

# Ministry Spouse Support Fund Annual Report for 2021

(A report from the Professional Standards Unit.)

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the operation of the Ministry Spouse Support Fund (**MSSF**).

## Recommendations

2. Synod receive this report.

## Background

3. At its meeting on 15 April 2019, the Standing Committee, among other things, asked that –
  - (a) a report be provided regarding the Ministry Spouse Support Fund (MSSF) to the Standing Committee by June each year (commencing in 2020) detailing the total amount distributed from the MSSF and the number of ‘cases’ involved in the previous calendar year; along with an indication of the ongoing suitability of the level of funding and any additional commentary felt useful, and
  - (b) a preliminary report be provided to the Standing Committee in July 2019 indicating the initial use of the MSSF in its first six months (for promotion to the Synod).

## Use of the MSSF

4. During the reporting period, the calendar year of 2021, no payments were made from the MSSF.
5. The partnership with Anglicare in the areas of advice from Lynda Dunstan (the Family and Domestic Violence Advisor), counselling (personal and financial), the Shift Housing Program and the skills of Family Relationship Centre counsellors and mediators has meant that the spouses are supported by skilled professionals with united aims to protect children and scaffold victims towards financial and sustained independence.
6. To the end of the reporting period, payments totalling \$69,956.82 have been made from the fund since its inception. All of the spouses who have received payment to date have been women.
7. Additionally, since the end of the reporting period, further payments totalling \$33,530 have been made.

For and on behalf of the Professional Standards Unit.

BELINDA BURN  
**Chaplain**

3 August 2022