



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE

THE ANGLICAN CENTRE
209 FLINDERS LANE
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
P: 03 9653 4220
F: 03 9653 4266
E: bishopphiliphuggins@melbourneanglican.org.au

THE RIGHT REVEREND PHILIP HUGGINS
ASSISTANT BISHOP
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

4 September 2015

The Rt Hon Tony Abbott
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

You will also be disturbed by the images from Europe of people fleeing the fighting in Syria. Given the lack of an immediate diplomatic or political solution to the crisis in Syria, can the Australian Government please make an additional allocation of 10,000 refugee places, specifically for people fleeing Syria? Would it be possible, via UNHCR, to bring these people to Australia before Christmas?

You know that our Churches would want to cooperate with our Government to facilitate the settlement of these refugees as best we are able. The focus of Christmas would also provide an opportunity for exceptional generosity.

I enclose a copy of the front page of my newsletter, sent to Clergy and others yesterday. People are immediately responsive to the suggestion that we in Australia provide extra refugee places, given what is happening in Syria.

Be assured of my prayers and best wishes as you try to make the best decisions in difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Huggins".

Bishop Philip Huggins
Chair, Anglican Church of Australia General Synod Working Group on Refugees and Asylum-seekers.

cc: The Hon Peter Dutton, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection
The Primate
General Synod Office