

Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2017

(A compilation of the annual reports from the Regional Councils.)

Key Points

- Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* each Regional Council must present an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions for inclusion in the Standing Committee's report to Synod for that year
- These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*

Background

1. Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995*, each Regional Council must present to the Standing Committee an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions under clause 6 in sufficient time each year to enable the Standing Committee to include the report in the report for that year of the Standing Committee to Synod.

2. The general functions of the Regional Councils under clause 6 are –

- (a) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee and referred to it for implementation;
- (b) to develop ministry strategies in the Region;
- (c) to assess applications for grants in the Region made or referred to it;
- (d) to make grants or loans from money (consistent with any trusts on which that money may be held) available to it for distribution or for lending;
- (e) to accept gifts and grants;
- (f) to raise and expend money for any purpose connected with ministry in the Region;
- (g) to employ persons for any purpose connected with ministry within the Region, and to dismiss any person so employed;
- (h) to manage and control any endowment held for the Region as a whole;
- (i) to discuss matters affecting the Region and to disseminate information in the Region;
- (j) to make recommendations to the Archbishop about alterations to regional boundaries; and
- (k) to exercise such other functions as the Synod or the Standing Committee may from time to time prescribe.

3. The following are the reports from the Regional Councils for 2017 for the purposes of clause 9(2). These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

Georges River Regional Council

4. The Regional Council had three meetings in 2017 plus a day conference and all were held in parishes within the Region. At the meetings, the Rector of the parish was invited to give a Bible study and then report on the activities within the parish. This gave the Council a good indication of the challenges facing the parish and highlighted that different strategies had to be implemented to face some of the challenges of a changing society.

5. Our meetings provided input and feedback on regional strategy and ministry within the region. Though not flushed with funds, the Council continued to think through the most strategic use of those funds and is also considering some asset re-alignment.

6. The Region continued to support the vital and unique ministry of the Rev Margaret Powell amongst women. We are thankful to God for the financial and prayer support given to Margaret Powell from Anglican Deaconess Ministries, parishes in the diocese and individual donors that support this work.

Northern Regional Council

7. The Council met formally once during the year. Further urgent business was dealt with by circular resolution to which all members participated.

8. Our meetings enabled discussion of a range of matters relating to ministry strategies in the region, including consideration of ways the Council might assist parish ministry in line with the Diocesan Mission.

Following work commenced in 2015 and a survey of parishes undertaken by the Council in 2016, the Council continued to consider the implications of the survey report. In addition, the Council considered the results of the Bilton Report. These results were compared and contrasted to the NRC survey noting that the two exercises addressed different questions. NRC focusing more on enablers and inhibitors of ministry although responses showed some overlap. The Bilton Report often reflected resources shortages which were evident through the NRC report; shortages of resources (people, skills, property and finance) were highlighted.

9. In May, the Council hosted the Northern Region Conference at St Paul's Chatswood. Over 150 people attended, mostly clergy from the region. The conference covered a number of topics including the Diocesan Mission, whole life in ministry, safe ministry, use of NCLS data, and reflecting on what enables and detracts from effective ministry. Presenters included Archbishop Dr Glenn Davies, the Rev Bruce Clark, the Rev Neil Atwood, Sam Sterland (NCLS), the Rev Dr Keith and Sarah Condie (ADM) and Bishop Chris Edwards.

10. In accordance with its authority under relevant ordinances the Council approved the amalgamation of the parishes of Beacon Hill and Frenchs Forest.

South Sydney Regional Council

11. The South Sydney Region comprises the area of the CBD of Sydney and is bordered by the Tasman Sea, Parramatta River, Cooks River and Rookwood Cemetery.

12. The Council met once during the year as well as consultation by email and phone.

13. In 2017, the main activities of the Council either by way of report or action was as follows –

- Review of NCLS and other statistical data and its implication for evangelism, church growth and future strategies for the region
- Safe ministry, ministry training & pastoral care of clergy with some additional funds approved for those in need but not covered by the Clergy Assistance Program
- Continued financial support for the Ministry of the Church of England on Norfolk Island (\$36,000) and Living Water (Indigenous Ministry - \$25,000)
- Consideration of conditions for and approval of the amalgamation of Waverley and Bondi Parishes
- Promotion of evangelism
- Progress on the appointment of clergy to vacant parishes
- Consideration of various property matters, including the sale of St Columba's Homebush West; the sale of Wentworth Memorial Church, the co-located of Living Water Indigenous Fellowship with the Maori Anglican Fellowship (Redfern), St Barnabas Broadway land transfer, Cathedral – Chapter House Renovations, St Nicholas Coogee – Christian Preschool, St Matthew's Botany – new hall.

Western Sydney Regional Council

14. The main committees are the Executive Committee, the Ordinance Review Panel and the Architectural Panel.

15. The Council met on 1 occasion at St Peter's, Seven Hills. The main areas of consideration included Mission 2020, the Clergy Contact Persons program, the new Rectors program, pastoral difficulties in parishes, parish vacancies and new appointments, NCLS data, the Regional Conference and building projects in the region.

Wollongong Regional Council

16. Bishop Peter Hayward and the Regional Council worked closely to further support ministry across the Region. This included –

- financial support for the ministries at Oran Park, Gregory Hills, Leppington and Wilton
- financial support with subsidised rectories at Sussex Inlet and Leppington
- financial support with subsidised demountable at Helensburgh and Denham Court
- meeting with and support of Mission Area leaders
- support for Rectors
- specific regional training for Rectors and Wardens
- 3 day Regional Ministry conference with David Helm as guest speaker
- Preparation for the 2018 *JESUS IS* Mission

- Support of the Gong Men's Day and SWITCH Women's Conference
- ongoing support for ESL English classes
 - ESL classes were delivered in 12 Parishes across the Region
 - Support through provision of office space for the Regional Anglicare ESL Coordinator, Mrs Sue Radkovic
- ongoing support for Indigenous Ministries
 - Pastor Michael Duckett linked with St Peter's Campbelltown in partnership with the SAIPMC.
 - Mr Phil Miles linked with All Saints Nowra in partnership with the SAIPMC.

17. During 2017 funding from the Region's assets was allocated to the specific ministry in the South West growth sector.

Ministry	Purpose	Allocation	Total
Oran Park	Housing Support	\$16,570	
Leppington	Church Plant	\$70,000	
Gregory Hills	Church Plant	\$10,000	
Wilton Junction	Ministry Support	\$40,000	\$136,570

18. The three day Wollongong Regional Ministry Conference continues to be a "high point" in the life of the Region. This enables clergy and lay parish staff to meet together for mutual fellowship and teaching. Various guest speakers and Diocesan organisations join in the conference.

19. The Council received reports from Bishop Hayward and the Assistant to the Bishop at each meeting. For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

DANIEL GLYNN
Diocesan Secretary

28 August 2018