



Voices for Justice Frequently Asked Questions:

What does Voices for Justice involve?

Voices for Justice runs for four days from 1-4 December this year. From Saturday 1st December to Sunday 2nd December in Canberra, you will engage in two days of worship, workshops, teaching and training led by some of the most inspiring and influential leaders in church, development and advocacy circles.

On the Monday and Tuesday, we will be in lobby meetings with MP's and Senators as well as attending special events at Parliament House. We are currently working on having the full program ready for delegates within the next week or so.

What will the focus be?

This year, in the lead up to the federal election, advocacy and lobbying will focus on ending extreme poverty, modern slavery and the #KidsOffNauru campaign.

This Voices for Justice comes at a critical time in Australia's political cycle and international relations. Australian aid has reached its lowest ever level as a percentage of our Gross National Income at just 0.22 per cent. In the forward estimates, it is projected to continue to fall to 0.19 per cent. This is a key opportunity for you to use your voice and lobby our nation's leaders on the importance of turning around this downward trend, which is continuing to hurt the most vulnerable citizens of the world as well as Australia's standing in our region.

Where is Voices for Justice being held?

During the Saturday and Sunday program the conference will be hosted at the [Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture](#). The Centre is located on a five-hectare site on the edge of the Parliamentary Triangle in Canberra and is a beautiful and inspiring place!

During the two lobbying days on Monday and Tuesday, we will be onsite at Parliament House. As well as having scheduled meetings with Politicians, we will be hosting a number of other events and workshops in Parliament House that you can attend.

What time does it start and finish?

Voices for Justice starts at 1pm on the Saturday and finishes around 6pm on Tuesday evening.

What if I can't attend the full four-day program?

We understand that not everyone may be able to stay in Canberra for the full four-day program. We would encourage you to attend as much as possible to have the full experience, however if work commitments mean you need to leave early on the Monday or Tuesday that is not a problem.

Is Voices for Justice for everyone?

Yes. Voices for justice is designed for every Christian with a heart for justice. That is the only prerequisite for attending. You don't have to have had any experience in lobbying before and it is open to all ages.

How much does it cost?

There is an individual price and a discount available for groups.

- \$200 for individual
- \$150 each for group tickets (minimum five people)
- \$160 for student/concession

Do you provide accommodation?

We can try and help arrange billeting options for you. However, we do encourage you to first seek your own accommodation if possible as billeting options will be limited. There are many great hotels, apartments and accommodation options for every budget in Canberra. But, if you would like information on billeting options please note that when you register.

What about transport?

You will need to make your own way to Canberra for the conference. If you can take public transport to get there, then once you're in Canberra there will be lots of opportunities for carpooling with fellow delegates during the four-day conference, so you won't have to worry about getting around. If you're coming with a group, make sure you car pool to make life easier! For those coming from Sydney, there is an express bus service available, you can find more information about items and tickets [here](#).

What will I get out of it?

You will be inspired by God's heart for justice and grow deeper in understanding our biblical response. You will be empowered to put faith into action and use your voice to speak on behalf of the voiceless. You will be heard by our nation's leaders and have an impact on Australia's response to global poverty. And you'll have fun doing it!

Plus, you will get to meet with like-minded Christians from all over Australia, this is often the most rewarding part of the experience; making new friends and building community together.

How do the lobby groups work?

You'll be put into a small lobby group of around 6-8 people with one person as the lobby group leader. The people in your group will most likely be those from your electorate or surrounding regions.

Your lobby group leader will be responsible for taking you through the policy briefing and meeting notes and leading you through the whole process. You'll have time to meet those in your lobby group over the weekend and discuss your meetings and approach. Each lobby group will have approximately 3-5 meetings with politicians over the Monday and Tuesday.

Who is speaking this year?

We have many amazing speakers lined up for this year's event. Many of them are local pastors and advocates, as well as leaders of NGO's here in Australia.

Our main international guest speaker this year is Adam Taylor from Sojourners in the USA.

Sojourners is an organisation which aims to articulate the Biblical call to social justice, to inspire hope and build a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church, and the world.

Adam previously led the Faith Initiative at the World Bank Group and served as the Vice President of Advocacy at World Vision U.S. He has also served as the executive director of Global Justice, an organisation that educates and mobilises students around global human rights and economic justice. He is a graduate of Emory University, the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. Adam is ordained Reverend and serves at the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Is Voices for Justice for every denomination?

Yes! We are a cross-denominational organisation and there will be people from all different church denominations across Australia at the conference. If you want to find out more about Micah's theology of justice, [you can click here to download our discussion paper on poverty and Biblical justice.](#)

Micah Australia is a coalition of Australia's largest Christian non-government organisations raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.

www.micahaustralia.org

