

## THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

### DIOCESAN COUNCIL

AUGUST 2012

### REVISING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ORDINANCE AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PROTOCOL

A draft Bill for a Professional Standards Ordinance 2012 and a draft revision of the protocols are attached to this paper.

The Bill and the Protocol have not been reviewed by the Chancellor or the Deputy Chancellor.

#### ***The Bill***

The drafting committee proposes a new ordinance to simplify the process for members of the Diocesan Council and the Synod. The draft Bill ensures continuity between 2005 Ordinance and the proposed Bill.

The definitions in the Bill reflect the definitions in the National Model Ordinance. It is crucial that Council members review the definition of information and examinable conduct in the Bill as they represent a change on the current definition and exclude harassment and assault from the Professional Standards process.

The majority of the provisions in the Draft Bill reflect the discussions at the special meeting of the Diocesan Council. A proposal for a *Directions Order* has not been included.

A new Part 8A has been introduced to reflect complaints or information about Examinable Conduct by the PSD or PSC members.

A new sub-section is introduced in section 83 allowing people to apply for a review relating to the severity of the recommendation.

#### ***The Protocol***

The draft protocol updates the current protocol and introduces matters discussed at the Special DC meeting. The drafting is incomplete but is presented to inform the Council.

#### ***Recommendations***

1. *That a committee comprising the Assistant Bishop, Archdeacon Arthur Copeman and Canon Stephen Williams be delegated with the authority of the Diocesan Council to submit a draft bill for ordinance to the next session of the Synod on behalf of the Council.*
2. *That the committee review the protocols and make a submission to the Diocesan Council at its November meeting.*
3. *That prior to making the submission to the Synod or the Diocesan Council, the committee consult with*
  - a. *The Bishop*
  - b. *The Diocesan Business Manager*
  - c. *the Chancellor and/or Deputy Chancellor*
  - d. *the Professional Standards Director.*

