

Questions submitted prior to the first day of the 2024 session of Synod under Standing Order 6.3(2)(a)

Question 1: Submitted pre-Synod

Dean Sandy Grant asked the following question –

- (a) Since the revised Statement of Faith was adopted in late 2019, how many candidates have been willing to sign that form of the Statement of Faith and have been successfully elected or appointed to the following positions:
 - (i) Head (or Acting Head) of an Anglican School,
 - (ii) Member of an Anglican School Council, or
 - (iii) CEO or Member of a board of another Synod controlled Anglican organisation?
- (b) Can our diocesan schools advise, in a way that does not identify individual Anglican schools, how many diocesan Anglican Schools, where the revised Statement of Faith is applied to prospective Heads and/or Council members, have had enrolment levels and waiting lists fall, and how many have had enrolment levels and waiting lists rise in 2023-24, compared to 2018-2019 before the Statement of Faith was changed?

Question 2: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev David Morgan asked the following question –

Concerning the publication, “The Lord’s Supper in Human Hands: Who Should Administer?”:

- (a) Did the Diocesan Secretariat send copies of “The Lord’s Supper in Human Hands: Who Should Administer?” to all Bishops who attended the inaugural GAFCON conference in 2008?
- (b) Did any of the Bishops who attended that inaugural GAFCON conference make a response to the Diocese concerning the argument of “The Lord’s Supper in Human Hands”?
- (c) If any GAFCON Bishops did respond, can the Synod be made aware of what those responses were?

Question 3: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev John Chappell asked the following question –

- (a) Noting the *Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024*, with Standing Committee's incorporation of the expected 22% rise in the 2025 Office of the Director of Safe Ministry's (**ODSM**) operational budget (\$277,000 increase - Book 1, p.233):
 - (i) Can the President please update the house as to what ordinances and policies govern ODSM expenditure?
 - (ii) Can the house be supplied with the text of motion and date of meeting when the Safe Ministry Board (**SMB**) authorised this request to Standing Committee for expenditure increase?
- (b) Noting the \$75,832 ODSM 2023 expenditure on Entertainment and Travel (Book 1, p.36):
 - (i) Can the house be updated on the rationale of the over 600% expansion on 2022 entertainment and travel expenditure?
 - (ii) Can the entertainment costs be itemised with explanatory comments?
 - (iii) Can the travel costs be itemised with explanatory comments?
 - (iv) Can the house please be supplied with the text of the motion and date of meeting when the SMB authorised this entertainment and travel expenditure?
- (c) Noting that the report from Synod resolution 9/23 (Book 1, p.25) requested for Synod this year has not yet been completed, can the house please be informed of progress since the July Standing Committee report to Synod?

Question 4: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev Zac Veron asked the following question –

- (a) How many people in total attended a Sydney Anglican church on any week, as an average expressed over a calendar year of attendance, and excluding periods of lock-downs of society, in 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005?
- (b) If any figure for any one of these years is unknown, why is that so?
- (c) Was there any change of counting methodology implemented since 2005 - 2022 attendance figures were revealed to the Synod in 2023? If so, what was that change?
- (d) Why are these attendance figures collected, and what is done with them?
- (e) When was the last year attendance figures for each parish were published in the Diocesan Year Book?
- (f) When was the last year net financial receipts for each parish were published in the Diocesan Year Book?
- (g) Are there any plans to recommence publishing attendance figures and net financial receipts for each parish in the Diocesan Year Book? If not, why not?
- (h) Is it true that the Parish Administration Ordinance requires the Minister to maintain registers of baptisms, weddings and funerals?
- (i) How many infant baptisms were conducted through the ministry of Sydney Anglican churches in 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 & 2023?
- (j) How many mature baptisms were conducted through the ministry of Sydney Anglican churches in 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 & 2023?
- (k) How many funerals were conducted by Sydney Anglican ministers in 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 & 2023?
- (l) How many weddings were conducted by Sydney Anglican clergy in 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 & 2023?

Question 5: Submitted pre-Synod

Professor Chris Bellenger asked the following question –

- (a) Using 2023 as a base, what would be the dollar value of 0.5% of the 'total available income for Synod' as referred to in the report 10/23 (Book 1, p.113), Recommendation 3(b)?
- (b) Using 2023 as a base, what is the approximate average annual total dollar cost to the Endowment of the See, the Diocesan Endowment and any other church funds for maintenance of an Assistant Bishop, including salary and allowances, superannuation, housing, travel, provision of office and secretarial assistance and any other major expense?

Question 6: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

- (a) Which diocesan officials, if any, have been delegated the power or discretion of the Archbishop under the *Holy Communion Canon 2001* (adopted by the *General Synod – Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2004*), and to what extent, if any, in accordance with the *Canon Concerning Authority on Certain Matters 1989* (adopted by the *General Synod - Canon Concerning Authority on Certain Matters 1989 Adopting Ordinance 1993*)?
- (b) In each year from 2012 to 2023, how many people, if any, were directed not to receive communion by the Archbishop (or Administrator, or Commissary, or delegated official (if any)) under clause 6 of the *Holy Communion Canon 2001* (adopted by the *General Synod – Holy Communion Canon 2001 Adopting Ordinance 2004*)? And how many of these people, if any, were subsequently restored to communion by the Archbishop (or Administrator, or Commissary, or delegated official (if any))?

Question 7: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Why have tuition fees for Sydney Church of England Grammar School risen by a greater percentage than the consumer price index?

Question 8: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Why did the number of remunerated key management personnel for the 'Anglican Schools Corporation_ACNC GROUP' drop from 23 in 2022 to not more than one in 2023?

Question 9: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

- (a) How many full time and substantially full time authorised lay ministers and lay chaplains currently have the theological qualifications for ordination?
- (b) Of the number in part (a), how many, if any:
 - (i) Are under 23 years of age?
 - (ii) Are divorced, or married to someone who has been divorced?
 - (iii) Disagree with the Thirty-Nine Articles?

Question 10: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

How many (if any) leases of real property with terms of more than five (5) years has the Anglican Church Property Trust (or the Diocese) granted in the past twenty-five (25) years and where were, or are, they (if any) located?

Question 11: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

With respect to Attachment 2 of the Explanatory Report on the *Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024*, why are no figures shown for Regents Park?

Question 12: Submitted pre-Synod

Mrs Alison Pollard asked the following question –

- (a) The report on the draft *Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2024*, at Item 49 on page 257 of Synod Book 1, refers to an application by Youthworks for funding at \$140,000 p.a. for a Diocesan Accessibility coordinator and the report states this role is “not able to be funded in the draft budget”.
 - (i) Does this application relate to the current work being done by the Rev Bec Baines which is funded by private specific, and ending, financial support?
 - (ii) How much of the ordinance which authorises expenditure of \$10,085,000 in 2025, is allocated to provide assistance to parishes in welcoming and supporting persons with disabilities?
 - (iii) Does any organisation under the control of Synod provide advice to parishes on these matters and, if so, what support is provided?
- (b) By Synod resolution 24/22, Synod encouraged parish councils to give consideration to the Accessibility Guidelines prepared by Dr Louise Gosbell in order to make their parish a welcoming and accessible place for all of the community. What support is provided to parish councils as they seek to implement this request of Synod?

Question 13: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to Item 3.2 of the report of Standing Committee (Book 1, p.11)
– Annual financial statements:

- (a) What are the main limitations of the work done under the “agreed upon procedures” rather than undertaking “formal audits” of the three Funds?
- (b) What is the approximate annual saving to the Diocese of undertaking the “agreed upon procedures” compared to “formal audits” of the three Funds?

Question 14: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to Item 3.4(2) of the report of Standing Committee – the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000* (Book 1, p.12):

Has the new process allowed by the amending ordinance yet been used?

Question 15: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to Item 3.4(5)(b) of the report of Standing Committee – the *Sydney Anglican Property (Provisional Restructuring) Ordinance 2023* (Book 1, p.12):

Why is it proposed that SDS, a service organisation to the Diocese, is to be empowered “to formulate group governance policies for bodies which centrally administer and manage the affairs of the Diocese”?

Question 16: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to Item 7.25 of the report of Standing Committee – 21/23 Diocesan Organisations pursuing the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese (Book 1, p.25):

- (a) Is there a report published that summarises for Synod, information from “certain diocesan organisations to annually report to Synod a summary of the steps they have taken in pursuit of the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese. The Synod also encouraged all schools to annually report such a summary to the Synod”?
- (b) If not, is there an indication of when such a report might be published?

Question 17: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to the report of Standing Committee - Valuation of Investment in St Andrew's House Corporation (Book 1, p.56-57):

- (a) What was the effect of the change of capitalisation rates in the valuation of the Tower and Car Park (from 5.75% to 6.75%) and Town Hall Square Arcade (from 6% to 6.25%) in the \$37.5m reduction in the fair value of the property?
- (b) What is the anticipated impact of this (or any other) change in the latest assessment of the value of the property on future distributions to the St Andrew's House Fund and the EOS in:
 - (i) the next triennial funding period 2025-2027?
 - (ii) subsequent years (in current dollars)?

Question 18: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to the report of Standing Committee - Professional Development for Ministry Workers 54/22 Ministry Wellbeing and Development - Compliance and reporting (Book 1, p.132, para 39):

Can the Committee's reasons for not recommending "that participants' Professional Development be randomly audited, as is the case in other professions" be made available to the Synod?

Question 19: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Minty asked the following question –

With respect to the report of Standing Committee - *Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2024* - Explanatory Report (Book 1, p.234, para 17):

Is it expected that a significant amount (i.e. more than half) of the cost of the Cathedral's insurance will need to be included in the parochial network costs in:

- (a) 2026?
- (b) Subsequent years?

Question 20: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Lloyd asked the following question –

In respect of each of the 7 Nominated Organisations for the 53rd Synod, namely:

- (i) The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid,
 - (ii) Anglican Community Services (Anglicare),
 - (iii) Anglican Media,
 - (iv) Anglican Schools Corporation,
 - (v) Anglican Youth and Education (Youthworks),
 - (vi) Evangelism and New Churches, and
 - (vii) Sydney Diocesan Services (SDS),
- (a) What criteria or matters did the Standing Committee consider or apply when declaring in May 2023 for the 53rd Synod which diocesan organisations are Nominated Organisations under clause 24 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* for the purposes of Part 6 – Chief Executive Officers of Nominated Organisations of that Ordinance?
 - (b) What is the gender of the 7 members appointed to the 53rd Synod in respect of Part 6 – Chief Executive Officers of Nominated Organisations?
 - (c) Please identify any of the 7 Nominated Organisations for which the inherent requirements of the position of Chief Executive Officer of the organisation includes being male (for clarity, the term 'inherent requirements' is intended to include any requirement that the person be ordained to the presbyterate)?
 - (d) As at 1 September 2024, what is the number of males and what is the number of females who are appointed to positions that are direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer of each of the 7 Nominated Organisations, inclusive of persons acting in a direct report position, and please provide this information separately for each organisation?
 - (e) Does the governing board (however described) of each of the 7 Nominated Organisations have in place an active succession planning process for the position of Chief Executive Officer of the organisation that, in part, seeks to improve the balance of male and female potential successors to that position, and please identify those organisations that have such a process and any that do not?
 - (f) Do each of the 7 Nominated Organisations have in place an active succession planning process that, in part, seeks to improve the balance of male and female potential successors as direct reports to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the organisation, and please

identify those organisations that have such a process and any that do not?

- (g) Has the Diocese of Sydney or the Standing Committee considered or adopted any plans, strategies or approaches that may enhance the gender diversity of persons appointed as Chief Executive Officers of the 7 Nominated Organisations, and (Sydney) Diocesan organisations more generally, and if so please provide details of such plans, strategies or approaches?
- (h) Is there an indicative timeframe for the potential future appointment of a female Chief Executive Officer in respect of each of the 7 Nominated Organisations, subject to proper selection and appointment processes as a vacancy may arise from time to time, and if so, what is that timeframe?

Question 21: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev Mark Groombridge asked the following question –

- (a) Regarding the pastoral care of Assistant Ministers and lay ministers (and other key ministry staff such as Children's and Youth ministers and student ministers), in the past 5 years, how many such ordained staff:
 - (i) Left their position in their parish for another Anglican parish due to irreconcilable differences with their parish's Senior Minister?
 - (ii) Left their position in their parish for another non-parish ministry role due to irreconcilable differences with their parish's Senior Minister?
 - (iii) Left their position in their parish for another denomination due to irreconcilable differences with their parish's Senior Minister?
 - (iv) Left their position in their parish due to mental health issues (e.g. burn-out)?
- (b) Regarding the pastoral care of Assistant Ministers and lay ministers (and other key ministry staff such as Children's and Youth ministers and student ministers), in the past 5 years, how many such ordained staff:
 - (i) Have been asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (**NDA**) at the request of their parish's Senior Minister?
 - (ii) Signed an NDA at the request of their parish's Senior Minister?
 - (iii) What percentage of NDAs were signed which would fit into the category defined by paragraph 36(i) of the report?
- (c) Does the Archbishop and his See consider a Senior Minister to be acting above reproach (1 Tim 3:2, 10; Titus 1:6) if they request their ordained staff to consent to signing an NDA in circumstances outside of paragraph 36? In such circumstances, how is the Archbishop's See keeping Senior Ministers accountable?
- (d) If NDAs are an acceptable practice with the Sydney Diocese (according to paragraph 36 of the report):
 - (i) To what extent is the Archbishop's office (Archbishop, Bishops, Archdeacons or similar) and SDS employees (e.g. Parish HR Partner) involved in the formation and signing of these NDA agreements?
 - (ii) What members of the Archbishop's See are involved or will be involved in the process of signing an NDA to ensure that Senior Ministers are kept accountable to being above reproach?
 - (iii) What members of SDS are involved in the process of signing an NDA?

- (iv) What legal assistance is provided to Assistant Ministers and lay ministers (and other key ministry staff such as Children's and Youth ministers and student ministers) to assist them in making informed decisions about signing NDAs?
- (e) What ministry structures have been established, maintained or considered by the Archbishop's See for the pastoral care of ordained Assistant Ministers and lay ministers (and other key ministry staff such as Children's and Youth ministers and student ministers) in the past 5 years?