

Consultation on Anglicare's delivery of welfare and support services

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Key Points

- Under clause 23A of the *Anglican Community Services Constitution Ordinance 1961* Anglicare is required to consult with the Standing Committee at least annually in respect to the pursuit of its object under clause 5(b), namely welfare and support services for the vulnerable, the marginalised, the disabled and those in necessitous circumstances
- The Ministry in Socially Disadvantaged Areas Committee (the MSDAC) has undertaken the 2018 consultation with Anglicare on behalf of Standing Committee
- Anglicare has continued to increase funding through its Community Services Division for its services towards socially disadvantaged people through its "own programs", with further increases in funding planned for following years
- Anglicare is beginning partner development work with Parishes that have high areas of social disadvantage
- Even with the sustained increased support of Anglicare, the need remains for Anglican Aid to continue to provide small amounts of grant money to ministries in socially disadvantaged areas

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Standing Committee with information on the consultation between the MSDAC and Anglicare pursuant to clause 23A of the *Anglican Community Services Constitution Ordinance 1961* (the Ordinance).

Recommendations

2. Synod receive this report.

Background

3. The MSDAC met with the Chief Executive Officer of Anglicare, Mr Grant Millard, and Anglicare's Chief Financial Officer, Mr Greg Muddle, to undertake the consultation required by clause 23A of the Ordinance. Clause 23A requires an annual consultation with Anglicare, concerning its pursuit of its object under clause 5(b) of the Ordinance which provides –

The Body Corporate is established as a public benevolent institution to further the work of the Anglican Church of Australia, Diocese of Sydney by promoting and proclaiming the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ while undertaking works of public benevolence that reflect the love of God as shown in Christ including –

.....

(b) *welfare and support services for the vulnerable, the marginalised, the disabled and those in necessitous circumstances;.....*

4. In undertaking this consultation, the MSDAC had regard to Synod resolution 2/16 by which the Synod approved of the merger between Anglican Retirement Villages and the old Anglicare. Paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of resolution 2/16 specifically addressed the need for Anglicare to continue its work of public benevolence to those in necessitous circumstances following the merger. The terms of the resolution are –

Synod, noting the report of the Standing Committee in relation to the proposed merger of Anglican Retirement Villages Diocese of Sydney (ARV) and Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society (Anglicare) together with accompanying draft ordinances and other documents in relation to the proposed merger received at this session, approves in principle the merger of these two organisations on the basis that –

- (a) the indemnity provided by ARV to Anglicare is intended to ensure that survivors of child abuse have at least an equivalent level of recourse as if Anglicare had continued to operate in its own right,
- (b) the merged organisation will actively aim to continue to deliver services provided by Anglicare and ARV to socially disadvantaged people at an enhanced level,
- (c) the merged organisation will actively aim to continue the work undertaken by Anglicare with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples at an enhanced level,

- (d) the merged organisation will actively aim to continue to alleviate necessitous circumstances through the provision of education at an enhanced level,
- (e) the legal name of the merged organisation is “Anglican Community Services”,
- (f) consideration is given to making provision in both the Anglicare and ARV constituting ordinances for a gift fund for both entities,

and requests the Standing Committee to pass such ordinances and take such other action it considers necessary or desirable to give effect to the merger on this basis.

Overview

5. Though Anglicare provides services to many in ‘necessitous circumstances’, such as its extensive Aged care Work, the focus of this report specifically relates to Anglicare’s work with disadvantaged and marginalised people (so called ‘welfare’ work).

6. Analysis of Anglicare’s proposed budget for the 2019 Financial Year demonstrates the commitment to continue to deliver services to socially disadvantaged people at an enhanced level.

Process in Determining Funding

7. Anglicare has recently launched a new 10-year strategic plan that has three themes that will enable the organisation to grow and develop with purpose. They are – Christ Centred: honouring Jesus in all that is done; Customer experience: valuing every person; Community: enabling people to grow by belonging to community. These three themes will apply to socially disadvantaged people as Anglicare develops ministry at the margins of society, advocating for those in need and providing resources to serve and support those who are particularly vulnerable. Anglicare has a stated goal to ‘invest new services for vulnerable people, up to 5% of available capital”.

8. To enable Anglicare to have a greater flexibility in providing existing services as well as giving opportunity to deploy new services into the future, Anglicare aims to reduce dependency, over the next 10 years, on government contracts in the Community Services Division. Currently, in the 2018-19 financial year, Anglicare is budgeting \$28 million in government funding against a total budget of \$35 million.

9. The majority of Anglicare’s reach to socially disadvantaged people and areas is through the work of the Community Services division of Anglicare. As a matter of policy, Anglicare is aiming to increase expenditure in the ‘welfare’ area of Community Services work. The main priority is to direct resources to programs that have the capacity for self-funding. As an example the Mobile Community Pantry Program will in 2019 expand from three to four vans with an expectation that 40 churches across the Diocese will be involved.

Distribution of Surplus Net Funds

10. The following table sets out the metrics Anglicare uses for delivering services to socially disadvantaged people. The surplus is the net surplus generated from all sources across Anglicare’s organisation.

Spending metrics	FY16	FY17	FY18B	FY19B
Community Service resources				
Amount spent (\$m)	4.3	5.4	7.0	8.9
Spending as a % of Net Surplus generated	18%	21%	31%	36%
Spending growth (3 year ave)				27%
Pastoral Care & Mission resources				
Amount spent (\$m)	4.2	4.7	6.1	6.9
Spending as a % of Net Surplus generated	17%	18%	27%	28%
Spending growth (3 year ave)				19%

11. The additional budgeted \$1.9 million available in the next financial year will be allocated as follows: Food & Financial Assistance \$1.0 million; Transitional accommodation (‘SHIFT’) \$ 0.6 million; ESL \$0.1million; Syrian refugee \$0.1 million; NDIS expansion \$0.1million.

12. The 2017 Synod report indicated that Anglicare anticipated an additional \$1.6 million would be available in 2017 and 2018 to enable the delivery of effective and sustainable self-funded programs. It is pleasing to report that Anglicare is now able to commit \$3.5 million to these programs.

13. The key self-funded Anglicare programs are –

- Food and Financial Assistance ('FFA') which provides for both immediate and longer term needs of people in necessitous circumstances (food hampers, emergency relief vouchers, case work, electricity bill subsidies, financial counselling);
- Mobile Community Pantry program which supports churches in reaching out to those in need in our community with both affordable groceries and food as well as friendship and gospel opportunities;
- Annual Toys and Tucker program which brings together a network of volunteers and community groups and the Anglicare FFA team to share the love of Jesus to those in need at Christmas;
- English as a Second Language, or ESL, which support church ministry teams in providing much needed ESL classes, friendship and gospel sharing for people from the migrant, refugee and asylum seeker communities;
- Other refugee programs also working with local churches to care for both the Syrian and Iraqi refugee communities but also to extend ministry to the asylum seeker and refugee communities beyond ESL;
- Support work for churches in the areas of domestic violence and family skills to enable churches to better engage in these social challenges and build healthy ministries;
- The 'SHIFT' program, which provides support and housing for families in transition – particularly refugees and those fleeing domestic violence.

14. In addition to the programs above, Anglicare plans to continue the expansion of its Housing Assistance program, which provides affordable accommodation options and secure tenure to people at risk of homelessness. Anglicare will increase the number of dwellings from 82 in 2018-19 to 123 in 2019-20.

15. The other area that Anglicare is beginning is partner development work with Parishes that have high areas of social disadvantage. As a trial, in 2018 Anglicare is funding a Community Chaplain position in the Parish of Eagle Vale to work specifically in Claymore, the most disadvantaged area in Sydney Diocese. If the trial is successful, Anglicare will fund further Community Chaplains to work in other disadvantaged Parishes. Another example of the expansion of Parish Partnership is the 'Dementia Friendly Church' project aimed at resourcing, training and mentoring local churches to run dementia friendly services and to enable ministry to carers.

Conclusion

16. Anglicare's work and ministry amongst the socially disadvantaged people and area of the Diocese continues to expand. The initial small increase in funding has continued to grow. MSDAC is confident that the financial benefits of the new Anglicare for this area will continue.

17. Anglicare have actively supported and helped facilitate the work of MSDAC in continuing and expanding, in a sustainable way, the ministry in Parishes and ENC churches that have a particular focus in disadvantaged areas. However, Anglicare remains convinced that it cannot participate as a grant funder to parishes or churches, due to the real risk that such funding will be seen (or could be construed) as distributions to members, prejudicing the legal status of the organisation.

18. MSDAC is convinced there remains a need for a small amount of annual funding to support ministry in disadvantaged areas. To this end, Anglican Aid's Community Care Program is imminently suited to provide this funding. Given the complexity of needs in highly disadvantaged areas across the Diocese there will continue to be a need for both Anglicare and Anglican Aid to be involved.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

BISHOP PETER HAYWARD
Chair, Ministry in Socially Disadvantaged Areas Committee

4 September 2018