

Regional Councils' Annual Reports for 2016

(A compilation of the annual reports from the Regional Councils.)

Key Points

- Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995* each Regional Council must present an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions for inclusion in the Standing Committee's report to Synod for that year
- These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*

Background

1. Under clause 9(2) of the *Regions Ordinance 1995*, each Regional Council must present to the Standing Committee an annual report of its proceedings and the exercise of its general functions under clause 6 in sufficient time each year to enable the Standing Committee to include the report in the report for that year of the Standing Committee to Synod.
2. The general functions of the Regional Councils under clause 6 are –
 - (a) to carry out or assist in carrying out any resolutions passed by the Synod or the Standing Committee and referred to it for implementation;
 - (b) to develop ministry strategies in the Region;
 - (c) to assess applications for grants in the Region made or referred to it;
 - (d) to make grants or loans from money (consistent with any trusts on which that money may be held) available to it for distribution or for lending;
 - (e) to accept gifts and grants;
 - (f) to raise and expend money for any purpose connected with ministry in the Region;
 - (g) to employ persons for any purpose connected with ministry within the Region, and to dismiss any person so employed;
 - (h) to manage and control any endowment held for the Region as a whole;
 - (i) to discuss matters affecting the Region and to disseminate information in the Region;
 - (j) to make recommendations to the Archbishop about alterations to regional boundaries; and
 - (k) to exercise such other functions as the Synod or the Standing Committee may from time to time prescribe.
3. The following are the reports from the Regional Councils for 2016 for the purposes of clause 9(2). These reports are in addition to the annual reports prepared by the Regional Councils and tabled at the Synod under the *Accounts, Audits and Annual Reports Ordinance 1995*.

Georges River Regional Council

4. The Regional Council had four meetings in 2016 plus a half day conference and all were held in parishes within the Region. At the meetings, the Rector of the parish was invited to give a Bible study and then report on the activities within the parish. This gave the Council a good indication of the challenges facing the parish and highlighted that different strategies had to be implemented to face some of the challenges of a changing society.
5. Our meetings over the year were largely occupied with an overview of the region, understanding its opportunities and challenges, and how the Council could assist and advise the Bishop in his strategies for the region.
6. Though not flushed with funds, the Council also gave much thought to the best use of the funds for gospel ministry, now and into the future.
7. The Region continued to support the vital and unique ministry of the Rev Margaret Powell amongst women. We are thankful to God for the financial and prayer support given to Margaret Powell from Anglican Deaconess Ministries, parishes in the diocese and individual donors that support this work.
8. During the year the Rev Steve Frederick resigned following his appointment as an Assistant Minister at St Andrew's Cathedral and thereby moving out of the region. The Council is grateful for his wise and thoughtful contribution during his time with us.

Northern Regional Council

9. Since 31 December 2015 the following people resigned from the Council – the Rev Terry Bowers, the Rev Ernest Chau, the Rev Peter Tong and the Rev Malcolm York.

10. The Council met formerly three times during the year. A scheduled meeting in November 2016 was cancelled with urgent business dealt with by a circular resolution.

11. Each of the Council's meetings were held in different church of the region – on each occasion we sought to meet in a church that had recently undergone major building works so that the Council could inspect what can be achieved through major upgrades of church facilities.

12. Our meetings enabled discussion of a range of matters relating to ministry strategies in the region, including consideration of ways the Council might assist parish ministry in line with the Diocesan Mission. Following work commenced in 2015, the Council issued a questionnaire to parishes to aid its consideration of how it can assist parishes and develop regional strategies. The Council is continuing to consider the implications of the survey report.

13. In May 2016, the Council hosted the Northern Region Conference at St Stephen's Normanhurst. Over 150 people attended, mostly clergy from the region. The conference covered a number of topics including domestic violence, use of psychometric testing to assist staff recruitment and resilience in ministry. Presenters included Nicola Lock, Rob Smith, Kirsty Bucknell, Matt Bond and Chris Edwards.

14. In August 2016, the Council facilitated a lecture by Don Carson at Abbotsleigh School that was attended by approximately 350 people. Our thanks to Abbotsleigh for the use of their facilities. The Council hopes to hold a similar event this year with Hugh Palmer as the visiting speaker.

15. In response to a request from the Standing Committee, the Council provided a detailed report on the role of regional councils. Amongst other things we noted the current Regions Ordinance does not provide a defined role for the Regional Council, rather it, and a number of other ordinances, provide a range of functions and tasks.

16. In accordance with its authority under relevant ordinances the Council approved the amalgamation of Gladesville and Putney Parishes and agreed to a proposal to amend the Parish boundary between St Marks' Anglican Church Ermington and Dundas Telopea Anglican Church.

South Sydney Regional Council

17. The South Sydney Regional Council is a charitable organisation which exists for the purposes of advancing religion among children, elderly people, ethnic groups and men, women and youth from the general community of Australia. It pursues these aims through making grants to churches, assisting with administrative and structural changes throughout its designated area in New South Wales. The Region comprises the CBD of Sydney and is bordered the Tasman Sea, Parramatta River, Cooks River and Rookwood Cemetery.

18. It is worth noting that 26% of people in the region were born in a Non-English Speaking Country, with the highest proportion coming from China. Also, 31% speak a language other than English at home. Chinese is the fastest growing language group in the region, with over 33,000 speaking Mandarin and 24,000 speaking Cantonese. It is estimated that over 37,000 people in the region do not speak English well or at all in the region.

19. In 2016, the SSRC continued to provide financial support for ministries at Norfolk Island Living Waters (Indigenous Ministry), and the Green Square church plant from South Sydney (One1Seven).

Western Sydney Regional Council

20. The main committees are the Executive Committee, the Ordinance Review Panel and the Architectural Panel.

21. The Council met on 4 occasions during 2016 at St Peter's, Seven Hills. The main areas of consideration included Mission 2020, the reclassification of Westmead as a full parish, support of ordinands, partnership between parishes, Chinese church planting, greenfields church sites, Mark Bilton consultancy, relocation of the Dundas parish sites, mission and ministry updates, ordinance reviews, building projects, parish vacancies and consultancies.

Wollongong Regional Council

22. Bishop Peter Hayward and the Regional Council worked closely to further support ministry across the Region. This included –

- financial support for the ministries at Oran Park, Gregory Hills, Leppington and Wilton
- financial support with subsidised rectories at Sussex Inlet and Leppington

- financial support with subsidised demountable at Helensburgh and Denham Court
 - planning with MPC for the new ministries at Leppington
 - meeting with and support of Mission Area leaders
 - support for Rectors
 - specific regional training for Rectors and Wardens
 - 3 day Regional Ministry conference with Rev Phillip Jensen
 - Support of the Gong Men's Day and SWITCH Women's Conference
 - ongoing support for ESL English classes –
 - ESL classes were delivered in 13 Parishes across the Region
 - Support through provision of office space for the Regional ESL Coordinator, Mrs Sue Radkovic
 - ongoing support for Indigenous Ministries –
 - Pastor Michael Duckett linked with St Peter's Campbelltown in partnership with the SAIPMC
 - Mr Phil Miles linked with All Saints Nowra in partnership with the SAIPMC.
23. During 2016 funding from the Region's assets was allocated to the specific ministry in the South West growth sector.

| Ministry | Purpose | Allocation | Total |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Oran Park | Housing Support | \$16,500 | |
| Leppington | Church Plant | \$70,000 | |
| Gregory Hills | Church Plant | \$60,000 | |
| Wilton Junction | Ministry Support | \$40,000 | \$186,500 |

24. The three day Wollongong Regional Ministry Conference continues to be a "high point" in the life of the Region. This enables clergy and lay parish staff to meet together for mutual fellowship and teaching. Various guest speakers and Diocesan organisations join in the conference.

25. The Council received reports from Bishop Hayward and the Assistant to the Bishop at each meeting. For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

ROBERT WICKS
Diocesan Secretary

31 August 2017