

rate a great success!



Hello Peter --

What a huge team effort yesterday! Organising groups in 13 different locations across Australia and the Pacific designed beautiful Faiths 4 Climate Justice Multi-faith Services which were attended by many hundreds of people of faith. We were in our element! People from the Pacific shared their experiences and people chanted, prayed, sang and meditated in ways that were always rich and varied, and sometimes really quite moving.

Some supporters showed their deep spiritual commitment to the cause by praying and meditating all through the night before the services in the morning.

As well as being meaningful in their own right, the Services created local interest for a wide range of media outlets leading to much more extensive media coverage than the open letter would have received on its own. Local

radio stations took a keen interest. Our passionate and articulate spokespersons shared their wisdom in dozens of radio interviews, many of them on the ABC.

The amazing Fahimah Badrulhisham has quickly put together this draft 2-minute [video clip](#) (more photos will be added) summing up some of the achievements of the day. Please share it and any relevant photos and coverage on Facebook and Twitter, tag Anthony Albanese (write @AnthonyAlbanese and choose the relevant image that pops up) and add #Faiths4Climate.

Thank you also to all the First Nations and faith leader signatories, who have lent the weight of their authority to the [open letter](#) itself. We were reliably informed that this sometimes involved careful discussion amongst their community leaders, so support wasn't given lightly.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who made the day a success!



Uncle John Lochowiak leads a smoking ceremony in Adelaide. Photo credit: Nadav Kaminsky.



Outdoor service in Bunbury. Photo credit: Charo Chacon.



Participants at Parramatta. Photo credit: Michael O'Farrell.



Participants in Brisbane. Photo credit: Peter Branjerdporn.

Here's what some of you have commented:

Adelaide: "Hopefully we've moved a few hearts and minds."

Parramatta: "Congratulations on a very special event at St Patrick's today. The service was beautifully organised and went flawlessly. It was a joy to have the different faiths represented in prayer and song and also the contribution of the school students."

Newcastle: "Our Service at the Catholic Church at Tighes hill was a great success today, with more than 50 in attendance." Another participant: "Yes, it was great to see people from a range of backgrounds. A Privilege to be involved!"

A Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty activist: "Congratulations on the launch of the letter today - great to see it has so much backing and coverage."

Media coverage

Special thanks go to the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia who were the driving force behind fund-raising for the paid ad in the AFR and collectively donated a third of the cost. We really appreciate the support of a philanthropist couple who generously gave \$4,000 towards it, and Oxfam Australia who donated \$2,000.

Climate Action Network Australia paid a media consultant to help us pitch the story in mainstream media, for which we're very grateful. Heath Aston strategically made the most of his contacts to maximise coverage.

Last but not least, thank you to Tejopala Rawls who put careful thought, enormous energy and diligent organising skills into every aspect of

preparations. Tejopala would frequently suggest that we take paths that required the kind of hard work and courage that others might shy away from.

Here's how we came across to viewers of ABC Adelaide TV News (click on image.)



The summary of media coverage below is not comprehensive. There'll be more coverage in religious media over the coming days:

- The Australian
- The Australian Financial Review
- The Australian Associated Press ran the story which then got picked up in the Canberra Times, West Australian, Newcastle Herald, Bendigo Advertiser, Illawarra Mercury and a large number of regional newspapers
- The Adelaide Advertiser
- The Guardian's live blog
- The Beagle on the south coast of NSW
- Mirage News
- ABC Radio in Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Cairns, Wollongong, Sydney and more
- ABC Radio National on AM
- TV crews from SBS went to both the Sydney and Perth services
- Ten sent a crew to the Sydney service
- Seven News sent a crew in Cairns

- 6PR radio in Perth, syndicated to three other stations elsewhere, including 2GB in Sydney
- The National Indigenous Radio Service
- The Catholic Leader
- Hope 103.2 FM
- 2SM radio
- Radio Adelaide
- Channel 31 TV in Melbourne
- A Bunbury WA local paper
- CathNews
- Anglican Focus in Brisbane
- Sight Magazine (Christian online)

Of course, the letter has been sent to Prime Minister Albanese and members of his Cabinet. We pray now that they allow themselves to be moved and motivated by the letter to reconsider the Government's position on a few of their policy positions. We continue to pray for all those who are paying a high price for Australia's moral failure around protecting the earth's climate.

We'll be asking you to follow up with further actions in the coming weeks, both in relation to the Labor Government and as part of our corporate-focused Move Beyond Coal work, but how about we breathe for now. I'm going to attend to my badly neglected garden!

Shalom, Salaam, Om Shanti, Peace, سَلَامٌ, 和平, Paz, शांति, صلح, สันติภาพ

Thea

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