

# Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Oran Park to a parish

(A report of the Wollongong Regional Council.)

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to propose that the Provisional Parish of Oran Park be classified as the Parish of Oran Park.

## Recommendation

2. The Wollongong Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Oran Park be classified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.

## Support of the Wollongong Regional Council

3. On 11 June 2019 the Wollongong Regional Council resolved to support the request that the Provisional Parish of Oran Park be classified as a parish under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.
4. The Wollongong Regional Council certifies that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979* have been complied with.

## Parish Information

### Particulars of all church trust property

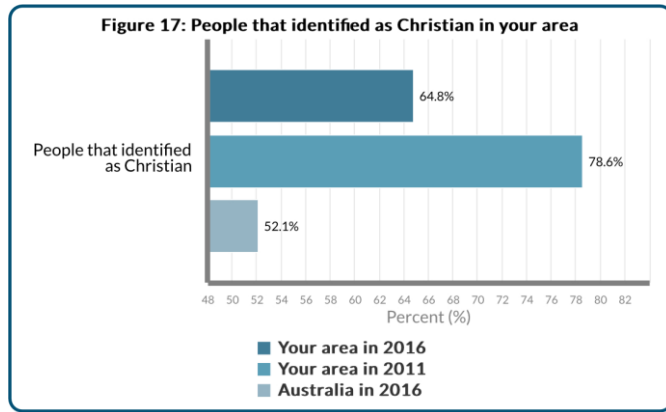
5. There are two Parish properties –
  - (a) Church building at Cnr Marcus Loane Way and Central Avenue in Oran Park (seating 220 completed 2015).
  - (b) Church rectory at 22 Luff Close Oran Park (built to Diocesan standards in 2012).

### An estimate of the number of households within the parish boundaries claiming Anglican affiliation

6. The population of Oran Park, and indeed the whole of our area of the South West of Sydney, is growing dynamically. Estimates that don't entirely share the Parish boundaries that suggest the population is currently between 10-12,000. The developers own projections suggest that eventually Oran Park Town itself will rise to 35,000 so there is much growth to come. In the next four years alone the town is projected to increase by another 9,000 kids and adults.

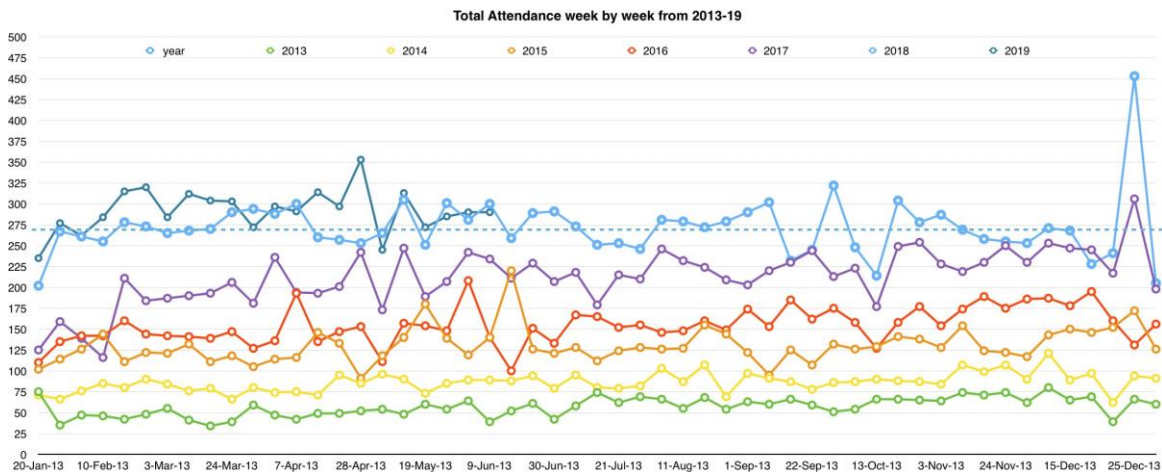


7. This corner of the Diocese has been traditionally over represented as Anglo and Anglican. Both of these are changing with the influx of a diverse group of new residents increasingly from India, and other nations and as it becomes more representative of the wider Australian secular culture.



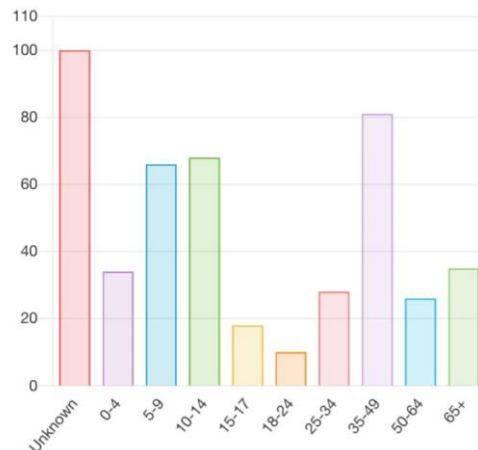
An estimate of the size of the congregation

- 8. Having started over 7 years ago with four adults and four children, the Parish is delighted to report that the average attendance across three services for the current year is 292 children and adults. These congregations meet at 8:45am, 10:30am, and 6pm.
- 9. Year-to-date on a given Sunday that looks like 155 adults that are known to the Parish, 108 kids and the rest is made up by guests who are finding their place in the Parish's fellowship and are yet to provide them with their details.
- 10. Under God's gracious hand the Parish has seen the congregation progress every year since it began regular weekly services (this year is shown [in green] at the base of the graph below) and in the current year (2019) [in the darkest blue] at the top.



**Ages**

11. Over the years the Parish have collected a lot of names in their database but do not have information for everyone in attendance. This accounts for the almost 100 names (in the graph opposite) for which they have no demographic data for. Never-the-less this is a pretty good indicator of the distribution of ages at NewLife with a predominance of young families showing 186 children on the Parish books under the age of 17!



12. The Parish continually gives thanks to God for the proximity of the Anglicare Retirement village across the road and the contribution that these older saints bring to balancing out the congregation and sharing their faith and encouragement with those considerably younger.

**A summary of the parish’s financial standing**

13. Since the Parish’s inception (and with the initial generous support of the Wollongong Regional Council), the Parish’s finances have been an ongoing story of God’s provision. Since they began in 2012, the Lead Pastor’s salary has been fully provided for up to and including the most recent year - 2018. The Parish’s income over the past four years is as laid out below –

<b>Year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$203,601*	\$213,278	\$344,250**	\$347,625

\* 2015 includes external grant support of \$38,750.  
 \*\* 2017 includes external grant support of \$46,500.

14. The Parish’s budget for 2019 is \$443,400 which provides for additional admin, women’s pastoral care, and Student ministry positions. The Parish is budgeting a loss for the year which will be returned to balance in 2020 and see this as an investment for its growth. The Parish’s 2018 financial statements show a net asset position of \$11,698,631.
15. At NewLife, the Parish’s vision is to see new life in Jesus come to every home in Oran Park and the growing South West, for their salvation, the good of the community, and the glory of God. God has been very good to the Parish. Transformation is coming to their community one household at a time - and the households around continue to grow every day.
16. The Parish believes full Parish status is one small step towards their participation in the wider mission of the Diocese and towards their maturing as a congregation. They pray that this might come quickly and thank [the Synod] for its consideration.

For and on behalf of the Wollongong Regional Council.

**PETER HAYWARD**  
**Bishop of Wollongong**

11 June 2019