

MEDIA RELEASE  
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**The National Council of Churches urges exceptional national leadership from our new Parliament.**

The start of a new Parliament is an opportunity for uplifting national leadership, suited to the times.

We look out at a world full of tears, recognising our many blessings here in Australia. Can we lift our vision and display together the kind of change of heart needed by the whole human family? Away from violence and division towards peace and with justice for all

Can the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition meet privately, perhaps with the Governor-General, to sort out a solution to the issue of Nauru and Manus Island Detention Centres? This matter tears at the national soul.

Bi-partisan leadership is needed to prevent Australia becoming more violent. Perhaps after a private meeting this might be a matter both leaders could take together to a Public Consultation.

Can our leaders convene a Consultation on Peace- making in Australia?

We need policy solutions we can all embrace. The reasons are obvious wherever one looks – abuse of children, domestic violence, terrorism, home invasions, violent gangs of disengaged youths, political conflicts.

Societies can reach a tipping-point where it becomes very difficult to recover public safety. We are not at that point yet but national and co-operative leadership is needed now.

We assure our political leaders of our prayers as the next Federal Parliament begins.

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