

Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2019

(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 2019 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 four meetings in 2019. 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. Updates were provided on the preparation for the Regional 2020 John 3:16 Mission.
6. 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.
7. 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. It was decided that for the long term ministry and evangelism to women that Rev Powell specialises in, it would best for this ministry to come under the auspices of ENC. This was effected 1 January 2020.

Northern Regional Council

8. The Council met formally twice during the year. Further urgent business was dealt with by circular resolution to which all members participated.
9. 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.
10. In May, the Council hosted the Northern Region Conference at St Paul's Chatswood. Over 185 people attended the one-day event, mostly clergy from the region. The theme of the conference was "Partnership: FAMILY, TEAM, CHURCH, REGION". The Rev Suz Gorham (Chaplain from Roseville College) was MC for the day. Bishop Edwards led a devotion and guest speakers spoke in the morning session –
 - Leisa Aitken spoke on "Partnership: Balancing Family and Church in Ministry",
 - Raj Gupta spoke on "Church Building", and
 - Kirsty Bucknell and Jillian Fulcher spoke on "Collaboration - Partnership Within & Between Churches".
11. In November, the Council funded a workshop for Wardens. The session was attended by 75 wardens/treasurers and was facilitated by Thesauros Consulting.
12. In accordance with its authority under relevant ordinances, the Council agreed to St Augustine's Church Neutral Bay amalgamation with Church by the Bridge Kirribilli.
13. At the October Synod, the Council (to the best of its knowledge) became the first Regional Council to exercise its right to amend an ordinance of the Synod. After much debate the Council's amendments, adding three (3) School Heads to the membership of Synod; and, to clarify the term of lay Synod membership were passed. The Council's recommendation that would result in all members of Synod signing a declaration of faith was not passed.

South Sydney Regional Council

14. 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. It also includes the parish of Norfolk Island and the Church of England on Norfolk Island.
15. The Council met once during the year as well as consultation by email and phone.
16. In 2019, the main activities of the Council either by way of report or action was as follows –
 - Receiving reports from, and providing approved funding for, the Church of England on Norfolk Island (\$24,000) and Living Water Indigenous Ministry (\$12,500).
 - Approved Grants for 2020 from the SSRC funds for the following:

Living Water	\$12,500
Norfolk Island	\$25,000
Parish of South Sydney	\$10,000
 - Resolved that the parish of Coogee should not become a provisional parish, on the basis that giving to the parish in 2018 was in excess of the Net Operating Receipts threshold, but the parish had failed to meet the revenue test for technical reasons.
 - Review progress on the appointment of clergy to vacant parishes and various property development proposals.

Western Sydney Regional Council

17. The main committees are the Executive Committee, the Ordinance Review Panel and the Architectural Panel.
18. The Council met on 1 occasion during 2019 at Pitt Town Anglican Church. The main areas of consideration included pastoral difficulties in parishes, parish vacancies and new appointments, NCLS data, building projects in the region – in particular the Council agreeing to loan the parish of Glenmore Park and Mulgoa a sum to assist with building a new ministry centre at Silverdale.

Wollongong Regional Council

19. The Wollongong Regional Council met three times during 2019 on the evenings of 12 March, 11 June and 10 September. The meetings were held in Wollongong with each meeting preceded by a meal.
20. Bishop Peter Hayward and the Regional Council worked closely to further support ministry across the Region. This included:
 - financial support for the ministries at Leppington
 - 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
 - Support of the Gong Men's Day and SWITCH Women's Conference
 - ongoing support for ESL English classes
 - ESL classes were delivered in 16 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.
21. During 2019 funding from the Region's assets was allocated to the specific ministry in the South West growth sector.

Ministry	Purpose	Allocation	Total
Leppington	Church Plant	\$70,000	\$70,000

22. The three day Wollongong Regional Ministry Conference continues to be a "high point" in the life of the Region. This enables clergy and lay ministry staff to meet together for mutual fellowship and teaching. Various guest speakers and Diocesan organisations join in the conference.
23. 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

23 September 2020