

2/86 Centralised Ownership of Clergy Motor Vehicles

This report was received by the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney in October 1987.

Terms of Reference

1. Synod Resolution 2/86 is as follows -

"Synod requests the Sydney Anglican Car and Insurance Fund Board to investigate a way in which the Diocese could own the cars of clergy who so desire, and to report its findings to Standing Committee for further action."

Investigation and Conclusions

2. The essential considerations would be the provision of a source of capital from which purchases could be effected, and the management and day to day administration of a fleet of vehicles. After full consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, Mr N. Malone, it was apparent that the resources of the Diocese did not exist for those purposes.
3. Investigations with practices in other Dioceses indicated that problems existed in the system of Parish ownership of cars. The use of the Parish car by the Incumbent for family, personal and specially holiday periods, at times created tensions and difficulties regarding a mutually acceptable basis of responsibility for such periods.
4. The personal preference of a Clergyman for a make, model and/or size of car would be called into question by Parish ownership. Family needs differ considerably. In the period of a vacancy in the incumbency the possession of a car not suitable for the family of a Clergyman considered for appointment could be a very real problem.
5. It is the considered opinion of this Board that the measure of assistance gradually developed over the past 30 years in provision of loans at lower than market rate provides an opportunity for Clergy to purchase the car deemed most suitable to the requirements of both family and Parish use.
6. The Board's monitoring of changing costs in maintenance, registration, insurance, depreciation and related matters results in Synod or Standing Committee approving variations from time to time in the schedule of rates of re-imburement of costs of travel on Church duties. Receipt of such an allowance assists that individual owner in protecting his asset.
7. On retirement the use of a car is usually considered most desirable, if not essential, and the present practice of personal ownership by Clergy of their car assists in this goal being attained.
8. Research has indicated that the current substantiation rules were not proving a problem to Clergy generally.

Recommendation *

9. The Board is of the opinion that private clergy ownership is the best system. However, if any parish clergyman is having difficulty with substantiation of car expenses perhaps they should consider parish ownership.

CANON C. H. SHERLOCK A.M.
Chairman

19 July 1987

* Adopted by the Standing Committee.