

Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017

Explanatory Report

Key Points

- It is proposed to increase from 5 to 7 the number of organisations the Standing Committee may declare as Nominated Organisations under Part 6 of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* (the “1995 Ordinance”).
- It is proposed to remove the CEO of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat (“SDS”) as an *ex-officio* member of the Standing Committee under the *Standing Committee Ordinance 1897* (the “1897 Ordinance”) and enable the Standing Committee to appoint as a member of the Standing Committee one CEO of an organisation eligible to be declared a Nominated Organisation under Part 6 and who is a member of the Synod.

Purpose of the bill

1. The purpose of the bill for the *Synod and Standing Committee Membership Amendment Ordinance 2017* (the “bill”) is to amend the 1995 Ordinance and the 1897 Ordinance with respect to the membership of the Synod and the Standing Committee.

Recommendations

2. That Synod receive this report.
3. That Synod pass the bill as an ordinance of the Synod.

Background

4. At its meeting on 29 May 2017, the Standing Committee considered the nomination of organisations for the 51st Synod under Part 6 of the 1995 Ordinance. Currently, Part 6 provides for a maximum of five organisations that can be nominated.

5. At that meeting, the Standing Committee deferred the declaration of any nominated organisations and appointed a committee (“the Committee”) comprising Archdeacon Kara Hartley, Mr Doug Marr, the Rev Gavin Poole, Dr Laurie Scandrett and Dr Robert Tong, to review the number of nominated organisations to be summoned to the Synod under Part 6, and the desirability of including the CEO of SDS under Part 9 of the 1995 Ordinance.

6. The Standing Committee considered the Committee’s recommendations at its meetings on 31 July and 28 August 2017.

7. During its consideration of the Committee’s recommendations, the Standing Committee declared the following five organisations to be nominated organisations for the 51st Synod –

- Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)
- Anglican Media
- Anglican Schools Corporation
- Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney (Youthworks)
- Evangelism and New Churches

Membership of Synod under Part 6 of the 1995 Ordinance

8. The Committee spent time considering Part 6 membership of the Synod (Nominated Organisations). The 1995 Ordinance does not currently specify the purpose of membership of Synod under Part 6. The Committee agreed that the following two characteristics are logically desirable for any organisation nominated under Part 6 –

- (a) the organisation is established by ordinance of the Synod, and
- (b) the organisation makes a distinctive contribution to the work of the Diocese.

9. The Committee took the view that, in accordance with these desirable characteristics, nominated organisations would typically have staff and would not usually be individual schools.

10. The Committee noted that apart from Moore Theological College whose Principal is an *ex officio* member of Synod under Part 9, there are currently nine Diocesan organisations with staff, excluding schools, listed in the Diocesan Year Book which may be nominated under Part 6. These 9 organisations are shown in

the following table, which also indicates the current Synod membership status of the person likely to be nominated as CEO for the purposes of Part 6 –

Organisation	Person who is expected to be nominated as CEO for Synod membership purposes
The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid	The Rev David Mansfield <i>Nominated under Part 7</i>
Anglican Education Commission	Vacant (Acting CEO Dr Julie Matthews)
Anglican Community Services (Anglicare)	Mr Grant Millard
Anglican Media	Mr Russell Powell
Anglican Schools Corporation	Mr Ross Smith
Anglican Youth and Education (Youthworks)	From 2018: The Rev Craig Roberts (Interim CEO Dr Laurie Scandrett, <i>currently appointed under Part 5</i>)
Evangelism and New Churches	The Rev Philip Wheeler
Ministry Training and Development	The Rev Gary O'Brien <i>Nominated under Part 7</i>
Sydney Diocesan Secretariat	Vacant (Acting CEO Mr Robert Wicks, <i>a member under Part 9 as Diocesan Secretary</i>)

11. Of the nine organisations, four currently rely on representation from membership of Synod other than membership under Part 6. Two of those organisations are in turn represented on Synod by Interim or Acting CEOs and it is reasonable to assume that the relevant appointments will shortly be made to these organisations and as a consequence, they may not be represented on Synod.

12. Noting that since 2003 and up until 2016, seven organisations could be nominated under Part 6, the committee agreed on the desirability of providing a mechanism where each of the nine organisations that meet the characteristics outlined in paragraph 8 could be provided membership. Ultimately, however, the Committee determined that in most circumstances allowing up to 7 organisations to be nominated under Part 6 should allow all 9 organisations appropriate representation given the likelihood that at least two will have representatives who are members of Synod other than by Part 6.

13. The Committee recommended to the Standing Committee that Part 6 be modified as follows –

- (a) insert the text “established by ordinance” in clauses 23 and 24, following the first occurrence of “organisation” in each clause, and
- (b) amend 25(1) to read, “Standing Committee may only make a declaration under clause 24 for up to 7 diocesan boards, departments, or organisations for the same Synod in respect of which the Standing Committee proposes making the declaration.”

Appointment of the CEO of SDS as ex-officio member of Standing Committee

14. The Committee also considered the membership of the CEO of SDS on Standing Committee. The CEO of SDS is the only ex-officio member of Standing Committee who is not also an ex-officio member of Synod. SDS has been a nominated member of Synod under Part 6 of the Ordinance since 1996, however it seems inconsistent that the CEO of SDS is a member of Standing Committee, but is not necessarily also a member of Synod.

15. The CEO of SDS is the head of the Synod's service organisation, and can provide important information in relation to matters for which SDS is responsible, including managing the investments of the GAB. Accordingly, it seems likely that any CEO of SDS would continue as a valuable contributor to the work of the Standing Committee. However, noting –

- (a) the recent separation of the Glebe Administration Board from the Board of the SDS,
- (b) the possibility that the CEO of SDS may also be the Diocesan Secretary (and therefore a member of Standing Committee by virtue of that office), and

- (c) that a valuable contribution to Standing Committee may in future be made by the CEO of another Diocesan Organisation,

the Committee recommended to Standing Committee that the 1897 Ordinance be amended to –

- (i) remove the ex-officio membership of the CEO of Sydney Diocesan Secretariat,
- (ii) provide that the Standing Committee may appoint by resolution one CEO of an organisation eligible for election under Part 6, who is a member of Synod, as a member of Standing Committee for the duration of a Synod, and
- (iii) provide that the Standing Committee may revoke this membership by resolution.

16. Such a modification to the membership of Standing Committee does not increase membership, while allowing greater flexibility. This amendment also ensures that the CEO appointed in this position is necessarily also a member of Synod representing a Diocesan Organisation.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary

31 August 2017