

# 53<sup>rd</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Sydney

## First Session

### Minutes of Proceedings of the Synod for Tuesday 12 September 2023

#### 1. Assembly

The Synod assembled in the Wesley Theatre at 3.15 pm.

#### 2. Prayers

Prayers were read by Archdeacon Simon Flinders.

#### 3. Bible study

The Rev Andrew Rees led the Bible study.

#### 4. Minutes

The President signed the minutes for Monday 11 September 2023.

#### 5. Answers to Questions

##### 5.1 **Gathering of statistics on baptisms, funerals, and weddings**

The Rev Zac Veron asked the following question –

Are the following statistics being gathered each year from parishes:

- (a) The number of baptisms conducted
- (b) The number of funerals held
- (c) The number of weddings conducted?

If so, please provide the total for the Diocese in the years 2000-2022.

If not,

- (i) Why not?
- (ii) When did the gathering of baptism, wedding and funeral statistics cease?
- (iii) Why did the gathering of baptism, wedding and funeral statistics cease?
- (iv) Please provide the number of baptisms, weddings and funerals, for the Diocese as a whole, in all years statistics exist for the years 2000-2022.

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) to (c) No.
  - (i) This will be answered at roman numeral (iii).
  - (ii) 2008.
  - (iii) In 2008, the annual statistics were submitted online by parishes and the categories of information were rationalised. The explanation provided at the time was that valuable information for “assessing the overall progress of the Diocesan Mission”

would be required and that other details were “not vital at a diocesan level for mission planning”.

- (iv) It is not practical to answer this part of the question out loud as it is a table of numbers. The answer will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

Statistics Year	Number of parishes with no returns	Infant Baptisms	Mature Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals
2000	59	3,383	395	2,290	2,312
2001	52	3,311	436	2,180	2,399
2002	28	3,032	375	1,980	2,402
2003	10	3,012	476	1,877	2,308
2004	2	2,820	529	1,866	2,389
2005	6	2,809	525	1,935	2,084
2006	30	2,756	487	1,839	1,971
2007	35	2,637	517	1,638	1,897

## 5.2 Attendance figures in Sydney Anglican churches over the last 18 years

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 lockdowns of society, in 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?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) It is not practical to answer part (a) of the question out loud as it is a table of numbers. The answer will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

Year	Average Attendance per Week
2005	46,884
2006	47,388
2007	47,097
2008	45,695
2009	47,120
2010	47,256
2011	46,983
2012	47,221
2013	46,896
2014	47,868
2015	48,554
2016	47,138

Year	Average Attendance per Week
2017	47,063
2018	46,608
2019	45,408
2020	44,931
2021	38,949
2022	39,604

**Notes to the Table:**

*The question asks for an 'average expressed over a calendar year of attendance'. For the years 2005 to 2007, parishes were asked for an average of weekly attendance over the 52 weeks of the year. In 2008, the process was simplified to be an average of four weeks (the fourth week of February, May August and November). In 2020 and 2021, attendance data was only obtained in relation to one week of the year because of COVID lockdowns under the public health orders.*

*The data is also dependent on parishes submitting their attendance statistics. In some years, up to 50 parishes have not done so. To provide a consistent base, in 2018 and future years, estimates of attendance were introduced instead of reporting a zero result for parishes that did not submit attendance data.*

(b) Not applicable.

### 5.3 Production and distribution of the Diocesan Yearbook

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

Can the Synod please be updated on the cause of the ongoing delays with the production and distribution of the Diocesan Yearbook (in print or digital format) and how this will be addressed?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There are a number of factors, in particular understaffing. The focus of the Registry in the last 18 months has been reviewing processes with a view to bringing the Year Book online and replacing it with equivalent 'live' data.

The 2022 and 2023 editions of the Year Book will be available securely online by early December. A hardcopy will be printed and posted to members in the New Year if they 'opt in' to receive one.

'Live' sections of the Year Book data will soon be available online. The first sections that will be made available are the Parish, Clergy and Lay minister sections. These will be accessible via a login to anyone who holds a licence, authority or appointment. This will allow wider distribution of the Year Book than is the case at the moment.

With the move to information being accessible online and updated automatically, the Year Book will no longer be printed annually and will likely become a bi-annual edition.

### 5.4 Safe Ministry expenditure

The Rev John Chappell asked the following question –

(a) Can the house be supplied in table form the PSU expenditure for years 2015, 2016 & 2017 with rows for rent, IT, staff costs, investigation costs (child related), investigation

- costs (non-child related), counselling costs (child related), counselling costs (non-child related)?
- (b) Can the above table be expanded to include ODSM expenditure for years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 with rows for rent, IT, staff costs, investigation costs (child related), investigation costs (non-child related), counselling costs (child related), counselling costs (non-child related)?
- (c) Can the final row contain 2024 budget for the same ODSM items?
- (d) Has the Safe Ministry Board ever approved non-child related investigator expenditure beyond that set in the relevant year ODSM budget? If so, when, and by what amount? [If only total investigator budget available please note and supply instead].
- (e) Has the Safe Ministry Board ever blocked an ODSM request for non-child related investigator expenditure beyond that set in the relevant year ODSM budget? If so, when, and what amount was requested and denied? [If only total investigator budget available please note and supply instead].
- (f) Has Standing Committee ever imposed a limit on ODSM expenditure as per MSO 88(c)? If so, on what dates and what amounts were specified?
- (g) Has the ODSM ever approved the reimbursement of legal advice beyond the initial \$2,200 inc. GST offered to a respondent? If so, when, and by what amount?
- (h) Has any modelling been undertaken as to further expansion of costs of the ODSM in 2025 and beyond?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

(a) to (c)

It is not practical to read out the answer to parts (a) to (c) of the question as it is a table of numbers. The answers will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

Expenditure	PSU			ODSM					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (budget)
Rent	27,528	27,988	28,352	30,551	30,612	38,774	31,278	49,122	79,429
IT	12,110	2,493	55,138	4,850	28,911	23,141	63,795	39,403	58,286
Staff costs	445,944	482,811	627,442	726,004	821,927	730,024	763,016	806,147	857,234
Investigation costs	16,320	4,875	21,570	62,134	32,627	51,519	15,319	58,311	45,272
Counselling costs	37,554	44,989	50,648	56,407	76,234	66,524	72,724	75,573	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>539,456</b>	<b>563,155</b>	<b>783,150</b>	<b>879,945</b>	<b>990,310</b>	<b>909,982</b>	<b>946,132</b>	<b>1,028,556</b>	<b>1,140,221</b>

Note: regarding parts (a) and (b) of the question, it is not possible to separate child and non-child related expenditure. Regarding part (c), 2023 items have been included, but not 2024, as the 2024 budget is not yet finalised.

- (d) No.
- (e) No.
- (f) No.
- (g) Yes, in accordance with the scale approved by the Standing Committee.
- (h) No.

## 5.5 Covid vaccine mandates in the Diocese

The Rev Zac Veron asked the following question –

- (a) Do any diocesan organisations and churches still have COVID-19 vaccine mandates in place as at 15 August 2023? If so, which organisations?

- (b) What reason(s) did any heads of diocesan organisations and churches offer for still having COVID-19 vaccine mandates in place as of 15 August 2023?
- (c) Which diocesan organisations and churches introduced COVID-19 vaccine mandates during 2021-2022 for their employees or persons licenced by the Archbishop?
- (d) How many employees and church workers in diocesan organisations and churches were sacked, stood down or resigned over COVID-19 vaccine mandates during 2021-2022? How many of these people have since been offered their jobs back and reinstated to their positions?
- (e) How many lay church members in each region of the Diocese were stood down from their ministries by their rectors, during 2021-2022, because they were not vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine, and how many of these people have since been reinstated?
- (f) How many lay church members in each region of the Diocese voluntarily stood down from their ministries during 2021-2022, because they were not vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine, and how many of these people have since been reinstated?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

An online survey was circulated to parishes and diocesan organisations a fortnight before the first day of Synod. The survey invitation was sent to 275 people. Participation was voluntary and 131 responses were received. The answer to this question is based on the results of the survey and is therefore not comprehensive.

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) At times, and in certain circumstances during the pandemic, a COVID-19 vaccination was a requirement under public health orders for a person to work outside their place of residence or enter certain places including aged care facilities, schools and places of worship. In that sense a vaccine mandate was introduced by the NSW Government for organisations and churches in those instances.

The list of organisations and churches based on the survey responses will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

<b>Diocesan Organisations</b>
Anglicare Sydney
Campbelltown Anglican Schools Corporation
Moore Theological College
Sydney Diocesan Services
The Anglican Schools Corporation
<b>Parishes</b>
Bulli
Barrenjoey
Bondi Waverley
Bowral, St Jude's
Burwood, St. Paul's
Cambridge Park
Camden, St John's
Castle Hill, St Paul's
Church at the Peak, Peakhurst South
Darling Point, St Mark's
Dundas with Telopea
Frenchs Forest
Hunters Hill
Jamberoo
Jannali

<b>Parishes</b>
Kingswood
Lalor Park and Kings Langley
Lithgow
Normanhurst, St Stephen's
North Ryde, St John's
Penshurst
Pymble
Roseville, St Andrew's
Sans Souci
Seven Hills, St Peter's
Shellharbour City
Shellharbour, St Paul's
South Carlton, Park Road
St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney
St James' King Street
Wahroonga
Willoughby Park
Wollongong and Corrimal, St Michael's Anglican Cathedral

- (d) 13 were terminated, or suspended, or resigned, and 3 were offered re-employment or re-instatement.
- (e) Northern Region: 2 stood down, 2 re-instated.  
Western Region: 0 stood down, 0 re-instated.  
South Western Region: 1 stood down, 0 re-instated.  
South Sydney Region: 2 stood down, 2 re-instated.  
Wollongong Region: 0 stood down, 0 re-instated.
- (f) Northern Region: 8 stood down, 6 re-instated.  
Western Region: 2 stood down, 2 re-instated.  
South Western Region: 1 stood down, 1 re-instated.  
South Sydney Region: 4 stood down, 2 re-instated.  
Wollongong Region: 2 stood down, 1 re-instated.

#### 5.6 PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditor for Diocesan entities

Mr David Barker asked the following question –

I refer to the audited accounts of the Synod Amalgamated Funds and Parish Funds Amalgamated by way of example and note that PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) are the auditors:

- (a) How long have PwC been auditors of the diocesan entities?
- (b) How much has been paid to them each of those years?
- (c) How long is their term?
- (d) How many years to go on the current term?
- (e) Will the audit go to tender when the current term is complete?
- (f) Has the Diocesan reputational risk been assessed in keeping PwC as auditors given recent publicity on their actions as providers of advice to the Federal Government and if so what was determined?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Since 1981.

- (b) It is not practical to research the audit fee paid over a 42 year period. Approximately \$400,000 was paid for audit services associated with the year ending 31 December 2022.
- (c) The auditors are reappointed annually.
- (d) None. PwC will not be re-appointed for the year ended 31 December 2023.
- (e) A request for tender for audit services was released in late May 2023. Submissions were received from eight audit firms, including PwC. The submissions were assessed by the Chief Financial Officer in July to shortlist three audit firms. In August, the three audit firms were interviewed by a panel of six members comprising the CFO and five senior members of boards from various large central diocesan organisations. The panel's preferred audit firm was endorsed by the Finance Committee of the Standing Committee on 17 August. It is expected that the boards of the relevant central diocesan organisations will individually appoint the preferred audit firm by late September 2023.
- (f) Not applicable. PwC was not shortlisted.

## 5.7 Membership of the Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

How many individuals are entitled to attend this Synod broken down by parts of the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, and within each part, broken down by clergywomen, clergymen, laywomen, and laymen?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

It is not practical to answer this part of the question out loud as it is a table of numbers. The answer will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

Part	Clergy		Clergy Total	Lay		Lay Total	Grand Total
	Female	Male		Female	Male		
P4		261	261				261
P5				172	315	487	487
P6		3	3		4	4	7
P7	8	19	27				27
P8				15	12	27	27
P8A		1	1		1	1	2
P9	1	8	9	1	2	3	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>824</b>

## 5.8 The Sydney Church of England Grammar School Constitution Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance 1923

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Why does *The Sydney Church of England Grammar School Constitution Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance 1923* require clerical members of the council to be in Priest's Orders?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod Standing Orders as it seeks a legal opinion.

Nonetheless, while I cannot speculate as to the mind of the Synod 100 years ago, I can say it is likely that all clergy were in priest's orders at that time other than curates in their first year after ordination.

### 5.9 Election of lay canons under the the St Michael's Regional Cathedral Wollongong Ordinance 1969

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Will members of St Michael's Corrimal congregation be permitted to vote in the election of two lay canons under clause 10(6)(d) of the *St Michael's Regional Cathedral Wollongong Ordinance 1969*?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod Standing Orders as it seeks a legal opinion.

### 5.10 Interpretation of Abbotsleigh Ordinance 1924

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

With respect to clause 6 of the *Interpretation Ordinance 1985*, is the reference to two (2) clergymen in clause 3 of the *Abbotsleigh Ordinance 1924* taken to include the feminine gender or not?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod Standing Orders as it seeks a legal opinion.

### 5.11 Parishes operating under schedule 1 of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

- (a) Which parishes with multiple churches operate under schedule 1 of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, and with respect to each parish, which church is the principal church?
- (b) How are church wardens selected for churches that have no regular services, in parishes administered under schedule 1 of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008* (for example St Matthew's Church, The Oaks, St Jerome's Cawdor, Camden, St Thomas' Hampton, Blackheath)?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The answer to part (a) is shown in tabular form and will be available on the notice board in the foyer.

Name of Parish	Principal Church	Principal Church location
Austinmer	All Saints'	AUSTINMER
Blackheath	St Aidan's	BLACKHEATH
Camden	St John's	CAMDEN
Chester Hill with Sefton	Saint John Mark's	CHESTER HILL
Cronulla	St Andrew's	CRONULLA
Dural District	St Jude's	DURAL



Name of Parish	Principal Church	Principal Church location
Eastgardens	St Edmund's	EASTGARDENS
Epping	St Alban's	EPPING
Gladesville	Christ Church	GLADESVILLE
Kensington Eastlakes	St Martin's	KENSINGTON
Kiama	Christ Church	KIAMA
Lower Mountains	St Peter's	GLENBROOK
Malabar	St Mark's	MALABAR
Merrylands	St Anne's	MERRYLANDS
Mittagong	St Stephen's	MITTAGONG
Moss Vale	St John's	MOSS VALE
Norfolk Island	St Barnabas'	NORFOLK ISLAND
Riverwood - Punchbowl	St Andrew's	RIVERWOOD
Roseville East	St Barnabas'	ROSEVILLE EAST
Sutton Forest	Holy Trinity	BUNDANOON
The Oaks	St Luke's	THE OAKS
Ulladulla	St Martin's	ULLADULLA
West Pymble with West Lindfield	St Matthew's	WEST PYMBLE
Wilberforce	St John's	WILBERFORCE
Willoughby Park	St John's	WILLOUGHBY

- (b) Part (b) of the question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it contains an assertion and seeks a legal opinion.

#### 5.12 **Standing Committee minutes**

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Does Standing Committee publish its minutes? If so, have there been any delays in doing so this year, and what was the reason for any such delay?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Standing Committee does not publish its minutes.

This question may be referring to the practice of uploading a summary of the Standing Committee meeting to the SDS website. These summaries have been uploaded later than in previous years. This is because the Standing Committee agreed that, as a matter of good governance, the summary should only be published once the minutes of the meeting have been approved (which occurs at the next Standing Committee meeting).

### 5.13 Colleges endorsed by the Archbishop for the purposes of elections

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

What are the other colleges endorsed by the Archbishop for the purposes of –

- (a) clause 5(2) of the *Anglican Church Growth Corporation Ordinance 2018*
- (b) clause 6(2) of the *Anglican Schools Corporation Ordinance 1947*
- (c) clause 8(2) of the *Anglican Youth and Education Diocese of Sydney Ordinance 1919*
- (d) clause 3(3) of the *Arden Anglican School Council Ordinance 2019*
- (e) clause 4(c) of the *Campbelltown Anglican Schools Ordinance 1985*
- (f) clause 5(2) of the *Endowment of the See Corporation Ordinance 2019*
- (g) clause 4(2) of the *Finance and Loans Board Ordinance 1957*
- (h) clause 5(2) of the *Glebe Administration Board Ordinance 1930*
- (i) clause 8(2) of the *Living Faith Council Ordinance 2020*
- (j) clause 10(2)(b) of the *Safe Ministry Board Ordinance 2001*
- (k) clause 5(2) of the *St Andrew's House Corporation Ordinance 2018*
- (l) clause 5(2) of the *Sydney Diocesan Services Ordinance 2017*
- (m) clause 9(2) of *The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Ordinance 2011*
- (n) clause 4(b) of *The Barker College Ordinance 1978*
- (o) clause 5(a) of *The Illawarra Grammar School Ordinance 1958*

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

There are none. The circumstances envisaged by the question have not yet arisen – in other words, there has not been a nomination in respect to those bodies for an ordained, licensed member of the clergy who did not have the requisite degree from Moore Theological College.

### 5.14 President of the Diocesan Tribunal

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

Who is the current president of the Diocesan Tribunal?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The Archbishop of Sydney (as provided by Section 54(1) of the Constitution in the Schedule to the *Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1961*).

### 5.15 Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023

Mr Samuel Doherty asked the following question –

With respect to Attachment 2 of the Explanatory Report on the *Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023* –

- (a) Why are no figures shown for Norfolk Island?
- (b) (i) When was Arise Anglican Church classified as a Provisional Parish?
- (b) (ii) What are the boundaries of the ecclesiastical district?
- (b) (iii) Did the Western Sydney Regional Council propose that Arise Anglican Church become a recognised church? If this proposal was rejected or changed, what was the reason?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Norfolk Island is an External Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. Special arrangements apply with respect to the application of ordinances to Norfolk Island. The Parish of Norfolk Island does not pay the variable component of PCR, the church land acquisitions levy or the property receipts levy.
- (b)
  - (i) Arise Anglican Church was declared a Provisional Recognised Church under the *Recognised Churches Ordinance 2000* on 14 September 2020. It is not a provisional parish, though its status is equivalent.
  - (ii) No ecclesiastical district has been allocated, so there are no boundaries.
  - (iii) No. The remainder of the question is therefore not applicable.

#### 5.16 Female representation on the Synod

Mr David Lloyd asked the following question –

- (a) In relation to the first session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Sydney and across all parts of the membership as prescribed by the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995*, what is the total number of female members and what is the total number of male members (please also provide the approximate percentage for each gender of the total membership)?
- (b) In relation to the first session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, what is:
  - (i) The number of female members and
  - (ii) The number of male members, in each of the following parts of the membership as prescribed by the *Synod Membership Ordinance 1995* (please also provide the approximate percentage for each gender of the total membership in respect of each of Parts 5, 7 and 8):
    - (A) Part 5 – (Lay) Parochial Representatives;
    - (B) Part 6 – Chief Executive Officers of Nominated Organisations;
    - (C) Part 7 – Nominated Ministers;
    - (D) Part 8 – Nominated Laypersons;
    - (E) Part 8A – Nominated Indigenous Representatives; and
    - (F) Part 9, but only in respect of clause 53, sub-clauses (2)-(3) - the two persons elected by the council of St Paul's College?
- (c) Has the Diocese of Sydney or its Standing Committee considered or adopted any plans or strategies that may increase female representation in the membership of those parts of the Synod of the Diocese that are open to both female and male members, and if so, please outline such plans or strategies?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) 197 female members (24%) and 626 male members (76%).
- (b)
  - (i) 172 women (35%) and 315 men (65%).
  - (ii) 0 women and 7 men.
  - (iii) 8 women (30%) and 19 men (70%).
  - (iv) 15 women (56%) and 12 men (44%).
  - (v) 0 women and 2 men.
  - (vi) 2 men.
- (c) Yes.

Part 7 members are appointed by the Archbishop. These members must be in holy orders and licensed for service in the Diocese, which limits the pool of women who can be appointed. However, the Archbishop has intentionally sought to increase the representation of women in Part 7.

Part 8 members are appointed by the Standing Committee and the majority are women.

The election of Part 5 members is a matter for parish AGMs.

#### 5.17 Parishes without a full complement of wardens

Mr David Lloyd asked the following question –

Based on the records held by the Registrar of the Diocese of Sydney, in respect of all parishes administered under Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the *Parish Administration Ordinance 2008*, as at 1 September 2023, are there any parishes that have not elected or appointed a full complement of 3 wardens under the Ordinance, and if so, how many parishes in total across the Diocese, and how many parishes in each of the five regions of the Diocese, are there that have not elected or appointed 3 wardens?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

Yes.

There are 41 parishes where a full complement of wardens have not been elected. This number includes 16 churches that are currently closed, and have no services, but are still licensed as churches.

The number of the churches by region is as follows:

Region	Number of parishes
Northern	10
South Sydney	10
South Western	9
Western	8
Wollongong	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>

#### 5.18 Retention of Safe Ministry-related information and cyber security

The Rev Hayden Smith asked the following question –

I understand that Safe Ministry requirements now include a confidential lifestyle questionnaire for clergy and lay ministers and completion of a Working with Children Check for all adults working with or around children.

I understand the questionnaires are retained as a legal record.

Could the President please advise if any electronic copies of the questionnaires are retained and, if so –

- (a) What precautions have been taken to ensure that these remain secure and confidential?
- (b) In light of the numerous high-profile cyber attacks in Australia in recent times, has the Diocesan Registry or the PSU received any independent advice as to the adequacy and rigour of its cyber security?

To which the President replied –

---



---

### 5.19 Anglicare retirement living villages

Mr Michael Doran asked the following question –

These are questions for Anglicare, regarding retirement living villages and its loan licence model.

#### **Loan licence**

- (a) What is a typical fortnightly fee for resident licensees?
- (b) What is the median ingoing loan contribution?
- (c) Given that the ingoing contribution is a loan to Anglicare, do residents receive interest on their loaned amount?
- (d) On exit from the licensed property, is the return of the loaned amount to the resident (minus the exit fee) indexed to CPI?
- (e) For a 2 bedroom apartment licensed for 12 years with an ingoing loan to Anglicare of \$1M, what is the real monthly cost to the resident, given the opportunity cost of the surrendered capital, lack of capital gains return, the depreciation of the loan amount due to inflation, and the ongoing fortnightly fee?

#### **Fees**

- (f) What does Anglicare calculate as the annual cost of maintaining one of its licensed properties?
- (g) What percentage of the property insurance for the leased unit is the licence holder required to contribute?

#### **Anglicare gains**

- (h) If Anglicare is making a commercial return from its retirement living business, what was the profit in the last financial year, taking into account investment returns on loaned amounts and capital gains?

- (i) If Anglicare is achieving a clear return from its retirement living business, where is this revenue directed?
- (j) Taking a [medium tier] 2 bedroom apartment at Anglicare's Woollooware Shores as an example, what capital gains has Anglicare achieved on such a property since 2016?
- (k) What are Anglicare's plans to further expand its retirement living property portfolio?

### Marketing

- (l) In what sense does Anglicare use the term 'buying' to describe entering into a loan licence scheme?
- (m) Is the costs and fees scenario (based on a 3-year stay) offered in Anglicare's marketing based on a typical licence period?
- (n) What steps does Anglicare take to ensure that residents are aware of the real costs of the licence?

### Complaints

- (o) What themes of complaint are received by Anglicare in relation to the financial arrangements involved in its retirement villages?

### Capital gains

- (p) Given that Anglicare NSW/ACT shares capital gains with its leaseholders, what consideration is being given by Anglicare Sydney to sharing capital gains?
- (q) If no consideration has been given to the question of sharing capital gains, what are the barriers to sharing capital gains with licence holders?

To which the President replied –

I am informed that the answer is as follows –

#### 1. Loan licence

- (a) Between \$239 and \$725.
- (b) \$1,012,000.
- (c) This part of the question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it contains an assertion. Nonetheless, the answer is, no.
- (d) No.
- (e) It is not possible to answer this question as some elements are subjective, in particular, opportunity cost.

#### 2. Fees

- (f) Typically between \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year.
- (g) Fortnightly fees cover the cost of insurance for all assets on site including both residents' homes and community facilities. Anglicare contributes where fees at a village are insufficient to meet costs.

#### 3. Anglicare gains

- (h) The question assumes certain accounting and reporting that is inconsistent with accounting principles and standards, and therefore cannot be answered with reference to Anglicare's accounts. Anglicare's unaudited management accounts indicate a surplus in retirement living in the order of \$18 million in the 2022-23 financial year.
- (i) Any surplus made by Anglicare is reinvested in other services of public benevolence.
- (j) The capital gain on any given unit is a function of the location, size, aspect, age and condition of the unit, the year purchased, the year sold, the strength of the property market and the retirement living market. Nevertheless, to provide an indication, between 2016 and 2023 the average capital gain at Woollooware Shores for a 2-bedroom apartment has been 3.8% per annum.
- (k) Anglicare plans to continue to expand its retirement living portfolio to continue to meet the needs of older people living in the Diocese. Expansions are underway at

The Ponds and Dapto, planned at Castle Hill and Glenhaven and a new village is planned at Bulli.

4. Marketing

- (l) This part of the question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it seeks a legal opinion and also makes an assertion. Nonetheless, all information as required for a resident to make an informed decision and as required under the Retirement Villages Act is disclosed to residents
- (m) It is one scenario (like a comparison rate in a loan) to enable a potential resident to understand the commercial arrangement, not a typical loan example. Each person's experience and outcome will be different.
- (n) Anglicare fully discloses the costs to a potential resident. There are no hidden costs.

5. Complaints

- (o) This part of the question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it makes an assertion. Nonetheless, I can indicate that Anglicare is not aware of any themes of complaint in relation to financial arrangements.

6. Capital gains

- (p) This part of the question is out of order under rule 6.3(4) of the Synod standing orders as it contains an assertion. Nonetheless, I can state that Anglicare is not considering a sharing of capital gains or losses. Many other providers are moving away from sharing capital gains/losses as they believe it creates unnecessary conflict and uncertainty for residents. Anglicare believes its own model is more than simply a property transaction and its proposition contains a wide-range of other services which are of benefit to its residents in building flourishing, healthy communities.
- (q) Anglicare does not intend to change its long-standing model. Given Anglicare's villages are >96% occupied and have a faster than average time-to-sell, there is clearly strong demand for the product Anglicare is offering to the market. There are a wide range of alternative models for retirement living available in the market, some of which do share capital gains in exchange for a higher entry price, which could be considered by potential residents.

Anglicare senior management is happy to meet personally with the Questioner to understand his concerns.

## 6. Questions

Questions were asked by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (2) The Rev Dr Raj Gupta
- (3) Professor Bernard Stewart AM
- (4) The Rev Nigel Fortescue
- (5) The Rev Jason Veitch
- (6) The Rev Dr Andrew Ford
- (7) Dr Fletcher Cole
- (8) The Rev Dominic Steele
- (9) Mr James Mayfield
- (10) Mr James Mayfield
- (11) The Rev Zac Veron
- (12) The Rev Andrew Barry
- (13) Mr Chris Hamam
- (14) Mr Chris Hamam
- (15) Mr Chris Hamam
- (16) Mr Glen Smith
- (17) Canon Alistair Seabrook

## 7. Personal explanation

With the permission of the President under Standing Order 6.4, Professor Bernard Stewart AM gave a personal explanation.

## 8. Notices of Motions

Notices of motions were given by the following members –

- (1) The Rev Nigel Fortescue
- (2) Professor Bernard Stewart AM
- (3) The Rev Jodie McNeill
- (4) Mr Chris Hamam
- (5) The Rev Dr Matthew Wilcoxon

## 9. Calling of motions on the business paper

The President called the motions in the order in which they appeared on the business paper, except those motions about a proposed ordinance or those motions to be considered at a time determined by the President.

### 9.1 Arrangements for consideration of business from the Order of Business Committee

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod agrees –

- (a) to allow the motion at 9.1 on today's Business Paper (Tabling and reception of accounts and reports etc – Standing Committee and other special reports) to be put on the callover of motions, and
- (b) if not passed on the callover, to schedule consideration of the motion for Tuesday 19 September 2023 following M31.'

Seconded and carried

### 9.2 Arrangements for consideration of M39 (Archdeacon Neil Atwood)

The Rev Roger Cunningham moved –

'Synod agrees to schedule consideration of the motion at M39 (Archdeacon Neil Atwood) for Tuesday 19 September (afternoon session).'

Seconded and carried

### 9.3 Arrangements for consideration of M22 (Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy)

Mr James Flavin moved –

'Synod agrees that, as part of the procedural arrangements for the consideration of the motion at M22 (Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy) already agreed, to invite the Rev Colin Watts to pray as part of the presentation, notwithstanding that Mr Watts is not a member of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

### 9.4 Presentation regarding Defence Force Chaplaincy

The Rev Andrew Nixon moved –



'Synod agrees to allow a video presentation of up to five minutes regarding Australian Defence Force Anglican chaplaincy, to be scheduled immediately prior to the dinner break on Monday 18 September.'

Seconded and carried

## 9.5 Standing Committee and other special reports

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

Synod receives the following reports and notes that they have been printed at the direction of the Standing Committee –

- (1) 2023 Report of the Standing Committee
- (2) Synod Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2022
- (3) Parish Funds Amalgamated Annual Financial Report for 2022
- (4) Synod – St Andrew's House Fund Annual Financial Report for 2022
- (5) Amendment to *Faithfulness in Service: A national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and church workers*
- (6) Anglican Church Property Trust Annual Report 2022
- (7) Consumption of alcohol in the parish context: update to the 2009 report
- (8) Diocesan Doctrine Commission's terms of reference
- (9) Discontinuation of the Affiliated Churches Program (46/19)
- (10) Doctrine Commission Report: A Theological Reflection on the Parish System (19/22)
- (11) Doctrine Commission Report: The Doctrine of Concupiscence and its Relevance to the Experience of Same-Sex Attraction
- (12) Domestic Violence Response Monitoring Committee: Progress Report (23/18 | 13/22)
- (13) General Synod 2022 Legislation
- (14) Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (7/22)
- (15) Leadership of Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese
- (16) Ministry Spouse Support Fund Report Annual Report for 2022
- (17) Ordinances passed by the Standing Committee (since August 2022)
- (18) Pastoral Supervision in the Diocese of Sydney (54/22)
- (19) Performance Appraisals of Ministry Workers (54/22)
- (20) Property priorities to progress Indigenous ministry (22/22)
- (21) Purpose and priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship
- (22) Recommendations from the Education Committee (28/22 | 29/22 | 30/22)
- (23) Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2022
- (24) Reporting on the National Redress Scheme (Annual Report) (42/18)
- (25) Review of the Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations (6/22)
- (26) Safe Ministry Board and the Office of the Director of Safe Ministry Annual Report 2022-2023
- (27) South Western Region buildings and property strategy (15/22)
- (28) Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2025-2027
- (29) The commencement of voluntary assisted dying in NSW
- (30) Stipends, Allowances and Benefits for 2024 (2/05)
- (31) Work Outside the Diocese (16/22)
- (32) Explanatory statements and reports on Bills

Seconded and carried

## 9.6 Implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Mr Lachlan Bryant moved –

‘Synod, noting the report 7/22 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, requests the Standing Committee to provide a further update to the next session of the Synod in relation to implementation of the actions set out in the table to the report.’

Seconded and carried

## 9.7 New Diocesan Bishops

Bishop Michael Stead moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes that, since it last met –
  - (i) the Ven Darrell Parker was consecrated at St Andrew’s Cathedral on 3 February 2023 and installed as the eighth Bishop of North West Australia at Holy Cross Cathedral in Geraldton on Wednesday 15 February 2023,
  - (ii) the Right Rev Jeremy James was installed in the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul, Port Pirie as the eighth Bishop of Willochra on 25 February 2023, and
  - (iii) the Right Rev Jeremy Greaves was elected on 26 August 2023 as the tenth Archbishop of Brisbane and Metropolitan of the Province of Queensland, and will be installed on 16 December 2023 at St John’s Cathedral, and
- (b) assures these bishops of our prayers and good wishes in their episcopal roles, praying –

Lord, bless your servants Darrell, Jeremy and Jeremy called to the work and ministry of a bishop. So fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully minister in this office to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*(Adapted from The Consecrating of a Bishop, AAPB p.617)*

Seconded and carried

Bishop Gary Koo led the Synod in prayer for the new Diocesan Bishops.

## 9.8 Ordination Policy

The Rev Dr Raj Gupta moved –

‘Synod, noting that the current Ordination Policy was last updated in 2019, and that the world and ministry environment has changed significantly since, recommends that the Archbishop review and update the Ordination Policy with a view to increasing the quality and quantity of Gospel workers across the Diocese.’

Seconded and carried

## 9.9 Funding for Work Outside the Diocese

The Rev Gavin Poole moved –

‘Synod notes that –

- (a) the Work Outside the Diocese allocation for 2024 in the Synod Appropriation and Allocations Ordinance 2023 is based on 4.5% of the total income available to Synod,

- (b) this is despite a 22% increase in available income compared to 2023,
- (c) past Synods have requested 5% of the available income to be applied for this purpose, and
- (d) the relevant report states that the percentage reduction is temporary, and therefore requests Standing Committee to work towards appropriation bills that return to the policy of applying 5% of available income for Work Outside the Diocese in future years.'

Seconded and carried

#### 9.10 Anglicare's Disaster Recovery

The Rev Dr Andrew Ford moved –

'Synod notes that –

- (a) 2023 marks 25 years of the Disaster Recovery ministry in NSW led by Anglicare Sydney,
- (b) the ministry was first established by the Province in 1998 as a response to the bushfires of 1994 and 1997, with the intention of providing an Anglican presence, support and relief to communities experiencing natural disasters,
- (c) over the 25 year of Disaster Recovery, Anglicare Sydney has been the authorised agent of the Province to represent all the Dioceses in NSW, coordinating a parish based volunteer response in partnership with other Anglicare agencies, and
- (d) Anglicare's Disaster Recovery volunteers are trained, registered and ready to go at a moment's notice to provide material aid and general support in evacuation and recovery centres, during natural and other significant disasters.

Synod thankfully acknowledges –

- (a) the significant role that parishes and more than 750 current trained volunteers have played in supporting communities in times of natural disasters, including fires, floods, storms and displacement of communities by war,
- (b) the ongoing importance of this ministry in building recovery resilience and connection, especially in times of loss, and grief and dislocation, and
- (c) the central role that Anglicare Sydney has played in coordinating and managing this ministry across the whole State.

Synod also encourages parishioners to consider becoming Disaster Recovery volunteers, given the concerns being expressed at the expected scale and severity of the imminent bushfire season, and its very real potential to again impact communities across NSW. Noting that interested people can find out more by emailing: [disasterrecovery@anglicare.org.au](mailto:disasterrecovery@anglicare.org.au).'

Seconded and carried

#### 9.11 ABC Documentary: Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds

Mr Chris Hamam moved –

'Synod respectfully invites all members to watch the ABC documentary *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds* on iView, which can be found at the following link –

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/old-people-s-home-for-4-year-olds>

Seconded and carried

#### 9.12 SBS Documentary: The Children in the Pictures

Mr Chris Hamam moved –

'Synod respectfully invites all members to watch the SBS documentary *The Children in the Pictures* at SBS On Demand which can be found at the following link –

<https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/tv-program/the-children-in-the-pictures/1957876291797>

Seconded and carried

### 9.13 Christian Preschools

Mr Chris Hamam moved –

'Synod encourages all Preschools and Long Day Care centres over which our parishes have influence to –

- (a) have a Christ-centred constitution,
- (b) have a Christian Director, and
- (c) have a Christ-centred curriculum.'

Seconded and carried

## 10. Procedural motions from members

### 10.1 Arrangements for consideration of M4 and M5

Having been granted leave, Mrs Briony Bounds moved as a procedural motion –

'Synod agrees to schedule M4 and M5 as the next items of business, to be considered before M6, notwithstanding the timetable for Synod Business which indicates that M6 will be taken at 4.30pm.'

Seconded and carried

## 11. Motions

### 11.1 Purpose and priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship

Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

'Synod, noting that the horizon envisaged by Mission 2020 has now passed –

- (a) gives thanks to God for the way he used Mission 2020 to further the work of the gospel in the Diocese,
- (b) welcomes the leadership of the Archbishop as expressed in the document *Purpose and Priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship*, and
- (c) calls on all our churches, schools, and organisations prayerfully to consider how they can contribute to the purpose and priorities the Archbishop has articulated.'

Seconded

Dr Christopher Cooper moved as an amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion –

'Insert a new paragraph (c) (with consequential re-numbering) –

- “(c) encourages the leadership of the Diocese to further consider how the purpose sub-point ‘equipping them for compassionate service in the world’ might be highlighted or encouraged by incorporation into the list of priorities,”.’

Seconded

Professor Bernard Stewart AM moved as an amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion –

'In paragraph (c), immediately prior to the final full stop, insert the matter –

“engaging, with God’s help, widespread ignorance of the Gospel and antagonism based on Christians being obliged to repudiate some values which are generally upheld”.’

Seconded

Ms Elise Christian moved as an amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion –

'Insert a new paragraph (d) –

“(d) recognises that the document ‘Purpose and Priorities for the Diocesan Fellowship’ has no legally enforceable standing, and cannot be taken as binding any diocesan school or organisation to a particular construction of the Diocese’s ‘purpose’.”

Seconded

Mr Chris Hamam moved as an amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion –

'In paragraph (c), following the matter “schools,”, insert the matter “preschools,”.'

Seconded

Mr James Flavin moved as an amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion –

'Split the motion into two separate motions, the second motion to commence at sub-paragraph (b), with subsequent editorials.'

Seconded

Dr Cooper's amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion was not carried.

Professor Stewart's amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion was not carried.

Ms Christian's amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion was not carried.

Mr Hamam's amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion was not carried.

Mr Flavin's amendment to Archdeacon Flinders' motion was not carried.

Archdeacon Flinders' motion was carried without amendment.

## 11.2 Diocesan Organisations pursuing the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese

Mr Simon Miller moved –

'Synod, recognising the increasing need for, and benefits of, diocesan organisations working together as part of the broader diocesan network –

- (a) recognises the document *Purpose and Priorities for our Diocesan Fellowship* as an expression of the “broader charitable purposes of the Diocese” for the purposes of the Synod's *Governance Policy for Diocesan Organisations*,
- (b) notes that, in conformity with the Synod's Governance Policy, a number of diocesan organisations have sought and obtained amendments to their constituting ordinances which expressly permit them to pursue their specifically mandated purpose in a manner which also advances the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese,
- (c) regards such amendments as a tangible expression of commitment to working together as part of the broader diocesan network and encourages all diocesan

organisations, to the extent they are legally able to do so, to consider seeking such amendments,

- (d) requires all Category Two and Category Three diocesan organisations (under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*), except for schools, to annually report to Synod a summary of the steps they have taken in pursuit of the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese, and
- (e) encourages all Diocesan schools (mentioned in Category Three of the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*) to annually report to Synod a summary of the steps they have taken in pursuit of the broader charitable purposes of the Diocese.'

Seconded and carried

## Adjournment

At 5.46 pm, Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

'That the Synod adjourn and resume at 7.00 pm tonight.'

Seconded and carried

## Resumption

The Synod resumed at 7.00 pm.

## 12. Motions

### 12.1 SAIPMC Statement on the Voice Referendum

Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved the following four procedural motions in accordance with the procedural motion passed on Monday 11 September 2023 –

'Synod agrees that, following the speech of the mover of the motion at M20 and without a seconder's speech, there be no debate on the motion, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded

'Synod, noting –

- (i) the effect of the motion at M20 is to welcome a statement from the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee, and
  - (ii) Standing Order 4.2(5) which provides that the President is to confine each speaker to the subject matter being debated,
- (a) agrees to allow speeches regarding the merits of the Voice Referendum as part of 'the subject matter being debated' in the motion at M20,
  - (b) agrees that each speaker, other than the mover, may speak for up to 3 minutes, and
  - (c) agrees to suspend so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded

'Synod agrees that, following the speech of the mover of the motion at M20 and any debate, the motion not be voted on, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded

'Synod agrees not to receive notice of or consider any other motion at this session which is related to the Voice Referendum other than M20, and suspends so many of the Standing Orders as would prevent these arrangements.'

Seconded

Debate proceeded in accordance with the procedural motion passed on Monday 11 September 2023.

Archdeacon Flinders' first procedural motion was put and was carried.

As a consequence, Archdeacon Flinders' second procedural motion lapsed.

Archdeacon Flinders' third procedural motion was put and was not carried.

Archdeacon Flinders' fourth procedural motion was put and was carried.

Mrs Briony Bounds moved –

'Synod welcomes the statement of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee about the Voice referendum, as follows –

"The Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee affirms that God's voice is sovereign over all peoples and lands, and notes –

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been denied a voice following European settlement in this land,
- that there are benefits and challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a recognised Voice to the Australian parliament,
- the passing of Resolution 33/22 'First Nations Voice' by the Sydney Anglican Diocesan Synod, and
- the 'Statement on the Voice to Parliament' as affirmed by the General Synod Standing Committee of the Anglican Church of Australia.

We encourage all church members to prayerfully seek God's voice as they search his wisdom in considering a 'yes' vote for the approaching referendum."

Seconded and carried

## 12.2 **Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2025-2027**

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

'Synod approves the "Statement of Funding Principles and Priorities 2025-2027".'

Seconded and carried

## 12.3 **Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2023**

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

'That the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2023 be approved in principle.'

Seconded

Canon Colgan spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

'Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?'

There was a time for questions.

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to speak for or against the motion, or move an amendment to it?’

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance?’

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

‘That the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance 2023 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

#### 12.4 **Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023**

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

‘That the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023 be approved in principle.’

Seconded

Canon Colgan spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The President asked –

‘Does any member have a question about the proposed ordinance?’

There was a time for questions.

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to speak for or against the motion, or move an amendment to it?’

There was no member who wished to speak against the motion or move an amendment to it.

The motion that the ordinance be approved in principle was put and was carried.

The President asked –

‘Does any member wish to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance?’

There was no member who wished to move an amendment to the text of the proposed ordinance.

Canon Phillip Colgan moved –

‘That the Parochial Cost Recoveries Ordinance 2023 pass as an ordinance of the Synod.’

Seconded and carried

#### 12.5 **South Western Region buildings and property strategy**

Bishop Peter Lin moved –



'Synod, noting the report "South Western Region buildings and property strategy" –

- (a) notes that the members of Synod have been invited to provide feedback on the draft South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, and that they can send their feedback on the Strategy to the Diocesan Secretary ([DiocesanSecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au](mailto:DiocesanSecretary@sydney.anglican.asn.au)) by 30 November 2023,
- (b) requests the Standing Committee to consider approving the South Western Region Buildings and Property Strategy, having taken into account the feedback from Synod members, and
- (c) requests the Standing Committee to prepare the remaining four Regional strategies and an over-arching Diocesan-wide property strategy in support of ministry and report back to the next session of the Synod.'

Seconded and carried

### 13. Sydney Diocesan Services Presentation

Mr Robert Wicks gave a presentation, including a video presentation, regarding the work of Sydney Diocesan Services.

### 14. Motions

#### 14.1 Online Sports Betting – Federal Harm Reduction

Dean Sandy Grant moved –

'Synod, noting that the Bible says, "Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished." (Proverbs 17:5) –

- (a) thanks the Federal Government for the steps they have already taken to address the public health crisis that is caused by online sports betting; in particular that the Federal Government has –
  - (i) introduced the "You win some, you lose more" campaign which mandated clearer warnings about the harms of online sports betting,
  - (ii) mandated that advertising for online sports betting include contact details of support services that can assist individuals experiencing gambling harm, and
  - (iii) held a wide ranging Parliamentary inquiry titled "You win some, you lose more: Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm" producing unanimous bipartisan recommendations,
- (b) calls on the Federal Parliament, in light of this above inquiry and report, to implement the full 31 recommendations of the committee; in particular, that –
  - (i) the responsibility for online gambling harm reduction be held by a single Australian Government Minister (Recommendation 1),
  - (ii) the Australian Government prohibit all online gambling inducements and inducement advertising, without delay (Recommendation 16), and
  - (iii) the Australian Government implement a comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising for online gambling, with the phased implementation commencing as soon as possible (Recommendation 26),
- (c) requests that the Diocesan Secretary communicate the contents of this resolution to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Federal Opposition, along with the Minister for Communications, and the Minister for Social Services, and
- (d) encourages all members of Synod to write to their local Federal Members of Parliament urging them to support and implement all the recommendations of the "You win some, you lose more: Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm" report.'

Seconded and carried

## 14.2 NSW Poker Machine Use – State Harm Reduction

The Rev David Yung moved –

‘Synod, noting that –

- (i) Almighty God calls on governing rulers to “defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed” (Psalm 82:3),
  - (ii) \$8 billion is lost annually through poker machines in NSW (i.e., approximately \$23 million every day), disproportionately from lower socioeconomic areas of NSW, where poker machines are often most concentrated, and
  - (iii) documents recently tabled in the NSW Parliament from a 2021 series of club inspections, as part of an Anti-Money Laundering Project run by NSW Liquor and Gaming and the NSW Crime Commission, revealed investigators suspected \$5.5 million was laundered through 178 venues, just in a seven week period, with ten venues accounting for more than 40% of that total, mainly located in south-west Sydney,
- (a) thanks the NSW State Government for the steps it has already taken to address the public health crisis that is caused by poker machine gambling in NSW; in particular that the NSW State Government has –
    - (i) shepherded legislation through the NSW Parliament to ban political donations from licensed clubs with poker machines,
    - (ii) instructed Liquor & Gaming NSW to enforce laws already in place to eliminate external gambling-related advertising, and
    - (iii) committed to a trial of a mandatory cashless gambling card system for poker machines in NSW, to be overseen by an independent advisory panel comprised of industry, harm minimisation, academic, cyber crime, police, and union representatives,
  - (b) calls on the NSW Government to implement this trial as swiftly as possible, within a framework of pre-implementation testing for a mandatory cashless gaming card, which public health, law enforcement and welfare policy experts have already recommended as a most effective harm minimisation method, both for problems caused by gambling and by money-laundering,
  - (c) supports urgent consideration by the NSW Government of the calls from NSW MPs –
    - (i) requesting a Royal Commission into the conduct, integrity and influence of the gambling industry in NSW, and
    - (ii) transferring regulation and oversight of “casino-like” clubs operating more than 250 gaming machines from the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to the NSW Independent Casino Commission,
  - (d) requests that the Diocesan Secretary communicate the contents of this resolution to the Premier of NSW, the NSW Leader of the Opposition, and the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and
  - (e) encourages all members of Synod to write to their local Members of the Parliament of NSW urging them to work diligently towards reducing the misery caused by poker machine gambling.’

Seconded and carried

Mr Yung led the Synod in prayer.

## 14.3 Hungry or Homeless – Tough Choices in a Cost-Of-Living Crisis

Dean Sandy Grant moved –

‘Synod –

- (a) notes the excellent qualitative research report “Hungry or Homeless – Tough Choices in a Cost-Of-Living Crisis” published in May 2023, that details the confronting strategies that low income households are utilising to cope with current high inflation environment, involving rising rental, interest rates, food and energy

- prices, such as going without food or heating or medical care so as to avoid eviction and the threat of homelessness,
- (b) acknowledges that too many are impoverished in our society and are unable easily to experience the contentment that Scripture both prays for and urges, when it says, “Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread” (Proverbs 30:8) and “if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that” (1 Timothy 6:8),
  - (c) is thankful for our churches' partnership with Anglicare in delivering emergency food and financial aid, financial counselling, access to case management and advocacy, since we remember that “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” (1 John 3:17), and recommits our members to this partnership,
  - (d) notes that report's conclusion that, “A coordinated, multifaceted approach by all levels of government is required which targets the low level of JobSeeker and rapidly expands the supply of social and affordable housing. The levels of hardship being experienced by so many in our community, many of whom are children, need to be addressed if we are to ensure that people are not going hungry, can pay their bills and are not at risk of homelessness”, and therefore
  - (e) encourages local church ministers and members to contact their federal and state MPs urging prompt practical action in light of the above, towards the improvement of our social welfare safety net and increased supply of affordable and public housing.’

Seconded and carried.

Mr Simon Miller led the Synod in prayer.

## 15. Procedural motions from members

### 15.1 Arrangements for consideration of M37

Having been granted leave, Bishop Michael Stead moved as a procedural motion –

‘Synod defers consideration of M37 until a suitable time.’

Seconded and carried

## 16. Archbishop's Residence and Ministry Centre Presentation

Archdeacon Simon Flinders gave a presentation, including a video presentation, regarding the Archbishop's Residence and Ministry Centre.

### Adjournment

At 9.04 pm, Archdeacon Simon Flinders moved –

‘That the Synod adjourn and resume at 3.15 pm tomorrow.’

Seconded and carried

We certify that, to the best of our recollection, these minutes are a correct record of the Synod's proceedings.

Two Members of the )  
Minute Reading Committee )

Signed by the President

13 September 2023

DRAFT