

# Ministry Spouse Support Fund Annual Report

(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.

## 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 one payment has been made to a ministry spouse, a historical victim of domestic abuse, in the sum of \$4,000.
5. The spouse who received this payment has conveyed her gratitude and thanks for the establishment of the fund. The payment on this occasion was for the provision of counselling support. All of the spouses who have received payment to date have been women.
6. 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.
7. There is the likelihood of two more payments in this calendar year.

For and on behalf of the Professional Standards Unit

LACHLAN BRYANT  
**Director of Professional Standards**

4 September 2020