

Synod Membership (Nominated Indigenous Representatives) Ordinance 2009

Explanatory Statement

1. Under clause 50B of the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (the "Committee") may elect two Indigenous representatives to the Synod, one a lay person, the other one a qualified minister.
2. The Committee is presently unable to find a suitable qualified minister to elect. When the Synod Membership Ordinance 1995 was amended by Synod in 2006 to provide Indigenous membership there was one qualified minister serving in the Diocese. However the following year he moved to another diocese. There is one other qualified minister currently serving in the Diocese as a deacon holding the Archbishop's licence as an assistant minister. The Committee and the person concerned are of the view that membership of the Synod would be too onerous at this early point in his ministry.
3. Given the unexpected disadvantage to Indigenous representation on the Synod, the Committee seeks the flexibility to elect 2 persons as Nominated Indigenous Representatives, who each may either be a Qualified Person or a Qualified Minister.
4. Clause 2(d) of the Ordinance substitutes the existing clause 50B with a new clause that will allow the Committee to elect up to 2 people to be Nominated Indigenous Representatives if they are –
 - (a) an Indigenous Person,
 - (b) a Qualified Person or Qualified Minister, and
 - (c) not entitled to be summoned to a session of the Synod under any Part of this Ordinance other than Part 8A.
5. The other amendments are consequential to the substitution of clause 50B.

Recommendation

6. The Standing Committee recommends that the Synod pass the bill as an ordinance.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

STEVE LUCAS
Manager, Legal Services

2 September 2009