

"Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope"

Welcome to Church

Sentence for Today

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86.15



For those who have children with them, there is a children's corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend 'Godzone' - Special Children's Activities - shortly after we begin the 9.30am service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Entrance hymn: TiS 235 "A man there lived in Galilee"

A man there lived in Galilee like no one else before, for he alone from first to last our flesh unsullied wore; a perfect life of perfect deeds once to the world was shown, that everyone might mark his steps and in them place their own.

A man there died on Calvary, above all others brave; he gave to all, he saved and blessed, himself he scorned to save; no thought can gauge the weight of woe on him, the sinless, laid; we only know that with his death our ransom price was paid.

A man there stands at God's right hand, divine, yet human still; that brand, heroic, peerless soul death sought in vain to kill.
All power is his; supreme he rules all realms of time and space; yet still our human cares and needs find in his heart a place.

Somerset Corry Lowry (1855 – 1932) alt.

Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome

Prayer of Preparation:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Two Great Commandments:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Kyries: Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**, Lord have mercy.

The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ. with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day:

Saving God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We join together in the following prayer in time of pandemic disease:

Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend, come and care for all of us through the danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic.
To people who are sick, bring healing.
To people who are displaced, isolated, or cut off from family, friends or work, bring comfort and companionship.
Work with medical staff as they care for the sick, and protect them from harm.

Give skill and fruitful research to scientists as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure. To public health authorities, give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties.

When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit, and kindness to neighbours and strangers. Through this testing time, and through all the risks we face together, teach us once again how we can love one another as you have loved us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Godzone talk and Blessing The ministry of the Word: The first reading: Genesis 28.10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord', the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139.1-11, 139.23-24

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand,
you comprehend my thoughts long before.
You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.
You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.

Where shall I go from your spirit: or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven you are there: if I make my bed in the grave you are there also. If I spread out my wings towards the morning: or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea. Even there your hand shall lead me: and your right hand shall hold me. If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me: and the night will enclose me'. The darkness is no darkness with you. but the night is as clear as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike. Search me out. O God. and know my heart: put me to the proof and know my thoughts. Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me: and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The second reading: Romans 8.12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn: TiS 168 "For the fruits of all creation"

For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God. For his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Frederick Pratt Green 1903-

The Gospel reading:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 13 beginning at verse 24

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered. "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers. Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all

causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed:

Let us stand together and affirm the faith of the church:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and became truly human.

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge

the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son

is worshipped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the

forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life for the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

At the conclusion

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,
Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preparation

Jesus said: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. John 13.34

Prayer of Approach:

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Confession:

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

Confession:

Merciful God, our maker and our judge we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace:

We are the body of Christ. **His spirit is with us.**The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory hymn: TiS 276 "There's a light upon the mountains"

There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring, when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King; weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long, but His triumph-day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.

In the fading of the starlight we can see the coming morn; and the lights of men are paling in the splendors of the dawn; for the eastern skies are glowing as with lights of hidden fire, and the hearts of men are stirring with the throb of deep desire.

There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air; and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer; for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne, and the travail of our spirit is the travail of His own.

He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way; he is calling for His angels to build up the gates of day; but His angels here are human, not the shining hosts above, for the drum-beats of His army are the heart-beats of our love.

Hark! we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell; the great triumph song of Jesus, of our King Emmanuel; Zion, go ye forth to meet Him, and my soul, be swift to bring all thy sweetest and thy dearest for the triumph of our King

Henry Burton 1840-1930 alt.

Prayer over the gifts:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Through him,

you have revealed to us your glory in the community of your love, three persons, one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The breaking of the bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Invitation to communion:

The gifts of God, for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Post communion hymn: TiS 429 "Break now the bread of life"

Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you broke the loaves beside the sea; beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord, my spirit longs for you, O living Word.

Bless your own truth, dear Lord, to me, to me as when you blessed the bread by Galilee; then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Mary Artemisia Lathbury 1841-1913 alt.

Prayer after Communion:

Father of all
we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us in this hope that we have grasped:
so we and all your people will be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name.

Notices

The Blessing:

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: TiS 675 "Lord, the light of your love is shining"

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me
Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence From the shadows into your radiance By the blood I may enter your brightness Search me, try me, consume all my darkness Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness So our faces display your likeness Ever changing from glory to glory Mirrored here may our lives tell your story Shine on me, shine on me

Graham Kendrick 1950-.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

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NOTICES

COVID-19:

Due to current health safety restrictions, we are unable to gather in our church space for the time being. We continue to BE the church by praying for one another, seeking God, serving with love, and sharing hope.

We look forward to that day when we can gather once more as the body of Christ here at the Church of the Ascension.

The July edition of TMA is now available online:

(see http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/this-months-tma)

News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*

The NewsStand is now live on *TMA*'s website, using the link http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand

In this week's edition:

- How Anglican churches and agencies pitched in to help residents in Melbourne's locked-down towers
- Archbishop of Canterbury makes a call on this year's delayed Lambeth Conference
- Srebrenica remembered, 25 years on
- Head of Anglican Church in Hong Kong expresses support for security law
- New Archbishop of York: God wants a Church of 'glorious and profligate diversity'
- and much more...

SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK

Wednesday MARY MAGDALENE

Saturday JAMES, APOSTLE & MARTYR

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wednesday: Next Sunday: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

 Song of Songs 3.1-4a
 Genesis 29.15-28

 Psalm 63
 Psalm 105.1-11

 2 Corinthians 5.14-21
 Romans 8.26-39

 John 20.1-18
 Matthew 13.44-58

WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR THE CHURCH

Sun 19 Pray for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (Bp Joel Atiwag Pachao); Diocese of Bathurst (Bp Mark Calder, Clergy and People); Angliss Health Services; Parish of Caroline Springs (Jonathan Smith); Parish of St Martin's, Belgrave Heights w. All Saints, The Carlotta Tye Memorial Church Selby – pastoral visit (Bp Paul Barker);

Mon 20 Diocese of Bendigo (Bp Matt Brain, Clergy and People); University of Divinity (Peter Sherlock, Vice-Chancellor); Casey Anglican Dinka Congregation AAC (Peter Alier Jongroor);

Tue 21 Diocese of Brisbane (Abp Phillip Aspinall, Regional Bps Jeremy Greaves, Cameron Venables, John Roundhill, Clergy and People); Aged Care Ministry; St Catharine's Caulfield South (Adam Cetrangolo, Heather Cetrangolo);

Wed 22 Diocese of Bunbury (Bp Ian Coutts, Clergy and People); Archdeaconry of Geelong (Jill McCoy); Oaktree Anglican Church, St Mary's Caulfield with St Clement's Elsternwick (Rod McArdle, Locum; Andrew Stewart, Kaveh Hassanzadeh, Kate Jacob);

Thu 23 Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn (Bp Mark Short, Asst Bps Stephen Pickard, Carol Wagner, Clergy and People); Melbourne Girls' Grammar School (Toni Meath, Principal; Kirsty Ross, Chaplain); St Paul's Caulfield North (Howard Langmead);

Fri 24 Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains and Members of the Defence Forces); Anglican Boys' Society – CEBS (Bruce Anderson, Secretary); St Matthew's Cheltenham (Colleen Clayton);

Sat 25 Diocese of Gippsland (Bp Richard Treloar, Clergy and People); Anglican Cursillo Movement; Chinese Mission of the Epiphany Melbourne (Richard Liu);

Church congregations as they stay connected without regular services of public worship during the coronavirus pandemic.

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Those still recovering from the floods and fires. All who have lost their livelihood due to the Coronavirus. Families, healthcare workers, emergency workers in these uncertain times.

THE WORLD

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff.

A peaceful solution to the tensions in Hong Kong, the Gulf Region and in particular Syria. The Asylum Seekers on Manus Island.

THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY

Each other and God's presence in the events of the week

Those in special need of prayer: Muriel Paterson, Helen Daniels, Peggy Horman, Estelle Carman, Jean (& Alan) Close, Carole, Joanne, Nelson, Pauline Le Riche, Paul Maharaj, Graeme Floage (& Lisa), Glenys and Brian Howell, Ethel Lloyd, Elaine Cairns, Elizabeth O'Shannessy, Barbara Stark, Rosemary Roach, Graeme Munday, Brittany Lee, Cath Ortlieb, Liang, Lyle (& Jan) Mansfield, Dave (& Joy) Ritchie, others known to us

Those working in healthcare and aged care:

Lyndall Slaney - Disabilities Carer

Lois Ritchie - Aged Care Worker

Angeline Thiagarajah - Doctor, Monash Hospital

Janet Hemphill - Aged Care Nurse

Sandy Blease - Aged Care Nurse

Kym Le Riche - Personal Aged Care Assistant

Christine Youings - Medical Scientist Pathology

Darren Mansfield - Intensive Care Respiratory Specialist, Monash Health

Chloe Bedlow - National Manager, Seniors Living at Mercy Health

Cathryn Youings - Intern at St Vincents Hospital

Frances Harrison - Aged Care Nurse

The residents and staff at Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge

Ourselves - as we stay connected through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer

Any method, absolutely any method, is your method if you find it opens the doors towards heaven and helps you gain contact with God.

And it is not your method, no matter who does it, if it does not succeed in doing that.

(From "Channels of Spiritual Power" by Frank Laubach)



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

PRIEST in CHARGE: Fr. Anthony Frost **Phone:** 0409 012 543

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: www.ascensionchurch.org.au

EACEPOOK PL

FACEBOOK Please visit and www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast

Email: office@ascensionchurch.org.au

Pastoral Care contact: Fr Anthony

Pew sheet: Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheet to Ron McKenzie by

5:00p.m. Thursday evening (<u>r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au</u>.)

Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement

Weekly services & activities

Due to our current circumstances we conduct our weekly services in our own homes.

Monday - Sunday

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evening Prayer

<u>Commitment to Child Safety:</u> At the Church of the Ascension we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive. This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.