

# General Proposal 6

## Funding of Public Hospital Chaplaincy

### That the Synod

- a) believes that the Synod Standing Committee decision to cease funding for public hospital chaplaincy is a matter of significant missionary importance, such that it should have been referred and deferred to the meeting of the whole Synod.
- b) directs the Synod Standing Committee, in partnership with Presbyteries, to develop and resource a Mission Plan for ministry in public hospitals, and as part of that plan investigate ways in which we can continue to 'hold the space' in these places, as we wait upon God. This Mission Plan and progress to be reported to the meeting of the 38<sup>th</sup> Synod.

### Rationale

The decision to cease funding for public hospital chaplaincy is a significant decision that will have a wide-reaching impact to mission across Queensland, as it is a ministry of the church that reaches thousands of people each year.

We recognise this was a difficult decision, not lightly taken, and yet we believe that there is something worth pursuing here, in terms of testing the mind of the Synod.

Given that the decision has already been taken, and many wheels of this are already in motion, the proposers recognise the difficulty in formulating a proposal that would be helpful and constructive at this stage. We offer this in the hope that it may be constructive, allow for some healing, and enable us to forge a way forward together.

The proposal that is offered is in two parts. The first part refers to the guidelines for how the Synod Standing Committee relates to the meeting of the full Council of Synod:

*That in matters of such missional importance that the general Synod should be the decision maker or provide guidance.*

We believe that it is important to acknowledge and record those times when the Synod may have a different mind to the Synod Standing Committee, as may be the case in this instance. The hope for this part of the proposal is that it might offer Synod and Synod Standing Committee a moment of acknowledgement and reflection that will inform our ways of working together.

The second part is to offer a practical way forward.

## Proposers

The proposer and seconder:

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