

## 2000 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;
- (b) acting as a council of advice to the Archbishop (the "Archbishop-in-Council");
- (c) considering and reporting upon matters referred to it by the Synod and carrying out the Synod's resolutions;
- (d) deliberating and conferring upon all matters affecting the interests of the Church;
- (e) making ordinances under delegated powers;
- (f) preparing and administering parochial cost recoveries and Synod appropriations and allocations;
- (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 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 is published a few days after the meeting on Anglican Media's website at [www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au](http://www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au).

#### 1.3 Meetings and Members

Since the end of the 1st session of the 45th Synod in 1999, we have met 9 times. The names of the members are listed on pages 45 and 46 of the 2000 Diocesan Year Book and on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod).

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Following the Synod elections in 1999 we welcomed as new members Canon Bruce Ballantine-Jones OAM, Mr Robert Cameron, the Rev Bruce Hall, Mr James Flavin, Dr Barry Newman, the Rev Zac Veron and Justice Peter Young. The retirement of the following members was noted, with sadness, and we recorded our thanks for their contribution to our work: Mr Greg Brian, the Rev David Crain, the Rev Bruce Morrison, Dr Stuart Piggan, Canon Jim Ramsay, Mrs Collette Read and Mr Rod West.

We also farewelled Archdeacons Reg Platt and Alan Donohoo who retired as the Archdeacons of North Sydney and Western Sydney respectively. We welcomed their successors, Archdeacons Ernie Carnaby and Ken Allen.

### **1.4 Appointment of Bishop Peter Watson as Archbishop of Melbourne**

Bishop Peter Watson, the Bishop of South Sydney, was elected as Archbishop of Melbourne at a special session of the Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne on 26 February 2000. We recorded our gratitude to God for the long ministry of Peter and Margo Watson in the Diocese of Sydney and assured them of our wishes for God's blessing for their ministry in the Diocese of Melbourne.

### **1.5 Appointment of Bishop Robert Forsyth as Bishop of South Sydney**

The Synod approved the appointment of Canon Robert Forsyth as the new Bishop of South Sydney at a special session held on 4 May 2000. Canon Forsyth was consecrated as a bishop on 13 June 2000. We assured Bishop Forsyth of our prayers and support for his ministry as Bishop of South Sydney.

### **1.6 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.

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

### **2.1 Declaration of The Illawarra Grammar School as Extra-Parochial**

The Archbishop-in-Council declared The Illawarra Grammar School as extra parochial.

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

The Archbishop-in-Council gave permission for the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee 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 2000 towards the hospitality costs of the 2000 Australian Bishops' Conference held at Gilbulla. The Archbishop-in-Council approved the distribution of a similar amount in 2001.

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

The Archbishop-in-Council appropriated \$47,000 from this Estate for distribution by the Archbishop to assist clergy, clergy widows and clergy children or orphans who are in need.

## **2.5 Application of Funds for Needy 3rd World Dioceses**

In 1999, the Synod approved a grant of \$93,000 in 2000 to be applied for needy 3rd world dioceses. The Archbishop-in-Council approved grants -

- for the training of evangelists for ordination in the Diocese of Kaduna (Nigeria)
- for displaced pastors and bibles and prayer books in the Diocese of Bujumbura (Burundi)
- to print a bible in the local language in the Diocese of Kurunagala (Sri Lanka)
- towards the costs of the Alleviating Poverty in Africa Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2000
- towards the appeal for the establishment of a new diocese in Angola.

# **3. Financial and Property Administration**

## **3.1 A New Tax System**

The Commonwealth Government's *New Tax System* commenced on 1 July 2000 and has a significant impact on our parishes and diocesan organisations.

Much preparatory work was undertaken and during the period October 1999 from June 2000 10 circulars were sent to parochial units advising about the *New Tax System*. The circulars covered matters such as registration for an Australian Business Number and the goods and services tax. Copies of these circulars are on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/circulars/index.htm](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/circulars/index.htm).

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In addition, during April a number of seminars were held throughout the Diocese for the purpose of informing parochial units of their obligations under the new legislation.

### **3.2 Clergy Remuneration Packaging**

On the recommendation of the Stipends and Allowances Committee, we approved revised guidelines for clergy remuneration packaging with effect from 1 July 2000. Under the revised guidelines, up to 30% of the actual stipend payable to a minister etc (excluding allowances) may be sacrificed and paid into a ministerial expense account. The guidelines for the use of ministerial expense accounts have also been widened to include additional types of ministry related expenses.

The revised guidelines are set out in a revised circular to ministers and churchwardens on Stipends, Allowances and Benefits. A copy of the circular can be found on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/circulars/stipends.htm](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/circulars/stipends.htm).

### **3.3 Employment of Part-time and Full-time Lay Workers**

Increasingly, parishes and organisations are employing lay people on a part time basis to perform ministry roles and seek guidance about the employment of part time workers. During 1998 the Stipends and Allowances Committee surveyed parochial units about the terms of the employment of part time workers. The results of the survey indicated that the employment of part time lay workers needs to be more fully researched before more comprehensive guidance can be provided to parochial units. Guidance needs to be provided on such practical issues as the applicability of allowances (eg housing and travel) to lay workers and the calculation of rates of pay.

We have asked that the Secretariat research and prepare guidelines about the employment of part time lay workers. Since many of the issues are also relevant to full time workers we have asked that full time workers also be considered. A grant from Synod Fund Contingencies has been approved to meet the costs of specialist legal and other professional advice.

### **3.4 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 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.

**3.5 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.

**3.6 Ordination Training Fund**

From this Fund, bursaries are available to -

- (a) candidates for ordination in Sydney studying through Moore College;
- (b) trainee deaconesses and parish sisters enrolled at Mary Andrews College who intend to serve in Sydney; and
- (c) candidates for lay stipendiary ministry studying through Moore Theological College who -
  - (i) have been accepted as Sydney youth worker candidates;
  - (ii) have been accepted as Sydney cross-cultural or indigenous worker candidates; or
  - (iii) are women who have been accepted as Sydney lay worker candidates.

During the year we amended the ordination training fund guidelines to include the persons referred to in (c)(iii) above.

Bursaries of \$378,125 were paid in 1999 (\$359,389 in 1998).

**3.7 Ordinances Passed Since 1999 Synod Session**

The following table shows the numbers of ordinances passed and assented to in 1994 to 1999 and in 2000 to 31 July.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Standing Committee	48	38	37	45	39	45	19
Synod	9	13	14	11	18	6	1
	57	51	51	55	57	51	20

A separate report lists the ordinances passed by the Standing Committee since the 1999 session of the Synod. There are 5 ordinances of specific interest.

The St Andrew's House Income Ordinance 1999 provides for the distribution of income earned for St Andrew's House from 1 January 1999. The ordinance was necessary to reflect the arrangements for the financing of the Town Hall Arcade redevelopment.

The Church Administration Ordinance 1990 Amendment Ordinance 2000 provides for the making of reports by the minister and lay ministry leaders at the annual vestry meeting about ministry and allows for parish councils to pass "circular resolutions" without the need for a parish council meeting. A

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circular about the amendments made by this ordinance can be found at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/circulars/vestrymeeting2.htm](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/circulars/vestrymeeting2.htm).

The Anglican Counselling Centre (Home Mission Society Integration) Ordinance 2000 provides for the integration of the Anglican Counselling Centre with Anglicare. See item 7.27.

The Anglican Youth & Education Funding Ordinance 2000 approves additional funding of \$150,000 in 2001 and \$100,000 in 2002 for the purposes of the development of new church curriculum resources to replace "Trowel".

The Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2000 authorises appropriations and allocations of trust income for 2001. See item 3.18.

### 3.8 Ordinance Fees

The Standing Committee approved the following scale of fees -

	2000	2001
	\$	\$
Ordinances requiring a Review Panel and sale, leasing & other complex ordinances	800	850
Other ordinances	350	400
Synod ordinances	Nil*	Nil*

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

The fees are based on a 80% recovery of costs, which covers 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.

### 3.9 Distributions of Funds Under Ordinances

Several distributions of funds were approved -

*Botany/Mascot/Eastlakes Variation of Trusts Ordinance 1994:* payment of up to \$50,000 to the churchwardens of St Matthew's Botany for roof repairs to the church.

*Gynea (Grays Point) Land Sale Ordinance 1996:* payment of \$160,000 to the churchwardens for the construction of a house.

*Historic Buildings Restoration Fund:* grant of \$5,000 from the Fund to the churchwardens of Kurrajong to replace the roof of St Stephen's church.

*Lalor Park and Seven Hills (Trust Fund) Ordinance 1987:* application of the capital balance (about \$33,000) towards the purchase of a demountable building.

*Villawood (East Fairfield) Variation of Trusts Ordinance 1999:* payment totalling \$25,000 to the churchwardens of the parish of Woodville Road for repairs and upgrades to a parish building.

*Wollongong Land Sale Ordinance 1990*: payment of \$45,083 for the purpose of repairing the driveway and removing service station tanks on a church property in the parish of Wollongong.

### 3.10 Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975

Relief from cost recovery charges was provided as follows -

- (a) remitting the actual costs of assistant or lay ministers at Coogee, Fairfield, Dee Why, Hunters Hill, Liverpool and Abbotsford until a minister is appointed to those parishes; and
- (b) remitting arrears of \$5,851 to the provisional parish of Minto arising from an extended period of vacancy.

### 3.11 Arrears of Parish Cost Recoveries

The following table compares the arrears as at 31 July 1998 and 1999 and 30 June 2000.

	1998 \$	1999 \$	2000 \$
<b>Arrangements to Pay</b>			
Bexley & Bexley North	11,095.65	-	-
Robertson	5,497.87	2,450.14	-
<b>No Arrangements</b>			
Asquith	-	-	1,146.70
* Birrong	6,780.19	-	-
Bondi Beach	440.50	426.80	-
Chester Hill	-	3,414.00	-
Clovelly	1,762.00	-	-
Cremorne Point	-	853.50	-
Engadine	1,125.16	740.11	-
Fairfield	440.50	426.80	1,340.10
Forestville	-	-	2,337.80
Greenacre	4,523.10	18,049.40	-
Keiraville	881.00	853.50	1,866.20
Lord Howe Island	-	-	1,786.80
Minto	-	-	4,680.80
Newtown	-	-	5,280.20
St Clair	-	-	446.70
Smithfield	5,742.00	4,267.50	-
South Creek	-	-	893.40
Summer Hill	-	-	1,010.20
West Ryde	440.50	-	-
Windsor	-	-	1,703.55
Woodville Road	-	4,176.11	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,728.47</b>	<b>35,657.86</b>	<b>22,492.45</b>

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

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 30 June 2000, the status of these interest-free loans was -

	<i>Berowra</i>	<i>Hornsby Heights</i>
Balance owing	\$12,639	\$4,500
Annual Repayment Rate	\$2,000	\$8,000

The repayment rate of the Berowra loan was reviewed and increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. At the new rate it will take 7 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 \$49,000 in 2000 for the Archdeacon of Women's Ministries.

**3.14 Borrowing Limits for Organisations**

Increased borrowing limits were approved for 4 organisations.

**3.15 Sickness and Accident Fund - Medical Expenses**

Under the Sydney Diocesan Sickness and Accident Fund Ordinance 1969 parochial units are reimbursed for some of the additional costs incurred when a minister is unable to perform normal duties due to sickness or accident. In addition, a minister who incurs medical, hospital, rehabilitation or related expenses following an accident which occurred in the course of performing normal duties may claim on the Fund for medical expenses (to a prescribed limit). We increased the prescribed limit from \$500 to \$2,500 with effect from 1 January 1999.

**3.16 St Andrew's House Tenants - Reduction in Rent Subsidies**

Last year the Synod reduced the grant to subsidise the rent of church organisations which have offices in St Andrew's House. The amount of the grant was \$209,000 in 1999 but only \$150,000 in 2000.

The reduction in the grant has meant an increase in the rent that church organisations have to pay for their office space in St Andrew's House. We received a number of letters from affected organisations concerned about the reduction in the rent subsidy and the lack of notice about the new policy.

We considered that organisations with council or management members who are Synod representatives had adequate notice of the reduced level of rent subsidy adopted by that Synod last year. Further, one of the affected organisations had been warned to expect a lower level of rent subsidy 5 years ago, and that period has now expired. However, we considered that 2 of the affected organisations would have had no knowledge of the reduced rent subsidy until January this year, and so we approved ex-gratia payments to compensate these organisations for the lower rent subsidies in 2000.

Many of the church organisations in St Andrew's House remain concerned about the reduction in rent subsidies and so we have appointed a committee to consider whether Diocesan organisations, the General Synod, Mothers' Union and the Girls Friendly Society should be encouraged to use St Andrew's House. We await the report of that committee.

### **3.17 Parochial Cost Recoveries**

In 1999 the Synod made the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 1999 which prescribes the formula for the calculation of the cost recoveries charges payable by parochial units in 2000, 2001 and 2002. We are required to report to the Synod about -

- (a) a description of the ministry and property costs payable in 2001 and an estimate of those costs; and
- (b) the cost recoveries charge payable by each parochial unit in 2001 and details of how that charge is calculated.

A separate report is printed.

### **3.18 Synod Appropriations and Allocations**

By the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999, the Synod adopted financial estimates for 2000, 2001 and 2002; authorised appropriations and allocations from trust income for 2000; and stated the Synod's intentions for appropriations and allocations for 2001 and 2002. We were directed to pass all ordinances as were necessary to give effect to the Synod's intentions.

We passed the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2000 to approve appropriations and allocations for 2001.

The ordinance appropriates income of \$9.115 million, comprising 75% of the distributable surplus of the diocesan endowment for 1999 and income earned from other trusts in 1999. The amount appropriated is \$252,000 more than the ordinance allocates for 2001. The excess has been added to the Provision for Distribution for allocation in 2002 when income allocations are forecast to exceed appropriations.

The allocations approved under the ordinance those approved by the Synod in the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999 although the following adjustments were made -

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- (a) Allocations of \$110,000 and \$114,000 which were to be made in 2001 and 2002 respectively to the Anglican Counselling Centre are now to be made to Anglicare, following the merger of the Anglican Counselling Centre with Anglicare. Additional funding of \$100,000 in 2001 has been approved to cover start up costs, a case referral service and additional support for personal counselling services.
- (b) The television program for which Anglican Media received funding in 2000 has been reviewed and allocations for that program of \$62,000 in 2001 and \$64,000 in 2002 have been approved.
- (c) New allocations of \$60,000 in each of 2001 and 2002 have been approved for the Archbishop for the purposes of scholarships for African students to study at Moore Theological College.

In the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999 the Synod approved planning consultancy grants to Anglicare of \$50,000 in each of 2001 and 2002 subject to equal funding being provided by the regional councils. 4 regional councils indicated they were willing to provide, in total, an amount of \$30,000 towards the program in each of 2001 and 2002. This program has been reviewed and, upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Executive Board, it has been decided not to fund this program.

## 4. General Administration

### 4.1 Diocesan Executive Board

The Diocesan Executive Board ("DEB") is a subcommittee of the Standing Committee whose terms of reference include the following -

- (a) To prepare draft ordinances for the Standing Committee under clauses 3 and 4 of the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1998 and clauses 11 and 12 of the Assessment and Charges Ordinance 1975.
- (b) To recommend, in consultation with the Archbishop, mission and vision statements for approval by the Archbishop-in-Council.
- (c) To transmit the mission and vision to the whole Diocese and try to create an environment conducive to the achievement of this vision.
- (d) To make recommendations to the Archbishop-in-Council about whether and how the role of the DEB should be expanded.
- (e) To report on any other matters referred to it by the Archbishop, the Archbishop-in-Council or the Standing Committee.

During the year we reconstituted the membership of the DEB so that it now comprises -

- The Archbishop, ex officio
- The 5 Regional Bishops, ex officio
- The Chief Executive Officer of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat, ex-officio
- 10 members of the Standing Committee who are elected by the Standing Committee.

We have asked that the DEB report on its operations by 30 September 2002 so that the future of the DEB can be reviewed.

#### **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. Other appointments are made by the Standing Committee in its own right.

From October 1999 to July 2000, 146 such positions were filled (68 for the same period in 1999).

#### **4.3 Robert Menzies College Limited**

Last year we reported that New Universities College Council Limited (NUCC) proposed that a new company, Robert Menzies College Limited (RMC), be incorporated to operate Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University. We had agreed in principle to the incorporation of RMC, subject to our approval of the proposed constitution of RMC. During the past year, the proposed constitution was approved. We now appoint the majority of the members and directors of RMC.

#### **4.4 New College**

During the past year NUCC also changed its name to "New College" and adopted a new constitution. Subject to transitional provisions, we now appoint the majority of the members and directors of the company. The main activity of New College is the operation of New College at the University of New South Wales.

#### **4.5 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 our report to the Synod. The annual reports are printed separately.

#### **4.6 Parish Disputes Ordinance 1999 - Appointment and Training of "Synod Pool"**

In 1999 the Synod made the Parish Disputes Ordinance 1999 to adopt a procedure to resolve disputes between a minister and his parish. The procedure requires the appointment of a "Reconciliation Panel" whose members are drawn from a group of 12 clergy and 12 laypersons known as the "Synod Pool".

In accordance with the ordinance, we elected the initial members of the Synod Pool who hold office until this coming session of the Synod when new elections will take place. We also appointed a small committee to oversee the establishment and implementation of processes under the ordinance. The committee arranged for the members of the Synod Pool to receive training about the ordinance and their functions under it.

#### **4.7 Refurbishment of Town Hall Arcade**

In early 2000 the refurbishment of the Town Hall Arcade was completed by the Glebe Administration Board. As part of the refurbishment, a food court has been created on the square level in St Andrew's House. Concern has been expressed that one of the tenants in the food court is selling alcoholic beverages.

The sale of alcohol in the food court is authorised by the Town Hall Arcade Ordinance 1998, the making of which was reported to the Synod in 1999 (see item 3.4 of our 1999 Annual Report a copy of which is on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/synod99/stancom.html](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/synod99/stancom.html)). We consider that the sale of alcohol in the food court is consistent with the policy expressed in resolution 13/96 where the Synod encouraged us to change the Diocesan "social covenants" so that church trust property could be leased for the purposes of licensed restaurants.

#### **4.8 Child Protection Legislation**

The New South Wales Parliament has enacted legislation which introduces employment screening practices that employers must follow when engaging persons in child-related employment. The legislation commenced on 3 July 2000.

The legislation impacts on parishes since "child-related employment" includes both paid and volunteer work with children (being persons under the age of 18 years).

The legislation also impacts on ministers and churchwardens since they would ordinarily be considered to be the "employers" of persons engaged in child-related employment in the parish for the purposes of the legislation. The minister and churchwardens are therefore responsible for implementing in the parish the employment screening practices required by the legislation.

In summary, the legislation requires that employers in the parish-

- register with the Commission for Children and Young People to enable employment screening to be undertaken
- identify positions in the parish which are child-related employment positions, whether paid or voluntary
- ensure all persons currently working with children in the parish are informed about the child-related employment requirements relating to prohibited

persons (being persons convicted of a serious sex offence)

- ask persons currently engaged in child-related employment in the parish to declare whether they are a prohibited person within 6 months from the legislation coming into effect (ie. by 2 January 2001) unless the person ceases that employment before that date
- remove persons known to be prohibited persons from child-related employment in the parish
- ensure information regarding positions involving child-related employment in the parish includes advice regarding prohibited person restrictions and employment screening
- obtain a declaration from persons that they are not a prohibited person before engaging them in child-related employment in the parish
- ensure mandatory employment screening has been completed before offering preferred applicants a position in the parish involving paid child-related employment or child-related employment by a minister of religion
- where it is not practical to complete employment screening prior to employment commencing, to ensure employment screening is completed as soon as possible after the person is employed. In this case, employees must be advised that their on-going employment is conditional on the satisfactory completion of employment screening
- based on the risk assessment from employment screening and other information (eg referee checks), to decide whether to offer child-related employment in the parish to the person
- notify the Commission for Children and Young People of any person whose application for child-related employment in the parish has been rejected primarily because of a risk assessment in employment screening
- ensure the privacy of any person who is checked and the confidentiality of any information obtained through the screening process
- ensure that each request for employment screening is appropriate and being made for the reasons provided for by those procedures
- notify the Commission for Children and Young People of relevant disciplinary proceedings completed by the employers in the parish against any current or former employee (extending to proceedings completed up to 5

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years before the legislation comes into effect - ie. 3 July 1995)

- advise current and former employees in the parish of the relevant disciplinary proceedings completed against them which have been notified to the Commission for Children and Young People
- retain records relating to relevant disciplinary proceedings the employers have completed
- notify an Approved Screening Agency, if requested, of further details of notified relevant disciplinary proceedings for the purposes of employment screening by the agency

The legislation provides that employers in the parish must not -

- engage or continue to engage in child-related employment a person the employer knows is a prohibited person
- engage a person in child-related employment without first obtaining a declaration from that person that they are not a prohibited person
- engage a person in paid child-related employment or engage a minister of religion in child-related employment without first completing the mandatory employment screening procedures (unless it is not practical to do so prior to employment, in which case, the process must be completed as soon as possible)
- inappropriately obtain or disclose information relating to employment screening procedures

The legislation also provides that -

- a person convicted of a serious sex offence (a prohibited person) is prohibited from applying for, undertaking or remaining in child-related employment in the parish
- current employees who are asked by their employer to declare whether they are a prohibited person must do so within 1 month of being asked even if they are not a prohibited person (unless the employee ceases to be engaged in that employment within that month)

A series of seminars were held in May 2000 to inform parishes of the legislation and the obligations which arise under it.

## 5. Relations with Government

### 5.1 11/99 Drug Policy

By this resolution, the Synod resolved to promote the concept of education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation regarding drug and alcohol strategy together with minimisation of supply and distribution. At the request of the Synod, this resolution was

communicated by the Diocesan Secretary to the Premier of New South Wales.

The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister for State, has replied in the following terms -

“Mr Carr has asked me to thank you for your letter, and to respond as the Minister with primary responsibility for managing the implementation of the Government’s response to the Drug Summit.

Our response to the 172 recommendations of the Drug Summit was released in July 1999 and I have enclosed a copy for your information.

The Government’s approach to drug policy is comprehensive. It is based on the key planks of prevent, education, treatment and enforcement, and is underpinned by an additional \$176 million over four years.

Community involvement is a key aspect of the Plan of Action. The Government’s Drugs and Community Action Strategy is now well underway. It will include Community Drug Action Teams, an information and training program for local councils and other organisations on drug issues, and guidelines for communities on how they can work together to deal with local drug issues.

Seven Regional Project Managers have commenced work across the State to encourage communities to deal constructively with local drug issues, with another Project Manager to be appointed shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members of the Synod to become involved with the Drugs and Community Action Strategy. The input of local communities will be invaluable in formulating workable Drug Action Plans to tackle the drug problem.

The Government’s key prevention initiative is the *Families First* program. *Families First* is an evidenced-based prevention and early intervention strategy for families with children under 8 years of age.

The program will focus on activities which build the ability to resist the use of drugs and to prevent abuse, reduce harmful behaviour by supporting families during a child’s early life.

The Government’s education programs focus on abstinence, prevention and the development of students’ skills to deal with drugs. Providing young people with the life skills to get ahead after school is also an important part of these programs.

Guiding the establishment of new treatment services will be the NSW Drug Treatment Service Plan. It will be released shortly.

Increased funding will be used to provide home detoxification, increased inpatient detoxification, increased counselling, case management for clients, education and expansion of treatment places. The aim is to expand treatment places, including methadone, by 50 percent over the next four years.

The Government remains tough on drug dealing. For example, in NSW police have powers to question and search people in cars and on the streets, architects of the drug trade can be given life sentences, drug dealers who sell to children and young people under 18 years of age face 25 years in gaol, and small scale drug dealers who make more than three deals in 30 days are treated like commercial dealers and will face up to 20 years in gaol and/or a \$385,000 fine.

One of the major themes of the NSW Drug Summit was the importance of identifying opportunities for managing offenders out of the drugs-crime cycle through various strategies. These strategies include diversion from the criminal justice system, a legislative regime which promotes prevention, whole-of-government coordination of responses, and increasing the opportunity for treatment and prevention.

A Youth Drug Court Pilot Program will be conducted in Western Sydney over two years commencing in July 2000. The legal and treatment models for the pilot are now close to being settled following extensive development and consultation.

An innovative service model for the Youth Drug Court Pilot Program has been developed that will access a range of services to stop young people 'slipping through the gaps'.

The NSW Government remains committed to tackling the drug problem on all fronts - through better and more treatment for drug dependency, education and prevention, protecting and strengthening communities, tough enforcement against dealers and evidence based policies."

## **5.2 29/99 The Sudan**

In his Presidential Address in 1999 the Archbishop drew attention to the desperate and horrible circumstances of people living in Sudan, especially the southern part of the country. In response the Synod requested that the Commonwealth Government continue and increase its efforts to bring pressure on the

Government of Sudan to desist from its persecution of Christians and other minority groups.

The Diocesan Secretary wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In response the Hon Kathy Sullivan MP, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replied in the following terms -

“The Australian Government is very concerned about the human rights situation in Sudan and we have particularly urged and will continue to urge Sudan to cooperate with international agencies, humanitarian organisations and the United Nations Special Rapporteur as a way of addressing the pressing needs of the Sudanese people suffering the effects of the prolonged conflict in the South.

Multilaterally, the Australian Government has co-sponsored resolutions on Sudan at the 54th and 55th sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) and at the 54th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The UNCHR session on human rights, which concluded on 30 April 1999, expressed our deep concern at reports of:

- continuing serious violations of human rights, fundamental freedoms, and breaches of international humanitarian law perpetrated by all parties to the current conflict
- cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
- cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances, the use of children as soldiers and combatants, forced conscription, forced displacement, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment of civilians; and
- the abduction of women and children to be subjected to forced labour.

The resolution called upon the Government of Sudan to comply fully with its obligations under international human rights instruments to which it is a party and to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law. With the adoption of the resolution, the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Sudan was extended for a further year.

Although the Government of Sudan has agreed to accept the principle of an internationally supervised referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan, many critical issues - such as what areas will be included in the referendum, and how it is to be supervised and monitored - still need to be resolved. The Australian Government encourages international

organisations, including the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in their attempts to bring the parties to the negotiating table. In this respect, the Australian Government is pleased that parties to the conflict are now holding mediation talks in Kenya with assistance from IGAD.

Sudan has also been one of the largest and consistent recipients of Australian humanitarian relief. Since March 1996, Australia has provided over \$17 million in humanitarian assistance to Sudan through Australian non government organisations, international agencies and the World Food Programme (WFP).

In 1999, Australia has provided nearly \$7 million for humanitarian activities in Sudan, including \$4.8 million through Australian NGOs for activities which address primary health care and food security and \$750,000 to support the WFP Special Operation in southern Sudan. These funds will be utilised by WFP to improve food aid deliveries and infrastructure in support of its emergency operations.

In addition Australia provided \$500,000 in response to an appeal for assistance from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to contain an outbreak of meningitis in Sudan and \$340,000 to the United Nations Humanitarian Coordination Unit (UNHCU) to coordinate humanitarian assistance and monitor human rights in northern Sudan.

I wish to reassure you that the Australian Government is very concerned about the human rights situation in Sudan. We have raised our concerns directly with the Sudanese Government in Khartoum and we will continue to urge Sudan to cooperate with international agencies, humanitarian organisations and the United Nations Special Rapporteur as a way of addressing the pressing needs of the Sudanese people suffering the effects of the prolonged conflict.”.

### **5.3 Law Reform Commission Review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 ( NSW)**

Under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (the “1977 Act”) it is generally unlawful to discriminate on the prohibited grounds of race, sex, marital status, disability, transgender status, homosexuality and age. However, the Act contains important exemptions which allow bodies such as churches and church schools to discriminate in circumstances which would otherwise be unlawful.

The New South Wales Law Reform Commission (“NSWLRC”) has issued a report (Report 92) which proposes reform of the current law. Draft legislation is presently being considered by the

Attorney-General of New South Wales and, in due course, may be introduced into Parliament.

In brief, the NSWLRC proposes the expansion of the existing prohibited grounds of discrimination to include religion, political opinion and carer responsibilities. It also proposes that a number of significant exemptions in the 1977 Act be removed or substantially reduced in scope.

We consider that the NSWLRC's proposals, if adopted, will significantly restrict the freedom of members of a religious group to practice their religion. The following are examples of the effects of some of the NSWLRC's proposals.

- ***The Church will no longer be able to discriminate about the provision of religious services such as baptism, marriage and holy communion.***

If the NSWLRC's proposals are adopted it would be unlawful for the Church to refuse to baptise or marry a person or admit them to holy communion on the basis that the person concerned is not a Christian, or is not otherwise entitled to be baptised or married or be admitted to holy communion under the rules of the Church. Denying a person access to these services would be unlawful even if it would be injurious (possibly offensive) to the religious susceptibilities of the members of our Church if the person was to have access to such services.

- ***The Church will not be able to discriminate about who uses our church premises.***

Currently, we allow other religious groups and community groups to use our premises where it is appropriate to do so. If the NSWLRC's proposals are adopted it would be unlawful to deny (if we wished) the use of church premises to a person or persons whose principles or beliefs were such that we considered that it was inappropriate that they use church property. In an extreme case, such persons might even use church property to openly criticise or vilify the Anglican Church! If the NSWLRC's proposals are adopted, the consequence will probably be that we would cease to allow our property to be used by any other person or persons.

- ***The exemption for the Church in relation to the appointment of persons will be significantly narrowed.***

Currently, an exemption allows the Church to discriminate in relation to the appointment of a person to any position in the Church. The NSWLRC proposes that this exemption be reduced in scope so that it will only apply to an appointment where it is necessary to

discriminate to comply with the doctrines, tenets or beliefs of our Church. This proposed amendment will substantially reduce the ability of a Church to require (if it wishes) that all staff members be Christians. (Ironically, the NSWLRC proposes an exemption which will allow politicians and political parties to require that all staff belong to the same political party.)

- ***The exemptions for Church schools will also be significantly narrowed.***

Currently, all private schools (whether religious or not) have an exemption which allows them to discriminate on certain grounds. If the NSWLRC's proposals are adopted, only schools under the direction, control or administration of a religious body will continue to have the benefit of the exemption. Independent Christian schools will no longer be exempt.

Further, it is proposed that the exemption will be significantly narrowed in its application to church schools.

- ***An important exemption for "religious instruction" purposes will be removed.***

Currently, it is unlawful for a person to vilify another person or group of persons on the basis of the homosexuality, transgender status or HIV/AIDS status of that other person or group. However, the current law also provides an exemption which allows people to speak publicly, provided it is done reasonably and in good faith, for religious instruction purposes, without fear of breaching the vilification provisions. The NSWLRC proposes that this exemption be repealed. If this proposal is adopted, members of the church are likely to be severely restricted in their ability to make statements for religious instruction and discussion purposes about matters such as the practice of homosexuality.

We are particularly concerned about the NSWLRC's proposals and made a submission to the Attorney-General. A copy of our submission to the Attorney-General can be obtained from the Internet at [www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/lawreform.htm](http://www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/lawreform.htm).

If members of the Church share the Standing Committee's concerns they are encouraged to write to their local member of Parliament.

#### **5.4 State funding cuts for non-government schools**

Earlier this year, the New South Wales Minister for Education announced funding cuts totalling \$5 million affecting 78 non-government schools, including several diocesan schools. The

Minister did not give any reason for these cuts, except to suggest that they were made to offset changes in Commonwealth education funding which the Minister alleges has resulted in a flow of Commonwealth funds from government to non-government schools in New South Wales. The Commonwealth Minister for Education denies that changes in Commonwealth education funding have had this result. Further cuts in State funding for non-government schools have been foreshadowed which are likely to affect more of our diocesan schools than have been affected to date.

We are concerned about these cuts and, in particular, that they were made without notice and in a response to a State/Commonwealth dispute about the funding of *government* schools. We have written to the New South Wales Minister for Education expressing our opposition to the cuts and asking that funding to non-government schools be restored to the level before the cuts were announced.

Further, we have asked that the Archbishop explore with the other bishops in the Province, and Cardinal Clancy, a joint approach to the State Government for the purpose of ensuring that the cuts in funding do not reoccur.

## 6. The International, National and Provincial Church

### 6.1 Constitution Alteration (Tribunals) Canon 1998

In 1998 the Synod withheld assent to this canon and, in accordance with the Synod's request, we sent comments on this canon to the General Secretary of the General Synod. A response has been received from the General Synod Legal Review Committee which we are now considering.

### 6.2 Women bishops

At its meeting in 1998, the General Synod requested that the Standing Committee of General Synod prepare a draft bill and discussion paper on the implications of a proposal for the consecration of women to the episcopate, together with practical ways of addressing those implications, including forms of alternative episcopal oversight. A working group was established to prepare materials for discussion and comment.

A discussion paper was prepared and circulated in which the working group outlined 4 major options which all provide for the consecration of women bishops and all, but one, offer some form of alternative episcopal oversight.

- The 1st option offered an approach to alternative episcopal jurisdiction based on non-territorial dioceses.
- The 2nd option worked within the existing structures of the Anglican Church of Australia offering 4 variations

on the way in which alternative episcopal oversight might be provided.

- The 3rd option offered a provincial based model but created suffragan bishops with seats in the house of bishops.
- The 4th option provided for the consecration of women bishops without provision for any form of alternative episcopal oversight.

We authorised a preliminary response to the effect that it would be better if the General Synod did not pass any legislation enabling the consecration and appointment of women as bishops. However, if the General Synod were to take that course of action, we supported the 1st option referred to above to preserve the unity of the Anglican Church and to protect those who may be in a minority opinion.

### **6.3 Constitution 2001 - A new constitution for the Anglican Church of Australia**

The General Synod Constitution Review Task Force has been working for some years on revising the 1961 Constitution, being the constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia. A draft revised constitution, entitled "Constitution 2001" has been prepared and circulated to dioceses for comment. We have appointed a small group to meet with representatives of the Task Force to make preliminary comments.

### **6.4 Consecration of "Missionary Bishops" in Singapore**

#### **Meeting of Primates in Lisbon, Portugal**

On 29 January 2000 the Archbishop of South East Asia (Archbishop Tay) and the Archbishop of Rwanda (Archbishop Kolini) consecrated 2 members of the clergy from the United States of America in St Andrew's Cathedral in Singapore. The consecrations did not take place at the request of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America ("ECUSA") but it is intended that the new bishops will exercise their episcopal ministry in the USA.

Archbishops Tay and Kolini explained that they took this action to provide pastoral assistance and nurture to faithful individuals and congregations in ECUSA.

The actions of Archbishops Tay and Kolini created much comment in the Anglican Communion, and many expressed concern. For example, the Archbishop of Canterbury wrote that he could not recognise the Episcopal ministry of the 2 new bishops because he regarded their consecrations as "illegal".

In brief, the background to the consecrations was -

- (a) For some time, there has been concern in parts of the Anglican Communion that significant leaders of the

church, particularly in ECUSA, have moved away from the historic faith and moral practice of the church.

- (b) These concerns were highlighted in resolutions of the 1998 Lambeth Conference, in particular resolution 1.10 which declared that homosexual practice is incompatible with Scripture and declared that the Conference “cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions”.
- (c) Following the Lambeth Conference, a number of bishops in ECUSA expressed their disagreement with the tenor of resolution 1.10. Our Archbishop joined with a group of Primates in addressing a letter to the Presiding Bishop of ECUSA requesting that he call his bishops to honour the Lambeth resolutions. The Presiding Bishop responded by inviting the signatories to go and see first hand the diversity of life in ECUSA. Our Archbishop, and other bishops from South America and Africa, accepted that invitation. The visit took place during September and October 1999.
- (d) A report on the visit was provided to a meeting of the Primates and Archbishops who met in Kampala, Uganda in November 1999. The report was also provided to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Presiding Bishop of ECUSA. Our Archbishop made the report publicly available in January this year, and a copy can be found on the Internet at [www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/archbishop/ecusa\\_report.html](http://www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/archbishop/ecusa_report.html).
- (e) The Primates and Archbishops who met in Uganda pledged themselves to work to bring relief to orthodox members of ECUSA who were and remain under pressure to accept compromises to long held positions of Christian faithfulness. The meeting agreed to approach the meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion to be held in Lisbon, Portugal in late March 2000 and requested that, as an initial response, ECUSA request its bishops and clergy to refrain from giving recognition to same-sex unions and the ordination of practising homosexuals and lesbians before engaging in future discussion on these matters, and also to provide alternative episcopal oversight for conservative congregations.

In February 2000, we resolved to support our Archbishop's initiatives in this matter and respectfully requested that the Primates, at their meeting in Lisbon, take note of the consecrations of the 2 bishops in Singapore as an expression of the extreme frustration of orthodox and faithful Anglicans in ECUSA and in the world wide communion.

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Further, recognising the disparity between heretical and immoral actions on the one hand and irregular actions on the other, we called upon the Primates in Lisbon -

- “(a) to affirm in the face of current denials -
  - (i) the uniqueness of Jesus as the only name for obtaining salvation;
  - (ii) our redemption through his full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world whereby he reconciled his Father to us;
  - (iii) the resurrection of Jesus in which he took again his body with flesh, bones and all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature; and
  - (iv) the sufficiency and authority of Scripture; and
- (b) to reject current advocacy of -
  - (i) heterosexual immorality; and
  - (ii) homosexual practice; and
- (c) to take all necessary and possible steps to ensure that all members of the communion have available to them episcopal ministry in accordance with the principles set out in the form of consecrating of a Bishop found in the Book of Common Prayer (1662); and
- (d) to take the actions outlined above, rather than pursuing the development of further legislative authority and juridically binding structures at various levels of the Communion.”.

The Primates subsequently met in Lisbon, Portugal but the official communique of the meeting of the Primates did not adequately address the issues which gave rise to the consecration of the 2 bishops in Singapore. In response, our Archbishop and bishops issued a statement expressing dissatisfaction with the Primates’ communique.

Subsequently we expressed our support for the statement of our Archbishop and bishops. We thanked them for their clear and unambiguous leadership in the matter.

### **6.5 7/98 Oaths, Affirmations, Declarations and Assents Canon 1992 Metropolitan Canon 1998**

By resolution 7/98, the Synod deferred consideration of these canons.

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.

Our General Synod Canons Committee initially recommended that no action be taken about the Metropolitan Canon 1998. Now the General Synod Church Law Panel has asked for comments and we have referred the matter to our General Synod Canons Committee for its further consideration.

## 7. Sydney Synod Matters

### 7.1 2001 Archbishop's Election Synod

Archbishop Goodhew retires in March 2001 and a special session of Synod will be held from Monday 4 June 2001 to Friday 8 June 2001 to elect a new Archbishop. The key dates between now and Monday 4 June 2001 are as follows -

*February 2001* - Standing Committee resolves to fill the vacancy in the See in accordance with the Archbishop of Sydney Appointment Ordinance 1982.

*19 March 2001* - Archbishop Goodhew retires.

*9 April 2001* - Final Date for summons to members for the Special Synod.

*30 April 2001* - Closing Date for nominations.

Further details will be provided to Synod members in due course.

### 7.2 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 received the report of the committee and referred certain issues arising from the report to our Legal Committee for its advice. The advice has been received and referred to a new committee for its consideration.

### 7.3 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 and is on the Synod's website at [www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/synod98/schoolscom.htm](http://www.sydney.anglican.asn.au/synod/synod98/schoolscom.htm).

Last year we reported that several of the school councils had written expressing concern about aspects of our proposals. In response, we 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 given support to our proposals. We await a report from that committee.

#### **7.4 Hospital chaplaincies**

In 1998, a member of the Synod gave notice of a motion about the provision of hospital chaplaincies in the Diocese. The motion was referred to us for consideration and, in 1999, we reported that as hospital chaplaincies are provided and funded by Anglicare, it was inappropriate to attempt to direct Anglicare about where hospital chaplaincies should be provided. Subsequently, Anglicare have provided a detailed report about chaplaincies in the Diocese. The report is printed separately.

#### **7.5 Amendment of the Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947**

At the special session of the Synod held in May 2000 it was reported that we were proposing to review the Assistant Bishops (Bishops Coadjutor) Ordinance 1947. Our review of the ordinance has not been completed.

#### **7.6 14/94 Retirement housing for parish clergy**

The resolution asked that we investigate alternative accommodation or remuneration packages to enable parish clergy to retire with equity in a residence. A separate report is printed.

#### **7.7 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 schools. We have previously reported that we had received a report from the committee, but had requested that the committee give further consideration to the matter. A further report is awaited.

#### **7.8 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 advice has still not been received.

#### **7.9 1/99 Matters arising from reports**

By this resolution, the Synod requested that the report "The Doctrine of the Trinity and its bearing on the Relationship of Men and Women" be printed and made available for distribution to members of the public at a reasonable cost. The report has not been printed, but can be found on the Internet at [www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/doc/trinity/html](http://www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/doc/trinity/html).

The Synod also asked that the Standing Committee comply with paragraph (b) of resolution 23/98 by which the Synod asked that

the Standing Committee appoint a committee which will produce a document which conveys to women who have had abortions the love of Christ for them, and the real possibilities of healing and forgiveness. We appointed a committee to produce this document. We await receipt of a document.

#### **7.10 8/99 Stipends and Allowances Committee**

By resolution 8/99, 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.

#### **7.11 11/99 Drug policy**

See item 5.1.

#### **7.12 13/99 Cross cultural ministry**

By this resolution, the Synod requested that the Standing Committee -

- (a) examine the details of funding of cross-cultural ministry through the present system of grants to Regional Councils;
- (b) investigate means of funding which would allow regions to engage seriously in these ministries and still maintain adequate support for other parish ministry;
- (c) use its findings in determining the method for future allocation of grants to Regional Councils; and
- (d) report its findings to the 2000 session of the Synod.

We appointed a committee to consider this resolution and prepare a report for our consideration. A separate report is printed.

#### **7.13 17/99 Sharing of resources between parishes in regions**

By this resolution, the Synod suggested that regional councils explore ways of encouraging parishes in their regions to increase their sharing of resources with each other for the purpose of strengthening ministries.

The Wollongong Regional Council has advised that it has been active in encouraging parishes in the Wollongong Region to share resources by the following means -

- (a) It has produced a parish resource booklet "Hope it Helps" and circulated it to all parishes.
- (b) The bishop sends an ad clerum 5 times per year to each of the clergy called "Ministry Matters".
- (c) At the Wollongong Region's Ministry Conference people are encouraged to share ideas and ministries and there is a formal public open session in which this is done.
- (d) The bishop and his assistant actively try to do this as they go from parish to parish.

**7.14 21/99 Priesthood and congregational oversight**

By this resolution, the Synod requested that we consider how the practice of ordination to the presbyterate (priesthood) might more clearly and consistently be linked with the “cure and charge of souls” or congregational oversight.

As the practice of ordination is the Archbishop’s prerogative, we referred this resolution to the Archbishop for his consideration and report.

**7.15 22/99 Clergy for the Georges River and Western Sydney regions**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, the Archbishop spoke of the difficulty in finding and training clergy for the Georges River and Western Sydney regions, as well as for the more “traditional Anglican” parishes in the Diocese. The Synod requested that Bishops Smith and King, Archdeacons Edwards and the principal of Moore College or his appointee work on a set of recommendations to address these needs.

The committee has met several times, but is not yet able to report.

**7.16 23/99 Georges River region to be declared a “missionary region”**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, the Archbishop suggested that the Georges River region be declared a “missionary region” and be supported commensurately. The Synod requested a report about the feasibility and ramifications of implementing such a course of action.

We appointed a committee to consider this resolution and prepare a report. A separate report is printed.

**7.17 25/99 Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation**

By this resolution the Synod commended the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation (“SASC”) for its initiatives in establishing 6 new affordable schools in the Diocese. The Synod asked that we consider, in conjunction with SASC, the longer term financing needs associated with the further development of new affordable Anglican schools.

We asked that the Diocesan Executive Board consider this matter in conjunction with the SASC and prepare a report. A report is awaited.

**7.18 26/99 Training of Clergy**

By this resolution, the Synod requested that we appoint a committee to review the training and equipping of clergy from ordination to retirement. A separate report is printed.

**7.19 29/99 The Sudan**

See item 5.2.

### **7.20 30/99 The nature of ministry**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, the Archbishop made several observations about the changing nature of ministry training. In this resolution the Synod encouraged us to liaise with Moore College and Mary Andrews College to refine and develop courses relevant to the needs of ministry and mission in the 21st century in such areas as evangelism, missiology, children's and youth ministry in partnership with the Anglican Youthworks programs, tertiary student ministry, school and other chaplaincies and pastoral work.

We have written to Moore College and Mary Andrews College seeking their comments about resolution 30/99.

### **7.21 32/99 Lay and diaconal administration of Holy Communion**

In his Presidential Address in 1999, the Archbishop expressed concern about taking unilateral action on lay and diaconal administration of holy communion which was of concern to other churches in the communion. In this resolution the Synod asked that we appoint a committee to assess the potential impact on the introduction of lay and diaconal administration of the holy communion in the Diocese upon our relationship with and standing within the Anglican Communion at large.

We appointed a committee to consider this matter and report. A report is awaited.

### **7.22 34/99 Establishment of congregations as parishes**

By this resolution, the Synod noted the report 33/98 Establishment of Congregations as Parishes and requested that a copy of the report and the proposed ordinance for the Recognised Churches Ordinance 1999 be sent to -

- (a) the Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee,
- (b) the leadership of each multi-cultural congregation,
- (c) each parish council,
- (d) each regional council, and
- (e) the Archbishop,

inviting comment, and requesting that such comments, and the comments of Synod members, be sent to the Diocesan Secretary by 31 March 2000.

The persons, committees and councils referred to in the resolution were contacted for their comment. Subsequently, we extended the time for comment until 31 May 2000. Numerous comments were received. A separate report is printed summarising the main comments received.

We have requested that the bill for the Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000 be promoted to the Synod at our request. The form of the bill printed with this report is the form circulated for

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comment. We have asked that the committee which drafted the bill prepare a further report to be circulated with our supplementary report. It is expected that the committee's report will suggest amendments to the printed form of the bill.

### **7.23 35/99 Directory of lay synod members**

By this resolution the Synod requested, in order to facilitate communication among lay members of the Synod, we investigate the production of a directory of lay members for distribution to all members. A report will be provided to the Synod.

### **7.24 38/99 Clerical tenure**

In 1999 the Synod received the report from the Synod Committee on Clerical Tenure.

By this resolution the Synod -

- (a) requested that the Sydney Diocesan Superannuation Fund examine the proposal that clergy take optional retirement at age 60 and advise the Synod and the clergy of the financial steps needed to effect such a proposal;
- (b) requested that members of the Synod send comments on the bill for the Parish Relationships Ordinance 1999 to the Diocesan Secretary by 30 April 2000; and
- (c) requested that we appoint a committee with financial expertise to investigate the need for an appropriate system of redundancy for clergy, and report back to the Synod in 2000 with proposals.

A separate report is printed.

### **7.25 39/99 ARCIC: *The Gift of Authority***

By this resolution, the Synod asked that the Diocesan Doctrine Commission critically study the statement issued by the 2nd Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) entitled *The Gift of Authority*, and related documents. A report from the Doctrine Commission is awaited.

### **7.26 40/99 Weekend meetings of the Synod: 3rd session of the 45th Synod**

By this resolution, the Synod requested that weekend meetings of the Synod be trialled for the 3rd ordinary session of the 45th Synod in 2001. A separate report about the proposed special arrangements is printed.

### **7.27 41/99 Anglican Counselling Centre**

Among other things, this resolution requested that we reconsider certain decisions made last year in relation to the Anglican Counselling Centre. A separate report is printed.

**7.28 Resolutions made by the Synod in 1999 and not mentioned in this report**

Circulars were sent to parishes and organisations about the matters arising from the 1999 Synod session. Copies of Synod resolutions were sent to appropriate persons and organisations.

**7.29 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*

5 October 2000