Understanding which agencies and other services can help them resolve work disputes.

If you would like to order more postcards for your faith community, family or friends to sign, please e-mail [jim@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:jim@victas.uca.org.au). •



# VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT REFORMS TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**In August 2020 and July 2021, we requested that you write letters to the Victorian and Tasmanian Governments to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14.**

Research has shown that children below the age of 14 do not fully comprehend the consequences of their actions.

There has been some progress with the Victorian Government. On 26 April 2023, the Victorian Government announced it would raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years. It would delay raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 until 2027. On making the announcement, the Victorian Government stated:

*Helping young people, who show harmful behaviours, turn their lives around with rehabilitative support services that stop further offending while holding them to account is not only good for them, it makes the community safer in the long term.*

However, disappointingly, the Victorian Government has stated that 12 and 13-year-olds will still be held criminally responsible for serious crimes after 2027.

Concerning other positive criminal justice reforms, on 17 April 2023, the Victorian announced the opening of a new centre for women prisoners to help them get involved in rehabilitation services. The Government stated that it had been designed in line with trauma-informed care principles.

Body scanners have replaced traumatic and invasive strip searches. There is a cultural space where First Nations women prisoners can see an Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer.

The centre includes new multi-purpose facilities with more natural light, shared spaces and other design features to improve engagement with education and support programs.

The new centre will allow out-of-date facilities to be closed.

Minister for Corrections, Enver Erdogan, said, "When we invest in our correctional system to give people

in custody support to break the cycle of reoffending, we improve community safety for all Victorians."

In addition, the May state budget included the following:

- \$7.1 million allocated to expand the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service's regional hub model so that it can provide its culturally safe legal services at five new locations across Victoria;
- \$144.2 million to reduce reoffending and help people reintegrate into the community after their release from prison. The measures include support for diverting women from the criminal justice system and providing housing to those on remand and short sentences; and
- \$17.2 million for the Youth Crime Prevention Program, which provides intensive support to divert young people at risk of contact with the criminal justice system into support programs. The funding will also be used to counter violent extremism in Victorian communities. •





# GREY SPACES

## BY JEFFREY DRIVER

*"If the church begins to treat its institutional expression as primary and indispensable, then it strays into institutionalism...."*

*When institutionalism becomes the church's primary self-understanding, then the shortcomings and distortions of institutional expression come to the fore. The gift of order becomes coercive. Leadership is possessed by a positional elite. Community yields to jurisdiction. Cooperation gives way to compliance. Structure becomes a rigid end in itself, subjugating all other functions, so that the teaching role of the church, for example, is limited to a defence of the institutional status quo, and an often narrowly defined orthodoxy becomes a criterion for institutional membership and approval."*

**Grey Spaces** (2022) is a book that asks us to reflect deeply on the structures and practices of our churches and what messages they send to church members and people outside the church.

The author is Jeffrey Driver, a former Anglican Archbishop of Adelaide for 11 years. He was appointed to steer the Adelaide Archdiocese's

response to child sexual abuse committed by those employed and associated with the church. He reveals in the book the profound personal toll it had on him to hear the accounts of survivors and his frustrations with seeking reforms within the church.

He references Avery Dulles' suggested models of church that coexist are:

- Mystical communion;
- Sacrament;
- Herald;
- Servant;
- Community of disciples; and
- Institution.

He argues that if the church "sees itself as passing on a story, or nurturing values, or having a role in education, then it cannot avoid developing institutional forms, because human society does most of these things through institutions."

Driver does not see the church being an institution as a bad thing, but that safeguards are needed:

*... to ensure that the institutional model, with its gifts of order and structure, must be taken into, and*

*indeed serve, the communal and organic – the church as a mystical communion, the church as a sacramental and diaconal community – if that institutional order and structure are not to become rigid and tyrannical.*

Driver argues that for power in the church to play a positive role, it must be held in check by a constructive critique of that power. He states that power in the church needs to be used for the good of others.

Driver invites us to think about our symbols, our liturgies, or church architecture through two questions:

*First, in the terms of its cultural context, does this sign convey in itself something of what it is meant to signify? The second question is the reverse of the first: in this cultural context, does this sign convey something that contradicts or confuses the essence of what it is meant to signify?*

**Grey Spaces** is a very worthwhile read for anyone wanting to think about the church's future in the wake of the exposure of child sexual abuse within the churches and how we search to become a more "authentic church". •