



**Public Statement
To the Albanese Government
Australian Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) National Gathering
July 2022**

The national gathering of the Religious Society of Friends in Australia (Quakers) met in July 2022.

We affirm the importance of taking the time to listen to each other, consider all points of view, and cooperate in finding ways forward in difficult situations. As citizens, our aim is to enable the Government to arrive at constructive policies that advance peace, human rights, justice, and survival of the planet and its biodiversity.

As a faith community, grounded in removing the occasions for violence and injustice, we seek a polity founded on mutual respect, principles of democracy and compassionate justice. We are heartened by several actions of the new Australian Government.

In affirming the Uluru Statement of the Heart and re-committing to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the Government has signalled a long-awaited return to listening to Indigenous people, and acting on their knowledge and recommendations.

We expect that the pre-election promise to establish an Integrity Commission within the first year will be well progressed by December 2022. In the same light, we look forward to Australia signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which along with increased diplomacy, is the most capable and economically viable means of sustaining peace and security in our region.

As we meet, crippling floods and unusual frost warnings will later be replaced by longer and more intense bushfires, expanding deserts and dryer monsoon seasons. Acknowledging Australia's climate emergency must be addressed by urgent and continuing effective actions. We are hopeful that this Government is not blinded by insinuated threats from major industries.

There are multiple opportunities for this Government to be the Government it has always wanted to be - to lead reforms and establish practices based on integrity, peace, equality, fairness, unity and care of all people and the planet. We pray that its leaders have the courage to seize this time to act with integrity and step Australia into a fair future for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Henry".

Bruce Henry
Presiding Clerk

Australia Yearly Meeting

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