

Questions submitted prior to the first day of the 2023 session of Synod under Standing Order 6.3(2)(a)

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev Zac Veron (Parish of Bayside) asked the following question –

1. 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.

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev Zac Veron (Parish of Bayside) asked the following question –

2.

- (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 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev David Clarke (Parish of Hoxton Park) asked the following question –

3. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev John Chappell (Parish of North Ryde) asked the following question –

4.

- (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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev Zac Veron (Parish of Bayside) asked the following question –

5.

- (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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Barker (Parish of Pymble) asked the following question –

6. I refer to the audited accounts of the Synod Amalgamated Funds and Parish Funds Amalgamated by way of example and note that Pricewaterhouse Coopers (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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

7. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

8. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

9. 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*?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

10. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

11.

- (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)?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

12. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

13. 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*

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

14. Who is the current president of the Diocesan Tribunal?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Samuel Doherty (Parish of Mosman – St Clement) asked the following question –

15. 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?

(ii) What are the boundaries of the ecclesiastical district?

(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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Lloyd (Parish of Lindfield) asked the following question –

16.

- (a) In relation to the first session of the 53rd 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 53rd 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr David Lloyd (Parish of Lindfield) asked the following question –

17. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

The Rev Hayden Smith (Parish of Glenhaven) asked the following question –

18. 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?

Question: Submitted pre-Synod

Mr Michael Doran (Parish of Canterbury with Hurlstone Park) asked the following question –

19. 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?