

AGENDA 2.1.10

Continue to support 'Hidden Hurts Healing Hearts'

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions

PROPOSED THAT General Synod notes the work carried out by the "Hidden Hurts Healing Hearts" campaign and requests that the GCB oversees and continues to provide adequate resources to support its continuation in the next synodical term with a focus on the following areas:

- Review, update continue to develop resources
- Awareness training and on-going professional education, including LCANZ community engagement and greater understanding of the impact of family and domestic violence
- Evaluation of the impact of the awareness training
- Ongoing research in related fields

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL

1. The Hidden Hurts Healing Hearts Campaign needs to be ongoing to continue to curb family violence on partners, children and church communities.
2. Family violence has continued to be a significant issue, with a rising incidence of family violence reported across Australia in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic (Australian Institute of Criminology, Survey July 2020). It is a leading cause of homelessness for women with children. In 2016–17, 115,000 people (72,000 women, 34,000 children and 9000 men) reported that family and domestic violence caused or contributed to their homelessness (AIHW 2017d). It is the greatest health risk factor for women aged 25-44, particularly in relation to mental health. The estimated cost of family violence in Australia in 2015-16 was \$22 billion (AIHW, 2018).
3. Previous Conventions of General Synod have reaffirmed the condemnation of all forms of violence in the family and authorised GCB to commit resources for a church-wide campaign to address the prevalence of family and domestic violence amongst us, which may include sharing of resources, education initiatives and the provision of pastoral care to the survivors of violence. Refer to Resolutions passed at previous Synods in 1993, 2003, 2015. In 2018, Synod referred the proposal to continue this work to GCB - see Minutes 2.2.14. In passing these resolutions, General Synod has shared the wider community's deep concern about the impact of family violence, especially the effect on women and children.
4. The 2018 "Reason for Proposal" outlined the start of the "Hidden Hurts Healing Hearts" campaign which commenced in the previous synodical term with the development of training materials and resources which were then rolled out in 2018 and planned for 2019.
5. The "Hidden Hurts Healing Hearts" campaign has been active in providing professional education to pastors and church workers and also in developing resources that are web-based or suitable for distance education. It has also been actively involved with Flinders University and ALC in a research project to increase the church's understanding of the extent and impact of family violence within its midst. This research will extend into the next synodical term. Once completed, the results of this research will be broadly disseminated.

Research will also seek to analyse the extent and effectiveness of the LCA in raising awareness of this issue.