

General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023

No 31, 2023

Long Title

An Ordinance to assent to Canon No 7, 2022 of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney Ordains as follows.

1. Name

This Ordinance is the General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023.

2. Assent to Canon No 7, 2022

The Synod assents to Canon No 7, 2022 of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, the text of which is set out in the Schedule.

Schedule

The General Synod prescribes as follows.

Title

1. This Canon may be referred to as the "Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022".

Mandatory suspension of a Bishop charged with sexual offence relating to a child

2. In section 61A of the Constitution —
 - (a) for "Where" substitute:

"(1) Subject to sub-section (2), where";
 - (b) after "some lesser time." insert —

"(2) Where a charge which involves a sexual offence relating to a child has been promoted in the Special Tribunal against a person referred to in section 56(6), the President of the Special Tribunal must suspend the person from the duties of office until the determination of the charge."; and
 - (c) for "If such suspension is made and is from" substitute "(3) If a person is suspended under sub-section (1) or (2) and that suspension is from".

Definition of "sexual offence relating to a child"

3. (1) Subject to sub-section (3)—
 - (a) in section 74 of the Constitution, after the definition of "Ceremonial" insert —

' **child** means a person under the age of 18;'; and
 - (b) there are repealed:
 - (i) the definition of "child" in section 2(1) of the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017; and
 - (ii) the definition of "child" in the Third Schedule to the National Register Canon 2007.
- (2) In section 74 of the Constitution, after the definition of "See" insert —

' **sexual offence relating to a child** means —

 - (a) sexual activity by a person against, with or in the presence of a child, or

General Synod – Constitution Amendment (Mandatory Suspension) Canon 2022 Assenting Ordinance 2023

- (b) the possession, production or distribution by a person of any form of child pornography—
in respect of which—
 - (c) the person has been convicted under the laws of the Commonwealth, State or Territory; or
 - (d) a court, commission or tribunal of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory has made an adverse finding of fact in relation to that person; or
 - (e) the person has been convicted in some other country under the laws of that country that are equivalent to a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory; or
 - (f) the person has not been tried by a court of competent jurisdiction and which if proved—
 - (i) if alleged to have been committed within Australia, would constitute a criminal offence in the State or Territory in which it is alleged to have occurred; and
 - (ii) if alleged to have been committed in a country other than Australia, would if committed in Australia constitute a criminal offence under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.”; and
- (b) there are repealed—
 - (i) any definition of "sexual offence relating to a child" in section 2(1) of the Episcopal Standards (Child Protection) Canon 2017; and
 - (ii) any definition of "sexual offence relating to a child" in section 2 of the Special Tribunal Canon 2007.
- (3) Sub-section (1) has effect only if at the time when this Canon comes into effect there is no definition of "child" in section 74 of the Constitution.

Repeal of Constitution Amendment (Suspension of Bishops) Canon 2007

4. Canon No. 18 of 2007 is repealed.

I Certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as reported.

P COLGAN
Chair of Committee

I Certify that this Ordinance was passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney on 11 September 2023.

B BOUNDS
Secretary

I Assent to this Ordinance.

KANISHKA RAFFEL
Archbishop of Sydney

19/09/2023