

## 2014 Report of the Standing Committee

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Charter

The Standing Committee is constituted under the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897*. Its duties arise under a number of ordinances and include the following –

- (a) making arrangements for the meetings of the Synod and preparing the Synod's business, and
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council"), and
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions, and
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church, and
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers, and
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations, and
- (g) appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc, and
- (h) monitoring the finances of diocesan organisations.

#### 1.2 Access

Meetings are held in the Chapter House, St Andrew's Cathedral. Mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; email [rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:rjw@sydney.anglican.asn.au)). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A report on each meeting is published a few days after the meeting on the website of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

#### 1.3 Meetings and members

Since October 2013 we have met 11 times. The names of the members will be listed in the 2013 Diocesan Year Book and on the website of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat at [www.sds.asn.au](http://www.sds.asn.au).

During the year, the following changes took place in the membership of the Standing Committee –

- Bishop Chris Edwards became a member *ex-officio* upon his appointment as the Bishop of North Sydney.
- Dr Philip Selden ceased being a member *ex-officio* upon his retirement as the Diocesan Registrar. Mr Doug Marr became a member *ex-officio* upon his appointment as the new Registrar.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the whole Synod upon the resignation of the Rev Gary Koo. The Synod elected Canon Stephen Gibson to fill the vacancy.
- A vacancy arose in the position of a minister elected by the whole Synod upon the resignation of the Rev Chris Moroney. We elected the Rev Dr Michael Stead to fill the vacancy.

#### 1.4 Management and structure

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. During the year we reconstituted our subcommittee structure. Our permanent subcommittees are –

Affiliated Churches Committee	Royal Commission Steering Committee
Diocesan Resources Committee	Service Review Committee

Finance Committee	Social Issues Committee
General Synod Relations Committee	Stipends and Allowances Committee
Ordinance Reviewers and Panels	Strategic Research Group
Religious Freedom Reference Group	Work Outside the Diocese Committee

Other committees are appointed from time to time for special tasks. We thank God for the faithfulness and expertise of the people who serve on our committees.

### 1.5 Discontinuance of the Mission Board and constitution of the Strategic Research Group

We agreed to discontinue the Mission Board as one of our subcommittees. In its place we constituted a new subcommittee called the "Strategic Research Group". The terms of reference of the Strategic Research Group are –

- (a) to be an advisory group for the Archbishop and the Standing Committee in their formulation of missional goals for consideration and adoption by the Synod,
- (b) to identify, research, evaluate and develop for Standing Committee's consideration a high level vision, strategy and structure which optimises the capacity of the diocesan network to achieve missional goals adopted by the Synod, and
- (c) to oversee the objective measurement of and reporting to the Standing Committee on progress toward achieving those missional goals.

### 1.6 Governance of the Standing Committee

Following a review of our governance arrangements, we made a number of changes to the way we operate. In particular –

- We indicated a general expectation that all members of the Standing Committee should be willing to serve on one or more of our subcommittees.
- We requested that during the process of nominating persons for appointment or election as members of the Standing Committee, consideration be given to ensuring that our membership retains an appropriate number of persons with the relevant skills and experience for service on our permanent subcommittees.
- We expressed a desire to make greater use of our subcommittees, particularly in the exercise of our functions under executive delegations where possible and appropriate.
- We agreed that the terms of reference for subcommittees which exercise non-executive delegations should require at least one-third of subcommittee members to also be Standing Committee members.
- We revised the terms of reference for a number of our permanent subcommittees including the General Synod Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, the Work Outside the Diocese Committee, the Religious Freedom Reference Group and the Social Issues Committee.
- We agreed that, unless an ad-hoc subcommittee indicates that it does not require any secretarial support from the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat (SDS), an amount of \$1,500 be paid to SDS upon the establishment of any ad-hoc subcommittee.
- We asked for an induction program to be run every 3 years following the election of members of the Standing Committee at the first session of each Synod and, as appropriate, to offer on a periodical basis more limited briefing sessions on the workings of Standing Committee for persons elected to fill casual vacancies.

We also amended the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* –

- (a) to require that at least half of the members of any of our subcommittees exercising executive delegations must be members of the Standing Committee,
- (b) to enable subcommittees which exercise functions under delegation from the Standing Committee to sub-delegate those functions to another person or body subject to such terms and limitations as we may determine,
- (c) to provide for certain categories of materials that may be excluded from the form of minutes tabled at Synod,
- (d) to provide for a quorum of not less than half of our members for the purposes of our meetings, and
- (e) to make provision for the passing of resolutions without a meeting.

Further, we made regulations under clause 6(5) of the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* for the use of agendas and supplementary agendas and in relation to the disclosure of conflicts of interest by Standing Committee members during our meetings.

### **1.7 Bishop Chris Edwards**

We congratulated the Rev Chris Edwards on his appointment as Bishop of North Sydney and extended our prayers and best wishes to him and his wife in their future ministry in the Northern Region and beyond.

### **1.7A Dean Phillip Jensen**

In view of the pending retirement of Dean Phillip Jensen as Dean of the Cathedral in December, we gave thanks for Phillip's service on the Standing Committee since 1994 and for his significant ministry of over 40 years.

### **1.8 The Rev Chris Moroney**

Following the resignation of the Rev Chris Moroney, we gave thanks to God for his service on the Standing Committee and in other diocesan roles over the years.

### **1.9 Archdeacon Terry Dein**

We invited Archdeacon Terry Dein to attend our meetings as if he were a member (without the right to move or vote on any motion) until a new Bishop of North Sydney was appointed.

### **1.10 Bishop Peter Tasker**

We noted that Bishop Peter Tasker had accepted the Archbishop's invitation to exercise unpaid Episcopal ministry within the Georges River region during 2014. We invited Bishop Tasker to attend our meetings as if he were a member (without the right to move or vote on any motion) during this time.

### **1.11 Appointment of Mr Michael Easton as Deputy Chancellor**

We noted Archbishop Davies' appointment of Mr Michael Easton as Deputy Chancellor and congratulated Mr Easton on his appointment.

### **1.12 Appointment of the Rev Dr Gregory Anderson as Bishop of the Northern Territory**

We congratulated the Rev Dr Gregory Anderson on his appointment as the Sixth Bishop of the Northern Territory and extended our prayers and best wishes to Greg and his wife for their future ministry.

### **1.13 Death of Deaconess Margaret Rodgers**

We noted with sadness the death of Deaconess Margaret Rodgers and gave thanks to God for her life and ministry. In doing so, we noted her long and distinguished service to the Diocese, including as a prominent member of the Standing Committee from 1982 to 2011, and to the Anglican Church of Australia and wider Christian community. We requested that a motion of thanks be moved at Synod.

### **1.14 Death of Bishop Peter Chiswell**

We noted with sadness the death of Bishop Peter Chiswell, gave thanks to God for his ministry in the Diocese of Armidale over 55 years and extended our condolences to his wife and family.

### **1.15 Death of Bishop John McIntyre**

We noted with sadness the death of Bishop John McIntyre, Bishop of Gippsland and a former Rector of South Sydney and member of the Standing Committee. We requested that a motion of thanks be moved at the forthcoming session of Synod, gave thanks to God for John's life and ministry and sent our condolences to his wife and family.

### **1.16 Death of Mrs Marie Robinson**

We noted with sadness the death of Mrs Marie Robinson and sent our condolences to Bishop Donald Robinson and their children. In doing so we gave thanks to God for the long and devoted service which Mrs Robinson gave to the Diocese.

### **1.17 Death of Mr David Woodrow**

We noted with sadness the death of Mr David Woodrow who was a financial administrator of the Diocese during the 1970's.

### **1.18 Death of Mr Stephen Sawyer**

We noted with sadness the death of Mr Stephen Sawyer and expressed our condolences to the Rev Kimberly Sawyer on her loss.

## 2. Actions with the Archbishop

### 2.1 Estate of Late M.A. Grant (Sisters' Endowment)

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$27,650 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

### 2.2 Appointment of the Rev Christopher Edwards as a new Assistant Bishop

Under clause 5 of the *Assistant Bishops Ordinance 1947* we approved the appointment of the Rev Christopher Edwards as an Assistant Bishop, to be the next Bishop of North Sydney to succeed Bishop Glenn Davies in April 2014.

### 2.2A Appointment of the Rev Peter Lin as a new Assistant Bishop

Under clause 5 of the *Assistant Bishops Ordinance 1947* we approved the appointment of the Rev Peter Lin as an Assistant Bishop, with the title of Bishop of Georges River Region.

### 2.3 Extension of the retirement age of Bishop Robert Forsyth

Under clause 5 of the *Retirements Ordinance 1993* we agreed to extend the retirement age of Bishop Robert Forsyth as Bishop of South Sydney until 31 December 2015.

### 2.4 Archbishop's policy on Women in Presbyterate and Episcopate

Following the consecration of women as Assistant Bishops and Diocesan Bishops in the Province of New South Wales, we noted the policy of the Archbishop on Women in the Presbyterate and Episcopate. In particular, the policy indicated that while there is a liturgical restriction on the ministry of women who are presbyters or bishops within the Diocese of Sydney, the bonds of love enable the Archbishop and Assistant Bishops to join in fellowship with bishops who are women in meetings of the National Bishops convened by the Primate, or of Provincial Bishops convened by the Metropolitan.

### 2.5 Parish of St Marys – right of nomination

The parish of St Marys became vacant during the year but the Archbishop was unable to declare that the parish had complied with clause 5 of the *Nomination Ordinance 2006*. The matter was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council which determined that, in the circumstances, the parish should have the benefits under the Ordinance.

## 3. Financial and Property Administration

### 3.1 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must report annually to the Synod. These reports include information in relation to members, structure, activities and a summary of the financial results, together with audited financial statements, a liquidity report and a risk management report. The reports must be lodged by 30 June each year. A later lodgement date has been approved for three organisations, Anglicare, Anglican Retirement Villages and Anglican Aid whose financial year ends on 30 June.

Organisations are also required to provide us with certain internal management financial information during the year.

The annual reports and audited financial statements for about 40 organisations will be tabled in the Synod. Any major problems found by the Finance Committee from a review of these financial statements and the additional internal management financial information will be reported.

### 3.2 Annual Financial Statements for the Synod Funds and Parish Funds

The annual financial statements for the Amalgamated Synod Funds and Amalgamated Parish Funds have been prepared and the auditors have reported according to an agreed review of procedures instead of an audit.

These reports are printed separately.

### 3.3 Ordination training fund

This Fund provides a book allowance of \$1,000 to first year candidates studying through Moore Theological College or Youthworks College for ordination or commissioning as Diocesan Lay Workers in Sydney. In exceptional cases the Fund may also provide bursaries or financial assistance to some of the students.

In 2013, \$40,000 was paid (\$37,000 in 2012).

During the year we extended the type of payments that can be made from the Fund to include a number of specific costs associated with preparing candidates for ordination.

### 3.4 Ordinances

The following table shows the number of ordinances passed and assented to in 2008 to 2013 and in 2014 up to 16 September –

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Standing Committee	38	27	36	40	53	39	31
Synod	6	13	4	10	3	6	0
	44	40	40	50	56	44	31

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by us since the 2013 session of the Synod. There are 17 ordinances of particular interest.

The *Parish Declarations and Qualifications Amendment Ordinance 2013* updated the declarations and qualifications required to hold certain offices in a parish by replacing the concept of “prohibited person” with the concept of “disqualifying offence” to reflect changes made by the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*.

The *Parochial Cost Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy (Exemption of St Andrew’s Cathedral) Ordinance 2013* exempted St Andrew’s Cathedral from the obligation to pay the variable charge for parochial network costs and the obligation to pay the church land acquisitions levy.

The *Synod (General Synod Assessment) Special Application Ordinance 2013* authorised the application of funds under the control of the Synod to meet a \$27,332 shortfall in funding to pay for the General Synod assessment in 2013.

The *Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation 1947 Amendment Ordinance 2013* changed the governance requirements of the *Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation 1947* by replacing its previous “3-tier” governance structure with a “2-tier” structure and by implementing changes consistent with the proposed Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations approved in principle by the Synod last year.

The *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995 Amendment Ordinance 2013* altered the reporting requirements of diocesan organisations to Synod to accommodate the findings of a review of audit requirements for centrally administered diocesan organisations, to align the annual reporting requirements with the reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and to update the diocesan organisations required to report to the Synod.

The *Parish Financial Statements Amendment Ordinance 2013* aligned the financial reporting requirements of parishes to the Synod more closely with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

The *Manly Corso Property Ordinance 2013* redeclared the trusts of The Corso property at Manly, specified the powers of the Property Trust and the wardens to manage that property and provided for the distribution of the income from the property for the years 2014 to 2017. See item 3.16.

The *Concord North (Special Arrangements) Ordinance 2013* provided for special arrangements to transition to administration under the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008* upon the creation of the new provisional parish of Concord North.

The *Concord West Land Sale and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2014* permitted the sale of a residence at Concord North and varied the trusts of St Mary’s, Concord North to be held for the new provisional parish of Concord North.

The *Standing Committee Amendment Ordinance 2014* made changes to the provisions regulating the conduct of the Standing Committee’s business and related matters. See item 1.6.

The *Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (Financial Reporting) Amendment Ordinance 2014* made provision for the financial and other reporting requirements of the Property Trust to the Synod, including in relation to the Mission Property Fund and the Community Building Partnership Grant Fund. See item 3.14.

The *Endowment of the See (Chatswood) Land Sale Ordinance 2014* authorised the sale of a residence at Chatswood held on trust for the Endowment of the See.

The *Anglican Education Commission and Anglican Youthworks (Special Religious Education) Amendment Ordinance 2014* amended the objects of the Anglican Education Commission and Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney, principally with respect to the provision of special religious education.

The *Regional Cathedrals (Amendment) Ordinance 2014* provided for regionally-elected canons of the Chapters of St Michael’s Regional Cathedral, Wollongong and St John’s Regional Cathedral, Parramatta

to be elected during sessions of the Synod rather than by each Chapter, and for related governance purposes.

The *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2014* provided for the distribution of Synod funds during 2015.

The *Parochial Costs Recoveries and Church Land Acquisitions Levy Ordinance 2013 Further Amendment Ordinance 2014* provided for the cost recoveries charge and church land acquisitions levy to be paid by parishes during 2015.

*The Mission Property (Oran Park) Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2014* varied the trusts of land on which the Oran Park ministry centre and residence are situated so that it is held on trust for the purposes of the provisional parish of Oran Park and specified payments from the provisional parish to the Mission Property Fund in accordance with Synod resolution 30/13.

### 3.5 Parochial cost recoveries - arrears

The following table compares the arrears of cost recovery charges as at 30 June 2013 and 2014 –

	2013	2014
Cabramatta	-	6,424
Chester Hill with Sefton	1,627	1,895
Figtree	1,379	-
Glenmore Park	-	28,360
Greenacre	-	4,472
Hornsby Anglican Chinese Church	-	6,120
Hoxton Park	3,961	-
Richmond	7,251	5,202
Rouse Hill	-	3,778
St George	-	2,566
Shellharbour City Centre	7,190	-
Windsor	2,511	5,702
	<u>23,919</u>	<u>64,518</u>

### 3.6 Annual financial statements from parishes

Under the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, parochial units are required to lodge their audited financial statements within 7 days after their annual general meeting of parishioners.

As at 30 April 2014, 81 parochial units (30%) had not lodged a set of prescribed financial statements (compared with 88 at the same time in 2013). By 28 July 2014 this had improved so that only 1 parochial unit had not lodged their financial statements, although 1 other parish had only lodged unsigned financial statements. This situation remained unchanged as at 25 August 2014.

The Finance Committee has processes in place to remind parochial units of their obligations under the Ordinance, assist with any enquiries and review the statements lodged. The Finance Committee also works with the Regional Bishops to investigate and report to us on the status of the audited financial statements for parochial units that are late in lodging the required information.

### 3.7 Local revenues test for parish status

The parish of Auburn (St Philips) had local revenues below the requisite amount for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in 2013 and accordingly will cease to be a parish and become a provisional parish on 31 December 2014 unless the Western Sydney Regional Council determines otherwise. The parishes of Willoughby East, Leichhardt and South Sydney also had local revenue below the requisite amount in 2013 and accordingly these parishes have been advised of the importance of ensuring their 2014 and future revenues meet the relevant threshold figures in order to retain their parish status.

### 3.8 Recommended distribution from the Diocesan Endowment for 2015

We noted the advice of Glebe Administration Board that, for the purposes of clause 5(1) of the *Diocesan Endowment Ordinance 1984*, \$4 million could prudently be distributed from the Diocesan Endowment in 2014 for spending by the Synod in 2015.

### 3.9 Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities for 2016-2018

Under clause 3 of the *Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998* we are required to prepare for the 1<sup>st</sup> ordinary session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod a Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities to guide estimates for 2016 to 2018 of –

- the amount required for meeting the cost of sittings of the Synod, the maintenance of diocesan offices and the expenses of such other diocesan activities and commitments as, in our opinion, should be supported, and
- the amount which, in our opinion, should be granted to organisations under the control of Synod or to other organisations, and
- the amount of income available from endowments or other trusts for meeting the amounts referred to above in the relevant financial year.

A Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities is printed separately.

### **3.10 Work Outside the Diocese**

In the 6 months to 30 June 2014, the Work Outside the Diocese Committee had applied \$128,568 from a total Synod allocation in 2014 of \$190,000. It is expected that further amounts will be applied during the 6 months to 31 December 2014 from the 2014 allocation, and the reserves of \$87,531.

### **3.11 Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001**

Under the *Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001*, we are required to provide an annual report to the Synod on progress in acquiring, constructing, adapting and/or renovating a property or building to be used as a conference centre and retreat house for the Diocese.

Following several reviews and reports received during the 1990's, we determined that the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre was no longer a suitable conference site for the Diocese and recommended to the Synod that it be sold. The Synod authorised the sale of the Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre in 2001. The site was sold in 2002 and the proceeds from the sale were set aside for the future purchase of a conference centre, where adult members of the Church might be able to go for retreat and spiritual refreshment. At the time the sale was authorised by the Synod it had been anticipated that the Synod would contribute further funds to assist with the purchase of a replacement property.

In December 2007, we agreed to release to the Council of Youthworks, upon the request of the Council to the Property Trust, the invested proceeds from the sale of Gilbulla in order to purchase a new conference centre.

Of the total invested funds, \$1,072,160 has now been released by the Property Trust towards the funding of the recent purchase and renovation of two large retreat/conference houses in the Shoalhaven area. The Property Trust has indicated that the balance of \$1,360,000 will be released for another yet to be purchased retreat/conference house north of Sydney. Youthworks intends to purchase a property north of Sydney within 12 months and is currently pursuing options. The purchase and renovation of these three properties will be funded through the Gilbulla sale money and a large donation from a benefactor.

Youthworks has determined that the type of properties that best fulfil the requirements of the ordinance are large houses that can be converted into small group venues (for up to 30 people). These are ideal for leadership teams, small conferences and large Bible study groups. Youthworks considers there are several benefits to such an approach –

- There is significant market demand for venues that accommodate groups of 15-30 people. This is currently the size group that Youthworks turns away most often, as they are too small for the majority of their sites.
- Larger centres require full-time staffing, where multiple smaller facilities will get more use and can be managed more cost-effectively.
- The two new venues in the Shoalhaven area are adjacent to each other and are able to be booked together to enable larger groups to confer and be accommodated.

**3.12** The provision of the properties pursuant to the *Gilbulla Memorial Conference Centre Sale Ordinance 2001* will provide the Diocese with appropriate conference and retreat facilities for many years to come. In accordance with the Ordinance a plaque will be erected at each of these sites in memory of Navy, Army and Air Force Chaplains.**Large Property Receipts Policy**

During the year we completed a review of our policy concerning large property receipts arising from the sale or leasing of parish property. However as reported last year, our intention is that the operation of any new policy concerning large property receipts will be referred to the Synod for its endorsement.

We also noted proposed guidelines for determining the reasonable property needs of a parish prepared for the purposes of the new policy and agreed to consider our approval of the guidelines subject to the Synod endorsing the policy.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

### 3.13 Sale of Bishopscourt

The *Bishopscourt Sale Ordinance 2012* authorised the sale of Bishopscourt at any time within 5 years after the date of assent to the ordinance, at such price as we, acting on the recommendation of the Property Trust, approve by resolution.

From March 2013 we have received regular reports from the Property Trust about the progress of the sale. We also appointed a subcommittee to liaise with the Property Trust on a day to day basis about the progress of the sale.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

### 3.14 Financial oversight of the Property Trust

Following a review of the financial oversight of the Property Trust, we made a number of changes to the financial and other requirements of the Property Trust. These included –

- requiring the Property Trust to submit to us for tabling at Synod each year a report about its membership, structure and activities for the year, and
- preparing and tabling at Synod financial reports in relation to the Mission Property Fund and the Sydney Community Building Partnership Grant Fund.

We passed the *Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney (Financial Reporting) Amendment Ordinance 2014* to give effect to these changes.

### 3.15 Reserves for Synod

Last year we agreed to establish a Reserve Fund for the Synod to be used if there was a material external liability or the imminent risk of such a liability which affects the Diocese as a whole and which is not properly met by other diocesan organisations or funds. We also agreed if there was an urgent need to replenish this reserve, that this be done by way of a combination of a contribution from the funds of the Synod and a levy on parishes.

This year we agreed that whenever the balance of the Reserve Fund as at 30 June falls below a certain level, an ordinance should be passed by the end of the year to replenish the reserve to an appropriate level no later than the end of the following year.

### 3.16 Management of the property at The Corso, Manly

We reviewed the arrangements that should be put in place to manage commercial property on The Corso at Manly, being property held for the purposes of the parish of Manly. The review was undertaken in response to a lack of clarity under the *Manly Leasing and Variation of Trusts Ordinance 2006* concerning the division of management responsibility between the Property Trust and the parish.

Following the review, we passed an ordinance to specify the powers of the Property Trust and the parish as managers of the property.

In the course of considering this matter, we also declared our view that the polity of this Diocese generally gives precedence to parishes over the affairs of the Diocese, including in relation to the management of property held for the parish and the benefit of income from such property.

### 3.17 Management of the property of the parish of Epping

We noted that the Property Trust had given advice to the parish of Epping concerning proposed planning controls for the Epping Town Centre. In doing so, we noted that –

- as regards the property held by the Property Trust in trust for the Parish of Epping, it is a mere “bare” trustee and remains such until a sale, mortgage or lease authorised by ordinance is to be granted, and that it has no powers under the *Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney Ordinance 1965*, relative to that property, by virtue of clause 10(3) of that Ordinance, and
- by virtue of rule 3.7 of Schedule 1 of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, the persons responsible for managing that property are the Parish Wardens of St Alban's Church, Epping.

We expressed appreciation for the actions of the Property Trust in giving advice to parishes as regards their property and encouraged it to continue doing so. However we reminded the Property Trust that it must accept that the recipients may decide not to act in accordance with such advice.

### **3.18 Special distribution from St James' Hall**

We noted that the Board of Management for St James' Hall approved a special distribution of \$300,000 in November 2013 from the net lease income earned from the property held under the *St James' Sydney Phillip Street Property Ordinance 1962*. In accordance with that ordinance, 20% of that distribution (\$60,000) was paid to the Synod to be taken into account for allocations made during the period 2016-2018.

### **3.19 Review of external parish borrowing proposals**

We invited the Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board to consider whether it would review proposals by parishes to borrow money from external lenders. Having received recommendations from the Board, we made a regulation which required the Board to review proposals for external borrowing by parishes where an ordinance is needed to authorise the grant of a mortgage as security over parish property.

### **3.20 Financial sustainability of the Cathedral's ministries**

We appointed a working group to address the issues of the sustainability of the Cathedral's ministries including preliminary analysis of the Cathedral's long term property maintenance needs. During the year we also asked the working group to consider how the housing of the Dean may be funded since neither the Endowment of the See Committee nor the Cathedral Chapter can currently continue to provide funding.

Having received recommendations from the working group, we –

- (a) recognised the Diocesan nature of the Cathedral ministry and the implication that this has for funding the ministry,
- (b) agreed in principle that, excluding any allowance for long term property maintenance needs, recurrent Diocesan funding of approximately \$250,000 per annum may be needed in order to adequately address the issue of the sustainability of the Cathedral's ministries,
- (c) requested the Diocesan Resources Committee to recommend how any Diocesan contribution may be funded in 2016 and beyond, and
- (d) agreed that any Diocesan funding arrangement for the Cathedral be subject to review after 3 years.

We requested that the working group provide a further report in relation to the Cathedral's long term property maintenance needs. We have not yet received this further report.

### **3.21 Resourcing the Professional Standards Unit**

We received a report from the Professional Standards Unit (the PSU) advising that the current financial resources of the PSU appear insufficient to meet the future demands placed on the PSU, particularly as a result of the potential for increased legal costs associated with Tribunals. We agreed that Tribunals and the other proper work of the PSU should not be abandoned because of lack of funding and requested the Diocesan Resources Committee to recommend possible sources of funding for the non-standard annual expenses of the PSU.

Having considered the recommendations of the Diocesan Resources Committee, we agreed as a matter of policy –

- (a) to extend the use of the Synod Reserve as a temporary source of funds to cover any unexpected increase in the PSU's non-standard expenses, and
- (b) that any amounts drawn from the Synod Reserve to meet these expenses should be replenished through an appropriate increase in the PSU's component of the variable parochial cost recoveries charge.

### **3.22 Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme**

The Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme (PCAS) was commenced with a resolution of the Standing Committee in March 2004. The PCAS was set up as an alternative to the civil litigation pathway. It seeks to engage pastorally with and assist those who have (or claim to have) suffered from child sexual abuse or sexual misconduct as an adult, perpetrated against them by a member of the clergy or a church worker.

Over the 10 year period of its operations, no adjustment has been made to the level of assistance offered under the PCAS, with assistance being capped at a maximum amount of \$75,000. Although the dollar value of payments has remained constant, given inflation the amount of assistance and services that can be accessed with that money has decreased significantly in real terms.

Accordingly, we agreed to increase the maximum amount payable under the PCAS to \$100,000.

### 3.23 Blue Mountains Grammar School

We settled a claim made against former school council members and other diocesan entities in relation to allegations of sexual abuse in the early 1970s involving a former student of Blue Mountains Grammar School.

## 4. General Administration

### 4.1 Elections

The appointment of persons to serve on committees etc. continued to be a major part of our business. Some appointments are to fill casual vacancies among Synod appointees, and these appointments fall vacant at this coming Synod session. Other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From November 2013 to June 2014, 82 such positions were filled (54 for the same period in 2012 – 2013).

### 4.2 Membership of the Synod

Under Part 7 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, the Archbishop is entitled to nominate a number of ministers to be members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod. The maximum number of ministers who may be nominated cannot exceed 10% of the total number of “parochial ministers” (as defined in the ordinance) determined on 1 January 2014. The Registrar has advised that this number is 25.

The Archbishop advised that he intends nominating 25 ministers as members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod under Part 7.

For every nominated minister proposed to be nominated by the Archbishop, we can elect a lay person to be a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod under Part 8 of the Ordinance. We have elected 25 lay persons to be members under Part 8.

In addition, under Part 6 of the Ordinance, we may declare up to 7 diocesan boards, departments or organisations to be “nominated organisations” for the purposes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod. The effect of such declaration is that the Chief Executive Officer of the nominated organisation is a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod. We have declared the following organisations to be “nominated organisations” –

- Anglican Media
- Anglican Retirement Villages Diocese of Sydney
- Evangelism and New Churches, Department of
- Moore Theological College
- Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society (Anglicare)
- Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation
- Sydney Diocesan Secretariat

### 4.3 Business rules of the Synod

We requested that a bill to amend the business rules of the Synod be promoted to the Synod.

A bill and explanatory statement are printed separately.

### 4.4 Reports from Regional Councils

Under clause 9 of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* each regional council must give us an annual report for inclusion in our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately, together with any reports for reclassification of provisional parishes under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.

### 4.5 Review of the services of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat to the Synod and Standing Committee

We undertook a review of the services provided by the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat (SDS) during 2013 and confirmed that the services had been provided in a satisfactory manner. We agreed the revised form of the service level standards to be provided by SDS in 2014 and reviewed the services under the revised standards during the first 4 months of 2014. Those services will be reviewed again later in 2014.

### 4.6 Governance Oversight Committee

In 2012 we established the Governance Oversight Committee (the Committee) to monitor the compliance, governance and risk management processes of central diocesan organisations (Sydney Diocesan Secretariat, Glebe Administration Board, the Property Trust, St Andrew’s House Corporation and Endowment of the See Committee). The Committee was also to monitor the way in which conflicts of interest of members of those organisations are managed. For the purposes of exercising this function,

the Committee received enhanced reports provided by these organisations about those matters.

Having considered a report from the Committee about its role in receiving enhanced reports, we decided to discontinue this reporting as a duplication of effort which is no longer necessary in view of governance arrangements adopted by these organisations. We also agreed to place the Committee into abeyance until its role can be redefined in accordance with any Synod approved Governance Policy of Diocesan Organisations.

#### **4.7 Jesusbrings Mission Campaign**

We received reports concerning progress in the *Jesusbrings* Mission Campaign. As at August 2014 we noted that the remaining balance from the Mission Campaign was \$55,000 after taking into account recovery of expenses from partner churches and the initial allocation of \$90,000 for administration expenses. We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod thanking God for the *Jesusbrings* campaign, and proposing the establishment of a new evangelistic campaign utilising the remaining balance of funds from the *Jesusbrings* campaign.

#### **4.8 Community Chaplains**

We received a report from Evangelism and New Churches about the concept of community chaplains. We gave our positive endorsement to this concept and supported community chaplains operating from a separately identifiable unit within the organisational structure of Evangelism and New Churches.

#### **4.9 Establishment of the school councils for Macquarie Anglican Grammar School and Orange Anglican Grammar School**

We noted, pursuant to clause 25(2)(a) of the *Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance 1947*, that school councils had been established for Macquarie Anglican Grammar School at Dubbo and Orange Anglican Grammar School.

#### **4.10 NSW Council of Churches**

We expressed support for continuing discussions for a proposed approach to reconstitute the NSW Council of Churches. To this end we authorised the payment of \$14,822 from Synod Fund Contingencies to pay the 2014-2015 NSW Council of Churches' Affiliation Fee in recognition of the continuation of discussions concerning the proposed reconstitution.

#### **4.11 Affiliated Churches**

We declared Flooding Creek Community Church, Sale, Victoria to be affiliated with the Diocese under the *Affiliated Churches Ordinance 2005*.

We also agreed as a matter of principle that applications for affiliation by independent churches operating within the Diocese will be considered provided that –

- (a) under the procedures for affiliation, the relevant regional bishop should be notified of the proposed affiliation instead of the bishop of the diocese in which the church is situated, and
- (b) under the procedures for affiliation, the rector of the parish in which the church is situated should also be notified of the proposed affiliation, and
- (c) the form of affiliation agreement is amended to make clear that any church which is affiliated with the Diocese and which uses or intends using Anglican parish property for the purposes of its ministry must comply with the usual requirements for the leasing or licensing of such property to non-Anglican churches notwithstanding the affiliation.

#### **4.12 Sydney Anglican Master Privacy Policy**

In view of amendments to the *Privacy Act 1998*, we noted that organisations which had adopted the Sydney Anglican Master Privacy Policy will –

- be informed that the Master Privacy Policy is no longer compliant with the *Privacy Act*, and
- be encouraged to take responsibility for developing their own policy and documentation around privacy practices, procedures and systems.

We also agreed to abolish the Master Privacy Policy with effect from 1 October 2014.

#### **4.13 Synod attendances**

In view of the levels of attendance at the Synod, we asked the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat to make recommendations about ways to increase the attendance and participation of members at Synod sessions.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

#### 4.14 Guidelines for Remuneration of Parish Ministry Staff in 2015

We approved guidelines for the remuneration of parish ministry staff in 2015. In approving the guidelines, we agreed to increase the maximum level of stipend sacrifice to a MEA from 30% to 40% of the stipend allocated to the Minister from 1 January 2015.

### 5. Relations with Government

#### 5.1 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

On 12 November 2012, the then Prime Minister announced that she would be recommending to the Governor-General the establishment of a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia. The Royal Commission was subsequently established by letters patent.

A report about the progress of the response of the Diocese to the Royal Commission is printed separately.

#### 5.2 Working with children check

In June 2013, the State Government introduced a new Working with Children Check clearance (WWCC clearance) under the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*. The new WWCC clearance covers a broader range of people and is more comprehensive in the matters checked.

In relation to our parishes, the new WWCC clearance requires –

- All new persons employed after 15 June 2013 who will be engaged in child related work to obtain a WWCC clearance number.
- All existing clergy and lay ministers (paid or unpaid) working in a staff ministry team must obtain a WWCC clearance number by 31 March 2014.
- All other persons who are in child related work, including volunteers, must obtain a WWCC clearance number by 31 March 2015.

Last year a circular was sent to ministers and wardens explaining the requirements for obtaining a WWCC clearance number and providing advice about implementation and administration.

In order to provide some assurance in relation to compliance with these requirements within parishes, we agreed that the rector and wardens of each parish should be asked to provide a certification regarding compliance with working with children check requirements at the same time as prescribed financial statements for the parish are provided.

We also requested that a bill be promoted to the Synod to provide for the suspension or revocation of the licence of any member of the clergy who has not complied with current and future WWCC clearance requirements. The reason why such a bill needs to be promoted to the Synod is that our delegations from Synod do not enable us to pass an ordinance in relation to this matter.

A bill for the *Working with Children Check (Clerical Licences) Ordinance 2014* together with an explanatory report are printed separately.

#### 5.3 Taxation of unrelated commercial activities of charities and not-for-profit entities

Last year we reported that we had made a submission in response to a consultation paper about a proposal in the 2011 budget announcement by the previous Federal Government to remove tax concessions for unrelated commercial activities undertaken by not-for-profit entities.

This year the Coalition Government announced that it will not be proceeding with this proposal.

#### 5.4 Changes to the “In Australia” and other requirements for tax concession status

Last year we made a submission in response to exposure draft for legislation proposing changes to the “In Australia” and other special conditions that apply to tax exempt or deductible gift recipient entities. The other special conditions (requiring tax exempt and gift deductible gift recipient entities to comply with all the substantive requirements of their governing rules and to apply their income and assets solely for the purpose for which they were established) were enacted. However the “In Australia” reforms were deferred.

This year the Federal Government announced that it intends proceeding with the “In Australia” reforms and released a further exposure draft for comment. We made further submissions in response to this exposure draft.

The “In Australia” reforms are still being considered by the Government.

### **5.5 Not-for-profit Sector Tax Concession Working Group report**

In February 2012, the previous Federal Government established the Not-for-profit Sector Tax Concession Working Group. The terms of reference of the working group were to consider ideas for better delivering support currently provided through tax concessions to the not-for-profit sector. While the report of the working group provided to the Government in May 2013 it only became public this year as a consequence of a Freedom of Information application.

Some of the recommendations in the report have merit. However there are others which, if acted on by the Government, could be problematic for churches and other religious charities. For example there is a proposal to remove the current fringe benefits tax exemption for ministry residences. Other recommendations propose that religious charitable purposes be treated less favourably than other charitable purposes, for example the recommendation that all charities, except those for the advancement of religion, charitable child care and primary and secondary education, be given DGR status. The stated rationale for excluding religious charities from DGR status is –

“In the case of charities for the advancement of religion, it is the view of the Working Group that given the pluralist nature of our society, additional support through deductible donations is not warranted.”

We sought clarification from the current Government as to whether it is likely to act on any of the recommendations in the report.

The Government has indicated that it has not responded to the report but will instead produce a comprehensive Tax White Paper outlining a longer-term approach to tax reform. It will invite comments from the public on any proposed reforms before taking them to the Australian people at the next election.

### **5.6 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission**

Prior to the last Federal election, the Coalition announced its intention to abolish the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), being the body established under the former Labor Government in December 2012 to regulate charities. In March 2014, the Federal Government introduced the first of two bills to repeal the ACNC Act. The repeal bill will not come into force until a second bill is enacted that provides for replacement arrangements for the ACNC.

While we are broadly supportive of abolishing the ACNC, at least in its current form, we believe there are risks in returning its functions back to the ATO. The particular risk relates to the ATO's primary role of collecting revenue for the Commonwealth and the ability of the ATO to combine this role with assessing the charitable status of organisations in an independent manner. We made a brief submission to the Senate Inquiry raising these concerns and identifying those aspects of the ACNC which might usefully be retained in the regulation of the not-for-profit sector going forward.

The Government subsequently released an Options Paper outlining its proposed arrangements for the regulation of the not-for-profits sector upon the abolition of the ACNC. At our request, the Religious Freedom Reference Group prepared and lodged submissions on our behalf in response to the Options Paper.

In the meantime, there is an on-going need to comply with the requirements of the ACNC Act. In particular we noted that a number of parishes had not submitted to the ACNC their 2013 Annual Information Statement. Accordingly, we asked the Regional Bishops to contact parishes in their region which had not done so to underline the importance of complying with ACNC obligations for maintaining their income tax exempt status and to seek assurances that any outstanding statements will be submitted by 30 June 2014.

### **5.7 Anglican Education Commission response to the review of the Australian Curriculum**

We noted a submission made by the Anglican Education Commission in response to the review of the Australian Curriculum.

### **5.8 Christian Youth Camps Limited v Cobaw Community Health Service Limited**

We received a report about a Victorian Court of Appeal decision handed down in April in the matter of *Christian Youth Camps Limited v Cobaw Community Health Services Limited*. The decision concerned Christian Youth Camps Limited's refusal to allow Cobaw to hire a camping resort owned and operated by CYC for the purposes of a weekend called "WayOut" to provide support and suicide prevention services to same sex attracted young people. CYC is connected to the Christian Brethren denomination. The Court upheld the decision of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal that CYC's refusal amounted to unlawful discrimination on the basis of the sexual orientation of those who would be attending the proposed camp.

Although the decision related to provisions in the *Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1995*, there are equivalent provisions in the *NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1997* in relation to certain aspects of the case.

We are considering the implications of this case for our Diocese and what additional steps might be taken to avoid similar issues arising in our context.

### 5.9 Persecution of Christians and other minority groups in Iraq and Syria

We requested that motions be moved at the Synod expressing solidarity with Christians in Iraq and Syria and calling on the Australian Government to temporarily increase the places available in the Special Humanitarian Program to allow for the additional resettlement in Australia of Christians and other persecuted groups from Iraq and Syria.

### 5.10 Social Issues Committee

The Social Issues Committee (SIC), previously known as the Social Issues Executive (SIE), comprises the following members –

The Rev Dr Andrew Cameron (Chair) (resigned 21 May 2014)

Mr Angus Belling

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford

Dr Megan Best

Mr Darren Mitchell

The Rev Andrew Errington

Dr Karin Sowada

Over the last year, the SIE farewelled its Chair, the Rev Dr Andrew Cameron, who resigned to take up the role of Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra, commencing in July 2014. For 12 years, Dr Cameron made an outstanding contribution to the work of the SIE in the task of connecting Christian thought shaped by Christ-centred Biblical theology with public policy. His departure, combined with resourcing issues and leadership changes within the Diocese, placed the work of the SIE in hiatus. Mr Darren Mitchell was appointed as Acting Chair.

Within this more limited sphere of activity, the SIE/SIC met six times since the last Synod and progressed several matters. In February 2014 SIE drafted a submission on behalf of the Archbishop to the Social Impact of Gambling Inquiry by the New South Wales Legislative Council. In March 2014 the SIE prepared a submission in conjunction with the Archbishop in relation to a Code of Conduct for members of Parliament, the interest disclosure regime and Parliamentary investigator. In August 2014, a major submission on euthanasia was prepared for an inquiry of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs into the Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Bill 2014. The SIC will continue to monitor progress of this legislation and other developments on this issue in the ACT.

The SIE has recently been focused on re-structuring its membership and terms of reference in line with our revised governance arrangements. As a consequence the SIE now operates as the SIC, with new Terms of Reference which we adopted in August. Under these new operating guidelines, the SIC has commenced monthly meetings again. The SIC looks forward to a renewed period of activity in 2015 and beyond. For briefings on current issues, please refer to its web site <http://www.sie.org.au/>.

## 6. The International, National and Provincial Church

### 6.1 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia

The 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Synod was held in Adelaide from 30 June to 4 July 2014.

A report about the proceedings of the General Synod is printed separately.

### 6.2 General Synod Canons

The General Synod passed a number of canons at its session in 2014. We requested that bills to assent to or adopt the following canons be promoted to our Synod –

- *Constitution Amendment (Membership of the Diocesan Tribunal) Canon 2014*
- *Constitution Amendment (Membership of the Provincial Tribunal) Canon 2014*
- *Use of Church Names Canon 1989 Amendment Canon 2014*

The initial impetus for the *Use of Church Names Canon 1989 Amendment Canon 2014* was to remove from Schedule 2 of the principal canon the reference to "Church of England Children's Home Burwood" since the authority of this body to use the church name was withdrawn by the Archbishop in 2012. However the opportunity was taken to prepare further amendments to the principal canon to enable the list of bodies authorised to use the church name to be updated in the future without the need for a canon of the General Synod.

A report about the canons passed by the General Synod and bills to adopt or assent to relevant canons are printed separately.

### **6.2A Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force**

We requested that a motion be moved at the Synod to enable it to consider and provide an initial response to the Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force as requested by the General Synod in resolution 65/14.

A copy of the Viability Report can be found at –

<http://www.anglican.org.au/general-synods/2014/Documents/books/Book%20for%20website.pdf>

### **6.3 Meaning of marriage in the context of *Faithfulness in Service***

We recalled resolutions 33/04, 62/04, 63/04 and 64/04 from the 13<sup>th</sup> General Synod in 2004 along with the Report of the Children Protection Committee (particularly page 2A.34 in Book 3 of that Synod). In doing so we noted that the General Synod recognised marriage as only occurring between a man and a woman when it adopted the standards expressed in *Faithfulness in Service* as our national Anglican code of conduct.

We drew this matter to the Primate's attention.

### **6.4 Diocese of Bathurst**

We were informed about the serious financial difficulties of the Bathurst Diocese Anglican Development Fund. In particular we noted the inability of the Fund to meet its loan obligations to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and that legal proceedings had been commenced against the former directors of the Fund, the Bathurst Property Trust and the Bathurst Bishop-in-Council for the repayment of the loan. A group comprising the Chancellor and other members of the Standing Committee are keeping a watching brief on this matter and will report to us from time to time about developments.

We also encouraged the Archbishop to continue to walk in fellowship on this matter with the Bishop of Bathurst and bring further reports to us on the situation for our consideration.

### **6.5 Circular Canons**

During the year we were informed by the General Secretary that amendments to the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia which enable canons to be made by obtaining the assent of diocesan synods by circulation had come into force. The amendments enable the synod of a diocese to delegate its authority to assent to a bill for a canon to its diocesan council.

We requested that a bill for the *Delegation of Powers Ordinance 1998 Amendment Ordinance 2014* be promoted to the Synod by which it can delegate to us its authority to assent to bills for canons.

The bill and an explanatory statement are printed separately.

## **7. Sydney Synod Matters**

### **7.1 38/07 Fellowship Meal for the proclamation of the Lord's Death**

By resolution 38/07, the Synod requested that the Diocesan Doctrine Commission consider the appropriateness, with respect to the teaching of scripture and the Anglican formularies, of Anglican churches having a fellowship meal for the proclamation of the Lord's death, and to bring a report to the Synod at a convenient time.

Last year we received a report from the Doctrine Commission but requested that the Commission reconsider the report in light of comments received from members of the Standing Committee.

We await further advice from the Doctrine Commission.

### **7.2 41/10 Amendments to the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917***

By resolution 41/10, the Synod requested a number of amendments to the *Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917* concerning various governance matters relevant to the proper functioning of the Property Trust.

During the year a draft bill to make these amendments was prepared by the Parliamentary Counsel's office. Since the proposed amendments have potential application to the corporate trustees of the other dioceses in NSW, the bill was circulated to the other dioceses in the Province of NSW for approval. To date only the Diocese of Newcastle has given its approval to the bill.

### **7.3 43/10 Governance policy for diocesan organisations**

Last year the Synod approved in principle a proposed Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations. The Policy was prepared in response to resolution 43/10, and reflected changes made during 2012 following an extensive review of feedback from Synod members and diocesan organisations and to take

into account the ACNC governance standards which came into effect on 1 July 2013.

Before considering a motion that the Policy pass as a policy of the Synod, the Synod referred the motion to its session in 2014.

A report proposing a process by which the Synod might pass a revised form of the Policy is printed separately.

#### **7.4 14/12 Special Religious Education**

By resolution 14/12, the Synod, noting the report on *Special Religious Education in Government Primary Schools – the Challenge over the next Ten Years* –

- (a) affirmed its commitment to the sustaining of high quality Special Religious Education within all Government primary schools within the Diocese, and
- (b) requested that we address the need for sufficient funds for this ministry in the 2014-2015 budget.

We responded to this resolution in two ways. Firstly, we promoted to the Synod in 2013 as part of the Synod's funding arrangements for 2014 and 2015 an ordinance providing for a new allocation of \$100,000 in 2014 rising to \$200,000 in 2015 for "SRE Office – SRE Primary Upgrade". This is to address the need for sufficient funds to sustain high quality Special Religious Education in all Government primary schools within the Diocese. Secondly, we appointed a committee last year to commission a professional evaluation of the Diocese's SRE program in 2013. We allocated \$70,000 for this purpose.

We understand that the evaluation will be ready for our consideration in late 2014. In the meantime we made the allocation of \$200,000 in 2015 conditional upon our being satisfied with the structure and responsibilities of the SRE Office established within Youthworks following consideration of the recommendations in the evaluation.

#### **7.5 4/13 Review of School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975**

By resolution 4/13, the Synod –

- (a) noted the report summarising submissions received from Synod members, school councils and others in response to Synod resolution 1/12, and
- (b) requested the Standing Committee to appoint a committee, with appropriate representation from chaplains and heads of schools (or their nominees), to consider the submissions received with a view to bringing an ordinance to the next ordinary session of Synod to amend the *School Chapels and Chaplains Ordinance 1975*.

The committee we appointed to undertake the work in resolution 4/13 prepared an ordinance which would constitute a significant departure from the way chaplaincy and other ministry within schools is currently regulated. We recommended that this ordinance be provided to the Synod as an exposure draft.

The exposure draft and an accompanying report are printed separately.

#### **7.6 6/13 Amendments to the *Faithfulness in Service* definition of bullying**

By resolution 27/12, Synod resolved to approve amendments to *Faithfulness in Service* with the exception of a new definition of "bullying" and deferred consideration of this definition until the 2013 session of the Synod.

By resolution 6/13, the Synod noted –

- the terms of resolution 27/12,
- that Safe Work Australia is yet to finalise its model code on workplace bullying, and
- that the Diocesan Grievance Policy is due for review after July 2014,

and deferred again consideration of the new definition until the 2014 session of Synod.

The committee we appointed to consider the new definition of "bullying" made a number of recommendations.

A report about this matter is printed separately.

#### **7.7 9/13 Protecting, strengthening and promoting freedom of religion and related freedoms**

By resolution 9/13, the Synod –

- (i) recognising the importance of freedom of religion and its manifestation in the related freedoms of speech, association and conscience for a healthy and mature society,
- (ii) declaring its opinion that such freedoms are at risk of being undermined in Australian society due to a focus on other, sometimes competing, rights,

- (a) called on the Federal and State governments to take steps to ensure that the freedoms of religion, speech, association and conscience are protected, strengthened and promoted,
- (b) respectfully requested the Archbishop to convey the above terms of this resolution to the Prime Minister, the Premier and their respective Attorneys General, and
- (c) requested the Standing Committee of the General Synod to promote by its request a motion for a resolution in similar terms to the above at the forthcoming session of the General Synod in 2014.

In response to paragraph (c) of the resolution, the General Synod subsequently passed resolution R38/14 on human rights.

### **7.8 14/13 Goal of a paperless Synod**

By resolution 14/13, the Synod, noting the initial steps towards reducing the distribution of materials to Synod members in printed form by the passing of the *Synod (Electronic Communications) Amendment Ordinance 2013* (the “Electronic Communications Ordinance”), adopted the goal of operating on an essentially paperless basis by the 51<sup>st</sup> Synod (in 2017) and to this end –

- (a) requested the Standing Committee to make regulations under clause 6B(4) of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* along the lines outlined in the Explanatory Statement for the Electronic Communications Ordinance and to review the scope of those regulations from time to time, and
- (b) encouraged members, where possible, to download electronic forms of Synod documents on tablets or laptops for use during Synod sessions in preference to using printed forms, and
- (c) requested the Registrar to ask the members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod whether they opt to continue receiving printed forms of the Synod book and other large documents for use during sessions of this Synod and to report this information to the first session of this Synod, and
- (d) requested the Secretariat, in light of this information, to consider and report to the Standing Committee on further steps that might be taken to achieve the goal of a paperless Synod, and
- (e) requested the Standing Committee, when choosing a venue for sessions of the 51<sup>st</sup> Synod, to take into account the provision of recharging points and the capacity of the venue to support Synod members accessing and downloading Synod documents by Wi-Fi during these sessions.

We made the regulation referred to in paragraph (a) of the resolution.

For the purposes of paragraph (c) of the resolution, the Registrar has informed us that, as at 7 August 2014, of the 734 members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod who have notified the Registry of their details, 238 (or 32.4%) opted to receive printed Synod documents and 377 (or 51.4%) opted to receive electronic documents. No response was provided by the remaining 119 members (or 16.2%).

We recommended that, as an interim step in addressing the goal of a paperless Synod by 2017, consideration be given to making printed forms of the Synod Book and other large documents available for collection at St Andrew’s House or the venue for sessions of the Synod from 2015 for those Synod members who opt to continue receiving such documents in printed form.

### **7.9 18/13 Review of *Discipline Ordinance 2006* and *Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994***

By resolution 18/13, the Synod requested the Standing Committee to review the *Discipline Ordinance 2006* and the *Relinquishment of Holy Orders Ordinance 1994*, with particular regard to their interaction with the *Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012* (NSW), and to bring a report and any proposed amending ordinance or ordinances to the 1<sup>st</sup> ordinary session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Synod.

The committee we appointed to undertake the review requested in resolution 18/13 has completed its work. A bill and explanatory report are printed separately.

### **7.10 19/13 Review of the Diocesan Mission and the next phase of the Mission**

By resolution 19/13, the Synod noted the report on the review of the Diocesan Mission and the next phase of Mission and requested its members to provide comment on the draft early exposure of a possible new Diocesan Mission outlined in the report.

Having considered comments made about the exposure draft, we prepared a *Mission 2020* document with the Archbishop.

The new Mission document is printed separately, however an early copy was circulated to Synod members on 1 August for consideration at the 2014 session of Synod. We requested that a motion be

moved at Synod to enable, among other things, the Synod to welcome and adopt the *Mission 2020* set out in that document.

### **7.11 20/13 Church planting models for Greenfields Areas**

By resolution 20/13, the Synod noted a report on the strategy for ministry in Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese and invited its members to submit comments on the holistic strategy for promoting ministry in Greenfield and Brownfield areas of the Diocese to the Church Planting Task Force (CPTF) by 31 December 2013.

Having received comments on the strategy, the CPTF provided us with a report which requested that we –

- adopt the strategic goal of planting 11 new congregations per year, and
- allocate or raise at least \$400,000 pa for seed funding these new initiatives, including funding for property and buildings, and
- require the CPTF (and partner organisations) to manage the allocation of these funds on behalf of the Standing Committee, and
- request the Archbishop to promote the plan with the Mission Areas,

The funding proposals have been taken into account by the Diocesan Resources Committee in preparing the *Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities for 2016-2018* (see item 3.9) and by the Strategic Research Group in the advice it has provided in the formulation of missional goals for consideration by the Synod (see item 7.10).

### **7.12 22/13 The Diocesan Mission and Baby Boomers**

By resolution 22/13, Synod requested the Missions Committee to explore and report back to Synod on how the Diocesan Mission plan for the next 10 years will be directed toward –

- (a) ensuring that Baby Boomers in the Diocese are evangelised, nurtured in their faith, reaching out to their peers with the Gospel, and exercising their spiritual gifts and godly wisdom in vital ministry within churches and the wider community, and
- (b) raising the awareness of parishes and the Diocese concerning the needs and potential of Baby Boomers and inspiring, training, and encouraging them in ministry to their peers and others.

This resolution was considered in the context of developing the next phase of the Diocesan Mission. See item 7.10.

### **7.13 23/13 Transparency of Synod funding**

By resolution 23/13, the Synod, in order to improve the transparency of Synod funding, requested we consider, as part of its review of the document “Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities for 2013” (the Statement) –

- (a) requiring all potential recipients of Synod grants (under the Appropriation headings *Long Term Mission Commitments* and *Current Mission Activities*) to provide the Standing Committee, for the purposes of formulating the Synod budget for the next triennium, with information about their ongoing funding requirements for the triennium, including information similar to that referred to on page 21 of the Statement, and
- (b) making this information available to Synod members.

This resolution was considered in the context of developing the Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities for Synod in 2014 (see item 3.9). Our response is detailed in the Annexure to that document.

### **7.14 33/13 Domestic violence and educating clergy**

By resolution 33/13, the Synod requested Moore College and Ministry Training and Development, in consultation with the Safe Ministry Board and appropriate experts as required, having reviewed the input they already provide, to investigate and, as needed, develop an effective approach to educating ordinands and clergy in regards to domestic violence and how to respond when it comes up as an issue in marriage (and other relationships). In such training, consideration ought to be given to ensuring that upholding the Bible's good teaching on submission and sacrificial love – both in preaching and teaching, and in marriage education or counselling – is not easily twisted as a cover for abuse. Synod requested that Moore College and Ministry Training and Development report back with a progress report by the next session of Synod.

We have not yet received a report in relation to this matter.

**7.15 Further use of Synod venue during Synod session**

In response to a suggestion from a Synod member, we agreed to consider making further use of the Synod venue during Synod sessions. To this end we sought expressions of interest from a number of diocesan organisations to use the Synod venue on any of the days nominated for the 2014 session. None of the organisations contacted expressed an interest in doing so and, accordingly, we agreed that no further action should be taken in relation to this matter.

**7.16 Resolutions made by the Synod in 2013 and not mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 2013 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

**7.17 Ordinances for this session**

The bills for ordinances for this session of the Synod are printed separately, together with accompanying reports or explanatory statements.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS

*Diocesan Secretary*

17 September 2014