

## 1999 Report of the Standing Committee

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Charter

The duties of the Standing Committee include -

- (a) Considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the resolutions of the Synod.
- (b) Making ordinances concerning church trust property.
- (c) Preparing and administering the diocesan estimates.
- (d) Making arrangements for Synod sessions and preparing and proposing business for the Synod.
- (e) Acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council").
- (f) Appointing persons to fill casual vacancies among persons elected by the Synod to boards etc.
- (g) Monitoring the financial affairs of diocesan organisations.

#### 1.2 Access

Meetings are held in St Andrew's House, Sydney Square and mail should be addressed to "The Diocesan Secretary, Standing Committee of Synod, PO Box Q190, QVB Post Office NSW 1230" (telephone (02) 9265 1555; Fax (02) 9261 4485; E-mail [map@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:map@sydney.anglican.asn.au)). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

A report on each meeting of the Standing Committee is, published a few days after the meeting on Anglican Media's internet website (<http://www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au>)

#### 1.3 Meetings and Members

Since 26 October 1998, we have met 13 times. The names of the members are listed on pages 42 and 43 of the 1999 Diocesan Year Book.

The Rev Dr Bill Lawton resigned as a member with effect from 17 November 1998. We received Bill's resignation with sadness and recorded our thanks for his contribution to the work of the Standing Committee since 1993. As Bill had been a member elected by the regional electors of South Sydney, it was for the South Sydney

Regional Council to fill the vacancy. The Rev John McIntyre was elected and attended his first meeting on 22 March 1999.

No other changes to the membership of the Standing Committee occurred during the year.

We have agreed that where the Chief Executive Officer of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat is not elected as a member of the Standing Committee, he or she will be invited to attend all meetings of the Standing Committee, be sent all the papers and have the right to both speak and propose motions.

#### **1.4 Management and Structure**

Each meeting of the Standing Committee is like a small Synod meeting. The major committees are -

Audit Committee	Ordinance Reviewers and Panels
Diocesan Executive Board	Ordination Training Fund Committee
Finance Committee	Social Issues Committee
General Synod Canons Committee	Synod Arrangements Committee
Legal Committee	

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

#### **1.5 Major Activities Since October 1998**

The major activities have been -

- (a) Organising the meeting of the 44th Synod on 15 December 1998.
- (b) Dealing with matters referred to us for action by the Synod in 1998.
- (c) Administering the Synod Appropriations Ordinance 1998, and preparing the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999 and the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 1999.
- (d) Passing ordinances dealing with church trust property.
- (e) Administering the ordinances of the Synod, acting as the "Synod in recess" and giving advice to the Archbishop.
- (f) Appointing 5 diocesan organisations as "nominated organisations" for the 45th Synod under Part 5 of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 and electing 24 lay persons as members of the 45th Synod under Part 8 of that Ordinance.
- (g) Filling casual vacancies on committees etc.
- (h) Preparing the business for the 1st session of the 45th Synod.
- (i) Making preliminary arrangements for the special session of Synod to be held in 2001 to elect a new Archbishop.

We are grateful to God for all that has been achieved in this time, and for the resources of people and assets of the Diocese.

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### **1.6 Death of the Rev Bernard Judd, MBE OAM**

We noted with sadness the death of the Rev Bernard Judd and recorded our thanks to God for his many years of service, particularly as rector of St Peter's East Sydney and diocesan representative to the NSW Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Ltd, together with his active involvement with the Hammond Care Group and St Anne's Hammondville.

### **1.7 Death of the Rev Noel Pollard**

We also noted with sadness the death of the Rev Noel Pollard and recorded our thanks to God for his ministry over many years, particularly as a lecturer at Moore College and as Master of New College.

### **1.8 Appointment of the Rev Ernie Carnaby as Archdeacon of North Sydney**

We noted the Archbishop's intention to appoint the Rev Ernie Carnaby as Archdeacon of North Sydney from 1 January 2000 and warmly supported that appointment

### **1.9 Appointment of the Rev Ken Allen as Archdeacon of Western Sydney**

We noted the Archbishop's intention to appoint the Rev Ken Allen as Archdeacon of Western Sydney to succeed Archdeacon Alan Donohoo and warmly supported that appointment.

## **2. Actions with the Archbishop**

### **2.1 Parish of Picton: Right of Presentation**

The parish of Picton became vacant on 8 April 1999 but the Archbishop was unable to give the certificate required by clause 18(1) of the Presentation and Exchange Ordinance 1988 because the parish could not support a rector and the rectory was in a poor state of repair. The question of whether the parish should have the benefits under the Ordinance was referred to the Archbishop-in-Council for determination. We recommended to the Archbishop that, in all the circumstances, the parish should not have the benefits under the Ordinance.

### **2.2 Use of the Diocesan Coat of Arms**

The Archbishop-in-Council has given permission for the Anglican Youth and Education Division to use the Sydney Diocesan Coat of Arms in its logo.

### **2.3 Parramatta '54 Free Fund**

This Fund is held upon trust to distribute the income among objects of the Diocese of Sydney determined by the Archbishop-in-Council. A distribution of \$7,500 was made in 1999 towards the hospitality costs of the 1999 Australian Bishops' Conference (\$7,000 for 1998) held at Gilbulla. We recommended to the

Archbishop that a distribution of \$7,500 be made in 2000 for that purpose.

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

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$45,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

#### **2.5 Change of Name of the Church of England Historical Society**

The Archbishop-in-Council has given permission for the Church of England Historical Society Diocese of Sydney to change its name to the Anglican Historical Society Diocese of Sydney, subject to 2 conditions required under the Use of Church Names Canon 1989.

### **3. Financial and Property Administration**

#### **3.1 Goods and Services Tax**

A goods and services tax (GST) will be introduced from 1 July 2000. Two circulars about the tax have already been sent to ministers and churchwardens and the implications of the tax on our parochial units continue to be considered by our Finance Committee as more information becomes available. More detailed information will be provided to ministers and churchwardens in due course.

It appears that parochial units will be GST-free on the provision of "religious services". This means that GST will not have to be charged in respect of those services and, if it is registered with the Australian Taxation Office, the parochial unit will be entitled to a refund of the GST paid on any goods and services used to supply those religious services. The term "religious services" is narrowly defined in the legislation.

#### **3.2 Changes in Fringe Benefits Tax Rules**

The Government announced 2 proposals to change certain rules about fringe benefits and fringe benefits tax -

- (a) the proposal that the value of fringe benefits provided to an employee be recorded on the employee's group certificate; and
- (b) the proposal to limit to \$17,000 the value of fringe benefits provided by public benevolent institutions and certain other not for profit organisations that attract a tax concession.

A circular on these proposals was sent to ministers and churchwardens. The proposal in (a) has since become law.

In brief, in relation to (a), the terms of the legislation are such that the value of benefits provided by a parochial unit to ministers, assistant ministers and lay ministers will not have to be recorded on the group certificates of the relevant minister, assistant

ministers and lay ministers. The situation will be different for employees of a parochial unit other than lay ministers.

Draft legislation to implement the proposal referred to in (b) has not yet been prepared, but the Treasurer's office has advised that the proposal is not intended to apply to benefits provided by religious institutions to religious practitioners.

### **3.3 Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995**

Organisations of the Synod which manage church trust property must make an annual report to the Synod. These reports include audited accounts and must be lodged, together with liquidity reports, by 30 June each year. A different lodgement date has been approved for a few organisations.

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

### **3.4 Audited Accounts of the Standing Committee**

The audited accounts for the Synod Fund are printed separately for the information of Synod members. Those of the Sydney Diocesan Account (a small group of sub-trusts and clearing accounts) will be tabled.

### **3.5 Ordination Training Fund**

From this Fund, bursaries are available to candidates for ordination in Sydney studying through Moore College and parish sisters enrolled at Mary Andrews College and Moore College who intend to serve in Sydney.

Bursaries of \$359,389 were paid in 1998 (\$358,800 in 1997). We waived the repayment of bursaries by 2 people - the first person was not ordained because he was unable to find a position as an assistant minister and the second person withdrew from part time study.

### **3.6 Ordinances Passed Since 1998 Synod Session**

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to in 1993 to 1998 and in 1999 to 24 September.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Standing Committee	43	48	38	37	45	39	36
Synod	17	9	13	14	11	18	-
	60	57	51	51	55	57	36

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the 1998 session of the Synod. There are 4 ordinances of specific interest.

The St James Phillip Street Property Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 1998 provides for the distribution of income from the building known as St James' Hall for the 10 years ending 1 January 2009, with a review after 5 years. While a large part of the income is used for the purposes of the parish of St James' King Street, the Synod will continue to be a beneficiary of the income with a proportion being made available for distribution under the Synod's appropriations ordinance.

The Ryde (Livingstone Lodge) Sale Ordinance 1999 and the Ryde (Kirkby Gardens, Archbold Building, 2 Little Church Street) Ordinance 1968 Amendment Ordinance 1999 authorise the sale of certain residential units at Ryde and the application of the proceeds of sale, and the income from other units, towards the costs of the construction of a new ministry centre on the church site at Ryde. The Synod will continue to be a beneficiary of the income from the other units, although the annual amount to be distributed to the Synod will be reduced.

The East Sydney (Kings Cross) Development Ordinance 1999 authorises the construction of a serviced apartment complex on commercial land adjoining the St John's Darlinghurst church site, and the lease of that land for 60 years. After loan servicing obligations are met, the income will be applied principally for the purposes of the parish of East Sydney and the South Sydney Regional Council.

### **3.7 Ordinance Fees**

The Standing Committee approved the following scale of fees -

	1999		2000
	\$		\$
Ordinances requiring a Review Panel	)	)	
Sale, Leasing and Other Complex Ordinances	) 750	)	800
Other Ordinances	350	)	350
Synod Ordinances	Nil*		Nil*

\* But a contribution may be sought towards printing costs.

The fees for 1999 and 2000 are based on a 80% recovery of costs, which cover the examination of procedural requirements, the giving of advice, the writing of reports, the typing and sometimes the redrafting of bills, the keeping of records and, where required, the attendance of staff members at meetings.

### **3.8 Stamp duty on ordinances**

Following the commencement of the Duties Act 1997, confirmation was sought from the Office of State Revenue that ordinances made under section 32 of the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 to vary the trusts of "dutiabale property" were not liable to stamp duty. The Office of State Revenue provided that confirmation in writing.

### 3.9 Distributions of Funds Under Ordinances

Several distributions of funds were approved -

*Campsie (St Peter's Harcourt) Land Sale Ordinance 1983:* payment of up to \$37,790 to the parish council for repairs to the rectory.

*GyMEA (Grays Point) Land Sale Ordinance 1996:* payment of \$100,000 to the Georges River Regional Council for the costs of capital works in the parish of Cabramatta.

*Historic Buildings Restoration Fund:* payment of \$2,000 from the Fund to the parish council of Wilberforce for the restoration of the "Macquarie Schoolhouse", subject to the receipt of a grant from the Commonwealth Government, and payment of \$6,000 to the churchwardens of Ashfield to shore up the roof of the church.

*Hurlstone Park Sale Ordinance 1983:* payment of \$10,000 to the Georges River Regional Council for ministry in 2 parishes of the Region.

*Neutral Bay Rectory Sale Ordinance 1989:* payment to the parish council of accumulated income to a maximum of \$25,325 or until a new assistant minister is appointed.

*Putney (St Thomas Monash Park) Ordinance 1974:* payment of the balance of funds for the costs of an extension and other works to the rectory.

*St John Bishopthorpe Glebe Ordinance 1983:* the application of up to \$40,000 towards the costs of repairs and renovations to an investment property.

*Sutton Forest (Wingello) Land Sale Ordinance 1997:* payment of \$3,025.85 for the purchase of a photocopier.

*Vaucluse and Rose Bay Variation of Trust Ordinance 1996:* payment of up to \$40,000 for the purposes of refurbishing the rectory in the parish.

*Villawood (East Fairfield) Variation of Trusts Ordinance 1999:* payment of \$73,000 for the purchase of capital equipment and renovations to St Stephen's and St Anne's Churches.

### 3.10 Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975

Relief from cost recovery charges was provided as follows -

- (a) \$6,909 to the parish of Yagoona following the amalgamation of Yagoona and Birrong;
- (b) \$8,000 to the provisional parish of Bexley and Bexley North following the amalgamation of Bexley and Bexley North; and
- (c) \$4,329 to the newly created parish of Woodville Road.

The dollar limits in clause 4 of the Ordinance were reviewed. The size of the gift by one donor to qualify for a deduction under clause 4(a) remains at \$2,000. The dollar limit in clause 4(b) for the maximum amount of debt liquidation on a new site was increased to \$100,000 and the dollar limit in clause 4(i)(i) retained at \$2,000 as the lower limit of donations for repairs.

### 3.11 Arrears of Parish Ministry and Property Recoveries

The following table compares the arrears as at 31 July 1997, 1998 and 1999.

	1997	1998	1999
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Arrangements to Pay</b>			
Bexley & Bexley North	16,560.00	11,095.65	-
Robertson	6,642.15	5,497.87	2,450.14
<b>No Arrangements</b>			
Annandale	1,090.50	-	-
Ashbury	9,292.46	-	-
* Birrong	2,362.00	6,780.19	-
Bondi Beach	-	440.50	426.80
Chester Hill	1,990.00	-	3,414.00
Clovelly	-	1,762.00	-
Corrimal	1,990.00	-	-
Cremorne Point	1,990.00	-	853.50
Engadine	-	1,125.16	740.11
Fairfield	-	440.50	426.80
Greenacre	4,711.20	4,523.10	18,049.40
Keiraville	-	881.00	853.50
Rooty Hill	3,135.00	-	-
* St Johns Park with			
Canley Heights	1,568.20	-	-
Smithfield	3,980.00	5,742.00	4,267.50
West Ryde	7,372.00	440.50	-
Westmead	354.17	-	-
Woodville Road	-	-	4,176.11
<b>Total</b>	<u>63,037.68</u>	<u>38,728.47</u>	<u>35,657.86</u>

\* Birrong was amalgamated with Yagoona on 1 September 1998.

\* St Johns Park and Canley Heights were amalgamated on 1 January 1997.

The Archdeacons are in regular contact with parochial units in arrears with a view to finding a solution to the situation. They report to the Finance Committee.

### 3.12 St Peter's Hornsby Variation of Trusts and Land Sale Ordinance 1978

This Fund is held upon trust to apply the income through Synod appropriations ordinances. A condition at the time the Fund was created was that interest-free loans be made to St Mark's Berowra and St Luke's Hornsby Heights. As at 31 July 1999, the status of these interest-free loans was -

	<i>Berowra</i>	<i>Hornsby Heights</i>
Balance owing	\$13,889	\$12,500
Annual Repayment Rate	\$1,000	\$8,000

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The repayment rate of the Berowra loan will be reviewed by 31 December 2000. At the present rate it will take 14 years to repay the loan.

### **3.13 Endowment of the See (Various Approvals)**

The stipends, allowances, superannuation, long service leave, housing and office costs of the Archbishop, Assistant Bishops, the Registrar and Archdeacons, the salaries of the registry staff (including the Archives), and the stipend, allowances, superannuation, long service leave and housing costs of the Dean are met from the Endowment of the See. These costs are not a charge on Synod funds except for \$47,000 in 1999 for the Archdeacon of Women's Ministries.

### **3.14 Borrowing Limits for Organisations**

Increased borrowing limits were approved for 3 organisations.

### **3.15 Gilbulla**

It was reported in 1997 and 1998 that the future of Gilbulla as a diocesan conference centre was being reviewed and that we had set up a committee to manage Gilbulla and report on its future.

The committee presented a report detailing the efforts which have been undertaken to improve the presentation of the site, the existing accommodation and marketing and service levels. It concluded by recommending that Gilbulla be retained as an upgraded conference centre for the Diocese, subject to certain issues which remain to be addressed.

As a consequence, we passed the "Gilbulla" Board of Management Constitution Ordinance 1962 Amendment Ordinance 1998 to revest responsibility for the management of Gilbulla in a reconstituted board of management.

### **3.16 Qualifications of Parish Auditors**

There is presently a bill before the Synod which seeks to ensure that the auditor of church and parish accounts is duly qualified. At the 3rd session of the 44th Synod a number of members gave notice of amendments to the bill. The nature of these amendments indicated that the bill was controversial.

If the qualifications for an auditor are to be changed in the way proposed by the bill, all parochial units will be required to have a formal audit taken of their accounts. This will add to costs, particularly for smaller parochial units.

We are not aware of any situation where financial mal-administration has occurred and the lack of professional qualifications of the auditor contributed to the problem, or prevented or delayed its detection. Therefore, on reflection, we consider that the bill, if passed, may simply add to costs without producing any real benefit.

Accordingly, we recommend that leave be granted to withdraw the bill. We have issued guidelines to ministers, churchwardens and parish councils to assist them in ensuring that auditors have sufficient skills. Such guidelines will probably achieve more at this time than an ordinance. A copy of the guidelines is printed separately.

### **3.17 “Financially Challenged” Parishes**

We have asked that each regional council undertake periodic reviews of provisional parishes and financially challenged parishes with a view to possible restructuring of any such units in the region.

### **3.18 Policy re Bequests without a Specific Trust**

During the year, the Property Trust received a substantial bequest to be applied for such purposes of the Church in the Diocese as may be determined by the Standing Committee. At the suggestion of our Finance Committee, we adopted the policy that all bequests for \$20,000 and over without a specific trust are to be added to the capital of the Diocesan Endowment.

## **4. General Administration**

### **4.1 Contemporary Music for Public Worship**

In his 1997 Presidential Address the Archbishop recommended to the Synod that we should seek to advance “the cause of theologically sound, pastorally relevant and eminently singable contemporary music for public worship”. Last year we reported that we had appointed a committee to recommend the best way to spend up to \$10,000 to promote the writing and publicising of modern worship music. A final report is awaited.

### **4.2 Elections**

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

From October 1998 to July 1999, 68 such positions were filled (61 for the same period last year).

### **4.3 Camperdown Cemetery Trust**

We considered a report from the Diocesan Secretary on the options for the future management of the Camperdown Cemetery. We adopted the Diocesan Secretary’s recommendation that the existing regime for the management of the Cemetery continue for the next 2 years, and then be reviewed. Additional trustees have been appointed to broaden the experience and skills of the trust, and to give impetus to its work. We now require that the trustees comply with the Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance

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1995, as if the trustees were expressed to be an unincorporated association for the purposes of that ordinance.

#### **4.4 Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee**

We received a report about the Sydney Diocesan Educational and Book Committee and agreed to continue the work of the committee since it meets real needs by supporting post graduate study overseas by diocesan clergy. Further, there are complexities in varying the trusts associated with the Estate of the Late Thomas Moore from which part of the committee's income is derived.

#### **4.5 Anglican Counselling Centre - Enquiry into Operations**

In 1998 we reported that we had appointed a committee to survey and enquire into the operations of the Anglican Counselling Centre. The committee has reported and we have considered that report, and the response of the Anglican Counselling Centre. A separate report is printed.

#### **4.6 Robert Menzies College Limited**

New Universities College Council Limited (NUCC) presently administers New College at the University of New South Wales and Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University. NUCC is proposing that a new company, Robert Menzies College Limited (RMC), be incorporated to operate Robert Menzies College. We have agreed in principle to the incorporation of RMC, subject to our approving the proposed constitution of RMC. For this purpose we appointed a committee to consult with NUCC and the management committee of Robert Menzies College about the proposed constitution, and report back. A report from the committee has been received but we are still considering it.

#### **4.7 Internet Web Site**

We reported in 1998 that the Diocese now has its own Internet web site home page at [sydney.anglican.asn.au](http://sydney.anglican.asn.au). Links on the home page appear from Anglican Media, the Archbishop, the Regions, the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Appeals Office and the Synod.

The Synod link is now operational and contains -

- (a) the principal administrative ordinances and ordinances by year since 1991;
- (b) the "8th" Handbook;
- (c) the Standing Committee's report to the Synod for 1999, and other reports;
- (d) circulars sent to parishes; and
- (e) positions vacant in the Secretariat.

Other information will be added soon. It is hoped that the Synod link will become a valuable resource for those seeking information about the Diocese its administration and procedures.

#### **4.8 Review of the Anglican Media Council**

The Anglican Media Council Ordinance 1993 provides for a review of the Anglican Media Council ("AMC") after 5 years and last year we reported that we had appointed a committee to review the operations of AMC.

The committee has reported that the creation of the AMC has been successful, that it responds well to external media issues and has a good reputation, and that it is good at internal communications within the Diocese. Nevertheless there are several specific issues which need to be addressed, and these have been referred to the Archbishop for his consideration.

We greatly appreciate the work of the committee of review (Messrs Geoff Kells, Robert Cartwright and Michael Sharpe).

Following consideration of the report of the committee of review we amended the Anglican Media Council Ordinance 1993 to increase the number of members of the AMC by 3, to increase the term of office of members from 1 to 3 years, and to provide for a further review in 5 years.

#### **4.9 Reports from Regional Councils**

Under clause 9 of the Regions Ordinance 1995 each regional council must give the Standing Committee an annual report for inclusion in the Standing Committee's report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately.

#### **4.10 Common Membership of the Finance and Loans Board and the Car and Insurance Fund**

Following consultation with the Finance and Loans Board and the Car and Insurance Fund, we amended the Sydney Church of England Finance and Loans Board Ordinance 1957 and the Sydney Anglican Car and Insurance Fund Ordinance 1978 to provide for common membership of the Board and Fund. Common membership will allow meetings of the Board and the Fund to be held concurrently, permitting more to be achieved each time members meet. Further, common members can also consider ways in which the activities of the 2 organisations may be better harmonised.

From the 3rd session of the 45th Synod in 2001, the membership will comprise the Archbishop, 6 lay persons and 3 members of the clergy elected by the Synod and 1 person appointed by the Archbishop.

## 5. General and Provincial Synod Matters

### 5.1 Hosting of General Synod in 2001

We considered an invitation from the General Secretary of the General Synod to all dioceses to make proposals to host the 2001 session of the General Synod but considered that other dioceses should be given the opportunity to host that session. We were subsequently advised that the next session of the General Synod will be held in Brisbane, almost certainly during the period 21-27 July 2001 inclusive.

### 5.2 Constitution of a Diocese Alteration Canon 1995 Bishop (Incapacity) Canon 1995 Bishop (Incapacity) Amendment Canon 1998

The Standing Committee recommends that these canons be adopted by the Synod. Separate reports and bills for adopting ordinances have been printed.

### 5.3 Constitution Alteration (Tribunals) Canon 1998

In 1998 the Synod withheld assent to this canon. In accordance with the Synod's request, we sent comments on this canon to the General Secretary of the General Synod.

### 5.4 Provincial Synod Commissions Ordinance 2001

The Provincial Registrar circulated to each diocese in the Province of New South Wales a bill for the Provincial Synod Commissions Ordinance 2001, for comments. The purpose of the bill is to formalise the Provincial Synod commissions system and will be considered by the Provincial Synod when it next meets, probably in 2001. We approved comments being sent to the Provincial Registrar.

### 5.5 4/98 Provincial Synod Welfare Commission

Last year the Synod deferred consideration of this resolution from the Provincial Synod of the Province of New South Wales. A separate report is printed.

### 5.6 6/98 Reconciliation with Aboriginal People

By resolution 6/98 of the Provincial Synod of the Province of New South Wales set up a task group to -

- (a) examine the *Bringing Them Home Report* as it applies to the Anglican Church within New South Wales;
- (b) prepare, in accordance with the recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home Report*, information relating to the role of the Anglican Church in New South Wales in the removal of indigenous children and their care in homes run by the Anglican Church;
- (c) give advice as to any ongoing care, counselling or support which should still be given to those affected by forcible removal;

- (d) give advice concerning any reparation which should be paid by the church to those affected by forcible removal; and
- (e) report back, with recommendations, to the Provincial Synod Standing Committee in 1999.

We were invited to appoint a person to the task group and provide a response to resolution 6/98. Last year we reported that we had deferred further consideration of these matters pending receipt of recommendations from our Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee.

We have now been advised that the matter appears not to be proceeding for various reasons. We have sought clarification from the Provincial Synod Standing Committee and, in the meantime, propose taking no further action in relation to the resolution.

## 6. Sydney Synod Matters

### **6.1 2001 Archbishop's Election Synod**

Archbishop Goodhew retires in March 2001 and a special session of Synod must be held thereafter to elect a new Archbishop. It is proposed that this special session be held from Monday 4 June 2001 to Friday 8 June 2001. A separate report is printed.

### **6.2 14/94 Retirement Housing for Church Workers**

The resolution asked that we investigate alternative accommodation or remuneration packages to enable church workers to retire with equity in a residence. Following receipt of a report from a committee appointed to investigate this matter, churchwardens were asked to comment about the effects of the proposed deregulation of housing for parish clergy in their parish. Those comments are still being considered and recommendations will be made to the Synod in due course.

### **6.3 50/95 Theology of Work**

In 1995, the Synod appointed a committee to provide an articulation of the reformed and Biblical theology of work. A separate report is printed.

### **6.4 21/96 Recruitment and Training of Christian Educators**

In 1996, the Synod appointed a committee to report on the recruitment, training and development of Christian educators in Anglican Church Schools. Last year we reported that we had received a report from the committee, but had requested that the committee give further consideration to the matter. A report from the committee is awaited.

### **6.5 14/97 Synod Committee on Clerical Tenure**

In 1997, the Synod appointed a committee to review all aspects of clerical tenure in the Diocese, to examine alternative tenure and employment practices for clergy, and to report to the 1999 session

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of the Synod with recommendations and draft ordinances to put into effect its recommendations. A separate report is printed, together with 2 bills recommended by the committee and a third which is published as an exposure draft.

#### **6.6 2/98 Amendment of Section 26 of the 1917 Act**

By resolution 2/98, the Synod approved of the amendment of section 26 of the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Property Act 1917 in the manner set out in the report published on pages 400 to 402 inclusive of the 1998 Year Book. The Attorney-General's Department was advised of the resolution and the necessary amending act was passed by the New South Wales Parliament and commenced on 26 November 1998.

#### **6.7 3/98 Stipends and Allowances Committee**

By resolution 3/98, the Synod reappointed the Stipends and Allowances Committee and directed that it report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee for action. A separate report is printed.

#### **6.8 7/98 Oaths, Affirmations, Declarations and Assents Canon 1992 Metropolitan Canon 1998**

By resolution 7/98, the Synod deferred consideration of these canons until the 1st session of the 45th Synod.

We have received a report from our General Synod Canons Committee about the Oaths, Affirmations, Declarations and Assents Canon 1992. We are still considering that report and are not yet able to make a recommendation to the Synod.

On the advice of our General Synod Canons Committee, we recommend that no action be taken about the Metropolitan Canon 1998, but that the position be reviewed if the Diocese creates an impediment by not assenting to the canon.

#### **6.9 11/98 Jubilee 2000 Program**

By resolution 11/98, the Synod asked that we explore how we might play some worthwhile part in the *Jubilee 2000* program, and consider 2 other related matters. A separate report is printed.

#### **6.10 12/98 Review of the Standing Orders**

By resolution 12/98, the Synod requested that we review and, if possible, simplify the Standing Orders. We appointed a committee to review the Standing Orders and make recommendations.

The committee recommended a total rewrite of the existing Standing Orders and prepared a proposed ordinance which we agreed to circulate to Synod members for comment by 31 August. Comments from 10 persons were received, the committee revised its proposed ordinance and we have agreed that the revised proposed ordinance be promoted to the 1st session of the 45th

Synod. A separate report, and the proposed ordinance, are printed separately.

As a consequence of the work of this committee we disbanded the committee previously appointed to review the ordinance promotion procedures.

#### **6.11 15/98 Matters from the Presidential Address**

By resolution 15/98, the Synod requested a number of things arising from the Presidential Address to the Synod in 1998. A separate report is printed.

#### **6.12 17/98 Distinctive and Permanent Diaconate**

By resolution 17/98, the Synod requested that we report on the ways in which the recommendations of the report "Concerning the Distinctive and Permanent Diaconate" 1987 have been and could be further implemented. A separate report is printed.

#### **6.13 18/98 Referral of Motions**

By resolution 18/98, the Synod requested that we consider, and report to members of the Synod with recommendations, about all matters that remained to be considered on the business paper on the final day of the Synod's meetings in 1998. A separate report is printed.

#### **6.14 22/98 Team Ministry Training**

By resolution 22/98, the Synod supported the concept of team ministry training and requested that we ask an appropriate body to prepare written material and training programs to assist parish staff effectively develop and maintain team ministry.

We sought the advice of CEFM but, at the date of this report, advice had not been received.

#### **6.15 23/98 Bioethical Issues**

By resolution 23/98, the Synod requested that we do a number of things in relation to the report on Bioethical Issues received by the Synod in 1998. A separate report is printed.

#### **6.16 27/98 Use of Visual Technology at Synod**

By resolution 27/98, the Synod requested that we investigate the use of technology to visually display on the large screen any motions or amendments that are asked from the floor and are under discussion at that time.

Members will recall that the use of visual technology was trialed on the 6th day of the 3rd session of the 44th Synod. There remain a number of difficulties in using visual technology and ways of overcoming these difficulties are being explored.

#### **6.17 28/98 1999 Diocesan Day of Prayer**

By resolution 28/98, the Synod respectfully asked that the Archbishop-in-Council designate a day for a diocesan day of

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prayer in 1999. The diocesan day of prayer in 1999 was 18 September 1999.

**6.18 29/98 Report of House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs**

By resolution 29/98, the Synod noted the publication of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs entitled "To have and to Hold - Strategies to Strengthen Marriage and Relationships" and, among other things, requested that we report to the 1st session of the 45th Synod about the ways in which the Diocese can contribute to the strengthening of marriage and relationships in light of the report.

We sought the advice of the Anglican Counselling Centre and Anglican Youth and Education Division but, at the date of this report, advice has not been received.

**6.19 32/98 Review of Synod Appropriations Ordinance/ Parish Cost Recoveries**

By resolution 32/98, the Synod asked that we review the cost recoveries formula, and to consider the appropriate method or methods by which parish ministry and property costs may be recovered under triennial funding arrangements. A separate report is printed.

**6.20 33/98 Establishment of Congregations as Parishes**

By resolution 33/98, the Synod requested that we bring to the 1st session of the 45th Synod legislation to enable the establishment of congregations as parishes without requiring them to own any property. A separate report is printed.

**6.21 34/98 Lay and Diaconal Administration of Holy Communion**

By resolution 34/98, the Synod requested that we bring to the 1st session of the 45th Synod such legislation as would enable a 5 year experimentation of lay and diaconal administration of the Lord's Supper (in the presence or absence of the minister). A separate report is printed.

During the year, we received a report from our legal committee on the opinions of the Appellate Tribunal on lay and diaconal administration of holy communion.

**6.22 Resolutions made by the Synod in 1998 and not Mentioned in this Report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 1998 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

### **6.23 Future Form of Synod Meetings/Appointment of Alternate Members**

We have considered proposals for weekend Synod meetings in 2001 and the amendment of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 to allow for parochial ministers to appoint an assistant minister licensed to the parish as a clerical alternate for the Synod, and to provide for the appointment of alternates for parochial representatives unable to attend a Synod session. A separate report on the proposals for a weekend Synod meeting has been printed, as has a bill for an ordinance to amend the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995.

### **6.23 Membership of the Retirements Board**

The Retirements Board is constituted under the Retirements Ordinance 1993 to make recommendations to the Archbishop regarding extensions of service for certain members of the clergy beyond the applicable retiring age.

The Board comprises a chairman and 5 ministers and 5 lay members. The ministers and lay members must be members of the Synod.

For some time during the year there have been 1 or 2 vacancies on the Board because it has been difficult to find people who are willing to serve who have the necessary skills and are members of the Synod. We recommend that the requirement for Synod membership be deleted. A separate report and a proposed amending ordinance are printed.

### **6.24 Diocesan Doctrine Commission**

During the year we referred the following matters to the Diocesan Doctrine Commission for its consideration and report -

- (a) the Virginia report (being the work of the Inter Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission about relationships between the Provinces of the Anglican Communion);
- (b) the Eames report (dealing with women in the episcopate);
- (c) the biblical teaching on homosexuality with particular reference to church recognition of same-sex unions and the ordination of practising homosexuals (for Synod in 2000);
- (d) whether there are valid theological reasons to overturn the recommendations and conclusions of earlier Doctrine Commission reports about the ordination of women to the priesthood; and
- (e) the doctrine of the Trinity and its bearing on the relationship between men and women.

The Doctrine Commission has advised that its report on the matter referred to in (d) will be prepared for Synod members in 2000. The commission's report on the matter referred to in (e) is printed separately.

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### **6.25 De Facto Relationships Amendment Bill**

We received a report from our Social Issues Committee about the De Facto Relationships Amendment Bill which proposed to extend the definition of de facto relationships in a number of Acts of Parliament to include same sex couples. We asked that the Social Issues Committee -

- (a) continue to express the Diocese's opposition to any extension of the definition of de facto relationships to include same sex couples; and
- (b) promote the concept of providing natural justice for all couples in a domestic relationship, regardless of their sexual commitment, in the various Acts being considered for amendment.

### **6.26 Church School Councils**

In 1998 we reported that we had received a lengthy report on various aspects of church school councils. A report summarising the recommendations made in that report, and our responses, is printed on pages 411 to 422 inclusive of the 1999 Year Book.

A copy of the report, and the report of the review committee, was sent to each school council for its consideration, together with an undertaking to circulate draft legislation to school councils for their comment.

In response, several of the school councils wrote to us expressing concern about aspects of our proposals. In response, we have appointed a small committee, chaired by the Archbishop or his nominee, to meet with representatives of school councils to discuss the ways that the school councils consider they can best give support to our proposals.

In the meantime, we have deferred the circulation of draft legislation for comment.

### **6.27 Remarriage of Divorced Persons**

In 1994, we requested that the Archbishop appoint a committee to further consider legislation to permit the remarriage of divorced persons in the Diocese. A committee was subsequently appointed.

We have now received the report of the committee, but we have not yet concluded consideration of the report, and its recommendations. Certain issues arising from the report have been referred to our Legal Committee for its advice.

### **6.28 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission - Inquiry into Freedom of Religion and Belief**

Recently, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission published its report *Article 18: Freedom of Religion and Belief* which emphasises that freedom of religion and belief is the right of every person and that it must be safeguarded in Australia.

However, there are matters in the report which cause alarm and, if those matters became the subject of legislation, may restrict our own Christian activities in the community, particularly evangelism. We have appointed a committee to consider the matter.

### **6.29 Australian Christian Churches**

We became aware of a proposal by the Assemblies of God in Australia to form an umbrella group called "Australian Christian Churches" for pentecostal and charismatic churches. We were concerned because the proposed name of this umbrella group may convey to a large section of the public that the group is a representative body for all Christian churches in Australia, rather than a small group of churches. At our request, the Diocesan Secretary wrote to the National Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Australia expressing concern and asking that the proposal not proceed. The proposal proceeded notwithstanding our objections and the objections of other churches.

### **6.30 Ordinances for this Session**

The bills for ordinances for this session of the Synod are printed separately, together with explanatory statements. The drafting and language of those bills which are promoted by request of the Standing Committee has been, or will be, examined by members of our Ordinance Drafting Panel before the Synod meets.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE  
*Diocesan Secretary*

24 September 1999