LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO VOICES FOR JUSTICE 2019!

We are so pleased that you have joined us for these significant four days. This is a special year as we seek to bring ‘Pacific Perspectives’ to Canberra. Joining with us are many church and community leaders from Pacific Nations. We are extremely honoured to be hosting this delegation and to share this advocacy journey with them. Their insights and perspectives will be invaluable, as together we raise a voice for the vulnerable in Parliament.

Voices for Justice is always a prophetic moment in our nation. A moment where the body of Christ gathers to pray, worship, be equipped in Biblical justice and then to act.

It’s a moment where we ‘transcend’ the current social and political narratives and speak to a higher hope of God’s redemptive plan for this world. I know you will be personally challenged and inspired during these few days. Thank you for taking time out of your normal routine to be here. Your voice is needed now more than ever. I pray you come away from this experience refreshed and encouraged that God is at work in our nation.

YOUR HOST AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF MICAH AUSTRALIA, TIM COSTELLO

Micah Australia wishes to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.
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Contacts

During the event, if you have any questions, please contact your lobby group leader first. If they are unable to help, contact the relevant person below.

Campaign Director (Policy) Matt Darvas 0416 280 340
Voices for Justice Coordinator Shelly McKewin 0421 606 439
Senior Advisor (MP Meetings) Beck Wilesmith 0403 569 773
Senator Meetings Vanessa Miller 0412 264 015
First Aid Officer Amanda Rowe 0418 901 888
First Aid Officer Christine Morris 0409 521 998
Lobby Group Pastoral Support John Lamerton 0413 165 225
Lobby Group Pastoral Support Emma Wyndham-Chalmers 0418 965 400

Workshops

As well as input in main sessions, you have the opportunity to attend fantastic workshops over the Monday—Tuesday while in Parliament House. These are open to all delegates, but please note that your lobbying meetings take priority over these if you have a meeting booked with an MP while these are on.

Monday 2 December, APH Theatre
10AM – 11AM

Climate Change, Poverty and Australia’s Role: How to Talk to Your MP
TEAR AUSTRALIA AND CARITAS AUSTRALIA

This workshop will help you talk to your MP about climate change and to remind them that Christians want to see our political leaders do more to tackle this urgent global challenge. We will cover the need and opportunities involved in a bold national climate plan. You are not expected to be an expert on climate change policy: your role is rather to speak plainly and from the heart about why this issue is important to you.

*Note this same workshop will also be held on Tuesday.
12PM – 1PM

Ending Violence Against Children
WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PACIFIC LEADERS
Hear about World Vision’s work in PNG using coalitions and social media to tackle violence against children, take a deeper look at the issue of global child rights through the lens of advocacy.

1.30PM – 2.30PM

Aboriginal Justice
Aboriginal Christian Leaders will brief Micah delegates gathered on the current key issues around Indigenous justice and work being done in this space right now. This workshop will give you a deeper understanding of how you can be involved in this important issue in our nation.

2.30PM – 3.30PM

Pacific Islander and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Solidarity
A panel with the Aboriginal Christian Leaders and Pacific Leaders discussing the importance, spirit, focus and opportunities to build and work out of this solidarity.

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER, DAME DOROTHY TANGNEY ALCOVE
(HOUSE OF REPS ALCOVE)

10AM – 11AM

Climate Change, poverty and Australia’s role: how to talk to your MP
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*Note this is a repeat of the workshop held on Monday.

11.15AM – 12PM

Is there a Biblical Theology for Foreign Aid?
MICAH AUSTRALIA
Hear Daniel Lee, Micah Theology Fellow, present his paper on the theological reasons for Foreign Aid. He will delve into the Biblical framework for Aid and speak to why it’s important to understand the theological reasons for Aid in the current political and spiritual climate.
Theology and Social Change in the Pacific
UNITINGWORLD WITH PACIFIC LEADERS
Pacific Christian leaders will speak about the importance of theology in their work addressing family violence, gender inequality and climate change. Hosted by UnitingWorld.

Celebrating International Day of People with a Disability
CBM AUSTRALIA AND PACIFIC DISABILITY ADVOCATES
Hear a Panel of emerging disability movement leaders from the Pacific talking about disability issues and the role the church can play in disability inclusion. This workshop will help give you awareness and understanding of the issues facing people with disabilities in the Pacific as well as the need for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction.

12.15PM – 1.15PM
FIRST LOBBY GROUP BREAKOUT
Outcome of this session:
This is your chance to get to know each other, share a bit of your story and start to go through the policy briefings together.

• Introduce yourself to the group and share a bit about why you are at VFJ.
• Share your personal advocacy journey and experience (this will help to identify who might be comfortable doing which roles in the meetings).
• Go through the policy briefing; what questions do you have about the policy platform? What policy areas are you particularly interested in and passionate about that you could speak to in the meetings?
• Look over the page and start to identify who might want to take on which role in the meetings.
• Remember that the Micah team and the Micah coalition staff are always ready and willing to help. Don’t hesitate to talk to us if you have any questions.
SECOND LOBBY GROUP BREAKOUT

Outcome of this session:
Now that you all know each other a little better, this is the time to finalise meeting roles in your lobby group and to do some extra research on the parliamentarians you will be meeting with!

• Go through the ‘MP Meeting Guide’ and establish exactly ‘who will say what’ in your meeting.
• It is important to note – you need to be prepared for a scenario where you may have significantly less time due to a late start or a short appointment. So, have a ‘10 minute’ and ‘25 minute’ version of your meeting plan.
• Look through your ‘Politician profiles’ on Advocacy Tracker (your lobby group leader has access to this) or the hard copy print outs.
• What do you notice about them? What is their background/experience with Micah? What information is missing that might be nice to know about them?
• Do your own research to see what else you can find out about the MP/Senator and get your lobby group leader to enter it onto Advocacy Tracker. For example, a great start might be reading their maiden speech, or googling to see if they have said anything recently about any of the policy areas you’re looking into.

THIRD LOBBY GROUP BREAKOUT

Outcome of this session:
This is your last chance to come together before your meetings! The best thing you can do during this time is to do a ‘mock lobby meeting’.

• Do a few ‘mock lobby meetings’ - one with a more positive tone and one with a more negative tone. One full length (25 mins) and one short (10 mins).
• Talk through how you might handle a meeting with a staff member or with a parliamentarian who is more hostile.
• Make sure everyone is clear on their roles for tomorrow.
• Ensure you are confident in what you need to know about your MPs and of course, what times your meetings are.

Logistical Information

CATERING
Afternoon tea and dinner on Saturday is included as part of your registration. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided on Sunday. You will need to cater for your own meals at other times. For those who took advantage of Sunday, your grab and go lunch will be ready for you to pick up onsite at 1pm.

LOCAL RESTAURANT OPTIONS

BARTON
Food options and cafes within walking distance of Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture:
• Barton Grocer 48 Macquarie St, Barton (open 8am – 8pm)
• Little Bird Coffee 48 Macquarie Street Barton (open 8am – 2pm)

Other options close by:

KINGSTON
Kingston Foreshore has a great selection of restaurants and cafes.

MANUKA
Manuka has a great hub of restaurants, cafes and has a Coles shopping centre.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
Food is available from the Queens Terrace Café, open from 9am-4pm.

VISIT
TRANSPORT

Delegates are responsible for making their own way to and from the conference each day. If you would like to car pool, we encourage you to chat to other people in your lobby group who may be able to assist with that. Other options for transport are Uber, taxi’s and buses. For more information go to transport.act.gov.au

If you have your own vehicle and can provide assistance with transportation during the conference, we would appreciate you doing so!

PARKING

There are approximately 150 free car park spaces on site at Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture for the Saturday and Sunday program. There are additional paid spaces close by if these become full.

Parking is available on site at Parliament House for the Monday and Tuesday (public car park is underneath) with a maximum rate of $20 per day. Car spaces can fill up quickly on sitting weeks, so we recommend carpooling.

For more information go to aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Plan_your_Visit

There are spaces outside Parliament House within walking distance but there are some time limits on these so please check signage.

MEETINGS WITH POLITICIANS

If you have an appointment scheduled with a politician during the same time as another Voices for Justice event, your politician appointment will take priority. Please do not miss or be late to your appointments with politicians as you may only have a short amount of time with them.

You must be in the lobby (already through security) ready for escort 15 – 20 minutes before the start of your meeting.

LOBBY GROUPS

Where possible, we have grouped you with others from or near your electorate and have tried to arrange appointments with your MP/ Senator. It’s important to note that not everyone will get a meeting with their local member. We also try to ensure two meetings per group, but again this may vary according to groups. You will be working together to design your meeting and will debrief after each visit.

Member Agency Dinner Information

On Sunday night, many of Micah’s member organisations will be hosting dinners for staff and advocates. You are also welcome to attend these dinners if you have an interest in finding out more about one of the organisations below.

PLEASE RSVP VIA TEXT TO THE CONTACT BELOW.

TEAR AUSTRALIA

- Where: Grill’d Canberra Civic (125 Bunda St, Canberra)
- Time: 6.30pm
- Contact: Jasmine Wrangles, 0466 840 135

BAPTIST WORLD AID

- Where: Canberra Baptist Church (11 Currie Cres, Kingston)
- Time: 6:30pm
- Contact: Eliza Johnson, 0418 250 598
- Dinner is generously being provided by Canberra Baptist Church
CARITAS AUSTRALIA

- **Where:** Kingston Hotel, 73 Canberra Ave, Griffith (Dinner will be available to purchase).
- **Time:** 6:30pm
- **Contact:** Zhi Yan, 0424 833 913
- If you want to join a group of us walking there from the ACCC (about 2km), please meet at 6:05pm just outside the registration/lobby area. Please RSVP by Sunday morning if you plan to come, so we can look out for you and for reservation purposes.

ADRA

- **Where:** Please meet outside The Chapel at ACCC when the night finishes and we will go to dinner from there.
- **Time:** 6:30pm
- **Contact:** Ashley Stanton, 0424 233 927

WORLDVISION AND V GEN

- **Where:** TBA
- **Time:** 6:30pm
- **Contact:** Please contact Will Menzies on 0412 161 528 to find out more information.

Parliament House Information and Maps

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TIME 2 – 3PM MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Question time is open to the public each day, however you will need to line up for this along with the rest of the general public. We recommend you going to the Ticketing and Cloaking Office on the first floor in the Members’ Hall outside the Galleries at 1:30pm. For those interested and available, together we will cloak all bags, jackets, cameras, mobiles (you are not allowed to take anything in!) and get in line ready to go through security and be seated by 2pm.

PARLIAMENTARY HOUSE TOURS

If you have free time and would like to get to know Parliament House and its history, you can sign up for a free tour at the front desk in the Marble Foyer.

SECURITY

If any issues arise regarding security or bringing Micah documents into the building (which are permitted), please contact Shelly McKewin immediately. Please avoid arguing with security! Photography is permitted, but not in security areas or in the House of Representatives or Senate Chambers. Please ask permission of politicians to take photos of them with your group and don’t forget to share them on social Media.
PROCESS FOR ENTRY INTO PARLIAMENT

On both Monday and Tuesday we will need to line up at the main public entrance of Parliament and go through security.

Given our large group you must be in the line at 8:30am. For those who have early meetings booked (example 9:30am), please allow them to go through security first.

Once you have gone through security, you will need to be signed in and receive a visitor pass. We have organised these passes and will be there ready to give you your pass but you will require PHOTO ID on hand to receive your pass.

These passes grant you access to your lobbying meetings as well as workshops and events. You don’t need a pass to access the Queens Terrace Café or to attend Question time.

You will need to hand in your pass to security at the end of each day as you exit.

QUEENS TERRACE CAFÉ

This is the main eating spot open to the public at Parliament House and has an outside and inside area. It’s located up the stairs to the left when you enter the marble foyer. This is a great spot to meet with your lobby group when you have down time between meetings and workshops.

VENUES FOR WORKSHOPS

This year we have two venues for workshops. On Monday all workshops will take place in the Theatre. You do not need an escort in order to get to the Theatre – you can make your own way there as you please. On Tuesday all workshops will take place in the Dame Dorothy Tangney Alcove (House of Reps side). You do need to be escorted by someone with an APH Pass to get to the Alcove. Where possible, we will organise escorts to be available to help you get to these workshops in the Alcove. Please arrive at the marble foyer at least 15 minutes before the workshop begins and we will have people there ready to escort you. If you miss this timeslot, we may not be able to help you get to the Alcove.
the location for workshops on Monday

meeting point for question time

this is the Dame Dorothy Tangney Alcove where workshops will take place on Tuesday
We are so excited to be at The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture for the Saturday and Sunday of our conference. The Centre is located in Barton on the eastern edge of the Parliamentary Triangle, in close proximity to Federal Parliament, the National Gallery, and the High Court.

ACCC has a vision to be the ‘go to’ place for new engagements between Christian faith, Australian society, landscape and cultures, and indigenous peoples. They aim to nurture a broad and inclusive place for conversation across differences and divisions; a place where all voices can be heard; a place to seek fresh wisdom.

The Main areas we will be using during the conference are:

- The Chapel
- The Pavilion
- Bible Gardens and the Pilgrims Walk
- Outside Areas
Social Media Guide

Social media is one of the best vehicles we have for spreading our message.

Follow these steps to help amplify our impact at Voices for Justice 2019.
Follow Micah Australia on social media and share our posts with your friends.

Facebook facebook.com/micahaustralia
Twitter @micahaustralia
Instagram @micahaustralia
Blog micahaustralia.org/blog

Use hashtag: #VFJ19 and #OurMicahMoment #auspol and tag Micah Australia into your own posts. Take lots of photos and post/tweet/instagram about what you’re doing, learning, listening to at Voices for Justice over the four days. Find your politician’s twitter handle and tweet them before and after meeting them, for example:

Thanks @steveciobo for a great meeting on #australianaid today in Canberra #VFJ19

Local Media Guide

Your local media wants to hear from you!

Contacting media is another important way we can use our voice for justice.

This might seem a bit intimidating at first but remember that a personal story or letter from a local resident has great news worthiness. Local papers love a local angle and this is often exactly the type of article they are looking for.

You might be passionate about the statistics behind global poverty, but local media are more interested in the narrative of how the issue is affecting local residents like you. This kind of coverage can also have a big impact on politicians, who keep a close eye on the local media of their electorate.

EXAMPLES OF MEDIA AVENUES TO CONTACT:
• Your local newspaper (‘local rag’).
• Your local community radio station.
• Your local Christian radio station.
• Your church/denomination’s website, magazine or blog.
• National/daily papers (this is best done through a 150 word letter to the editor)
**TIPS FOR CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER AFTER VOICES FOR JUSTICE**

1. **CONTACT THE EDITOR**

Find the email address for the editor in the ‘contact us’ section of your newspaper’s website or call and request their email address if it isn’t listed. You may need to upload your article and photo to the ‘send us your news’ section.

2. **WRITE A MEDIA RELEASE**

Adapt and personalise the sample media release that will be emailed to you at the conclusion of Voices for Justice and available at micahaustralia.org/vfj_resources. Try and send this media release to your local newspaper as soon as possible after you return from Canberra ideally within three days of the event.

3. **ATTACH A HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTO**

Make sure you provide the editor with a high-resolution photograph of your group. Pictures often speak louder than words and make articles more eye catching to readers so try and make sure someone in your lobby group takes a good high-resolution photo of your MP meeting, and that you take at least one photo of you during the event (e.g. standing in front of Parliament House, and/or holding a campaign banner/poster is always a good shot).

We will also send you a link to some high-resolution photos from Voices for Justice which you can use to send to media.

4. **HIGHLIGHT A UNIQUE ANGLE**

Media will respond best to a unique or emotive angle. If relevant, some interesting angles you could emphasise in your article are the following:

- If you went to VFJ with a group from your area (i.e. family, friends, church send a group photo)
- Are you a school student/teenager/uni student? (media love stories of young people seeking to make a positive difference.)
- Your day job (whether you are a business person, mother of three, teacher, plumber, carpenter, etc. your profession adds interest to the story).
- Your inspiration/motivation if you’ve been to VFJ a few times before, were inspired by someone else or have seen and experienced poverty first hand, you could include this in your article.

Try to focus on the most unique angle and mention it within the first or second paragraph of your media release. If you want to include some more information about yourself, you could write a brief note to the editor at the very end of the media release under your contact details.

**PLEASE NOTE**

If you add extra detail to the sample release provided please ensure you don’t make it too long. Media releases are better when they’re short and tight (i.e. 1 – 2 PAGES MAX)
5

FOLLOW UP WITH A PHONE CALL

Phone the editor the day after you send your article to confirm they received it. Ask them if they need any further information about the story.

6

BE PERSISTENT

Don’t be too disappointed if your article doesn’t get published the first time you write, the more letters and articles on an issue the paper receives, the more likely a story will get published!

7

FEEDBACK

Let us know if you have an article published in your local media so we can share your story with other Micah advocates. It’s always encouraging to see Christians profiled in local media helping to get justice issues on the media agenda as part of your advocacy. Please email Beck Wilesmith at beck.wilesmith@micahaustralia.org if you have any questions or get your story published!

What to do after Voices for Justice

So Voices for Justice is done and dusted; what’s next?

HERE’S A FEW THINGS YOU CAN DO:

• Remember to contact your local media using the guide.
• Share about your experience on social media using the hashtags given (and be sure to follow us on social media if not already!)
• If you are a lobby group leader, please ensure the notes from all of your meetings are submitted on Advocacy Tracker.
• Were there any action points or follow ups that came out of your meetings with politicians? Be sure to talk to your group about who will take responsibility for this and make sure this gets acted on.
• Keep up to date with everything happening at Micah in 2020 through our social media channels. We will have announcements out very soon about event dates in 2020.
Micah Australia is a coalition of churches and Australia’s largest Christian non-government organisations, raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.

We have a vision to see every Australian Christian as an advocate for the world’s poor, vulnerable and oppressed.

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