

Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001

(Reprinted under the Interpretation Ordinance 1985.)

Table of Provisions

Clause	
1	Name
2	Definitions
3	Parish Development Review
4-8	Request for Development Review
9	Development Review by Review Group
10	Development Review by Accredited Facilitator
11-14	Report on Development Review
15-16	Cost of Development Review
17	Confidentiality

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The Synod of the Diocese of Sydney Ordains -

Name

1. This Ordinance is the Parish Development Review Ordinance 2001.

Definitions

2. In this Ordinance -

“development review” means an appraisal of ministry in a parish including the programs, plant, finance, the demographics of the area and any matters of particular concern to the minister or members of a parish, to ensure that the parish’s resources, both people and property, are being used to their best effect in the spread of the gospel;

“minister” means a member of the clergy having a separate cure of souls and the words “parish”, “parish council”, “institution” and “incumbency” shall be read with necessary changes in the case where the cure of souls is otherwise than in a parish;

“Panel”, “accredited facilitator” and “accredited member” have the meanings ascribed to them in the Parish Review (Monitoring Panel) Ordinance 2001.

Parish Development Review

3. The Synod encourages each parish to have a development review at least every 5 years.

Request for Development Review

4. Upon receipt of a request from a parish in accordance with this Ordinance, subject to clause 8 the Panel must appoint a group to conduct a development review of the parish concerned.

5. A parish may request the Panel to conduct a development review by the -

- (a) joint written request of the minister and the majority of the members of the parish council; or
- (b) written request of either the minister or the majority of the members of the parish council at any time after the expiration of 3 years from the institution of the minister; or
- (c) written request of the majority of the members of the parish council at any time after the minister has publicly announced his intention to resign or retire and before his successor has been licensed by the Archbishop.

6. A regional council may at any time request that a parish within its region have a development review and advise the minister and parish council of that Parish, in writing, of such request.

7. The minister and parish council must consider such request as soon as practicable and, if the majority of the members of the parish council and the minister consider that a development review should be undertaken, they shall, in writing, request the Panel to conduct a development review. They shall also advise the regional council of their decision.

8. A regional council may determine that for reasons of unavailability of funds or otherwise only a certain number of development reviews can be conducted in its region in any one year. If such determination is made, the regional council may also determine the criteria as to which parishes who request reviews shall have their requests granted, shall inform the Panel of the same and determine the strategy for dealing with the remaining requests made that year.

Development Review by Review Group

9. Subject to clause 10, a development review shall be conducted by an accredited facilitator (who shall chair the development review) and 2 accredited members, hereafter called a "review group".

Development Review by Accredited Facilitator

10. The person or persons making a request to the panel for a development review may make a reasoned submission that circumstances are such that the development review should be carried out by an accredited facilitator alone. The Panel may accept that submission or may of its own motion direct that the review be by such accredited facilitator alone.

Report on Development Review

11. At the conclusion of a development review, the accredited facilitator must submit a draft report to the minister and parish council for comment.

12. Not earlier than 21 days after submission of the draft report, and after considering any comments made on the draft report, the accredited facilitator must prepare a final report and send the original of the final report to the parish council and minister.

13. A report of a review group or accredited facilitator must consider the ministry potential of the parish, the demographics of the area and such other matters as it considers impact on the ministry of the parish. The report may make recommendations as to the minister or as to staff or as to others obtaining further skills or as to property matters together with suggestions as to how improvements in parish effectiveness might be made.

14. Any person who makes, or indicates that he or she is prepared to make, a statutory declaration that he or she is prepared to make the declaration contained in clause 7 of the Church Administration Ordinance 1990 with respect to a church in the relevant parish, is entitled to request a copy of the report provided that the person requesting the report pays the cost of copying the same. The report is the property of the parish or the regional council, if initiated by that body, and may only be circulated further with the permission of the respective owner.

Cost of Development Review

15. The costs of a development review shall be funded by mutual agreement between the parish and the regional council.

16. Any person who either as facilitator or member of a review group conducts more than 3 development reviews in any year shall be entitled to be paid at such rate as the regional council(s) determine(s).

Confidentiality

17. The facilitator and the members of a review group must keep confidential the matters of confidential nature learned of or advised of during the course of the review except the matters referred to in their report.

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15 May 2002