OUTLINE
OF
THE STRUCTURE
OF
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
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OUTLINE OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

1. HISTORY

1.1 The Anglican Church of Australia ('ACA') has its origins in chaplaincies to the settlements of the various Australian colonies. The chaplains were clergy of the Church of England and were accountable to the Bishop of London and the governor of the colony. This changed in 1824 when Letters Patent appointed Thomas Hobbes Scott as Archdeacon of New South Wales under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta. When Scott resigned in 1829, William Grant Broughton was appointed to replace him. Subsequently, Broughton was consecrated on 14 February 1836, as Bishop of Australia. The Letters Patent directed him to: 'erect, found, make, ordain, and constitute all the Territories and Islands comprised within or dependent upon our Colonies of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and Western Australia into a Bishop's See or Diocese, to be styled the Bishopric of Australia'.

1.2 Tasmania was created a separate diocese out of the Diocese of Australia in 1842 and in 1847 the dioceses of Adelaide, Melbourne and Newcastle were established. On the creation of these three new Australian dioceses, the Diocese of Australia ceased to exist and the Bishop of Australia became the Metropolitan of Australasia and the Bishop of Sydney. The territory of the Adelaide Diocese encompassed present-day South Australia and Western Australia. The Diocese of Perth was severed from Adelaide by Letters Patent in 1857. Newcastle covered the whole of present-day northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. The Diocese of Melbourne covered the whole of present-day Victoria. Further divisions of these vast dioceses occurred over the next fifty years.

1.3 Broughton, as Metropolitan of Australasia, convened a month-long conference in Sydney, in October 1850. All the bishops of the province were in attendance: Nixon (Tasmania), Perry (Melbourne), Short (Adelaide), Tyrrell (Newcastle) and George August Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand (1841-1869). The constitutional arrangements for the colonial church, its legal status, the discipline of clergy and the ability to make local administrative decisions were matters of primary concern to the bishops.

1.4 The bishops decided to establish synods, including laity as full members, so that local rules could be made to order the common life of the Church. They agreed that the English Canons of 1604 were 'generally binding upon ourselves and the clergy of our respective dioceses. Where they cannot be literally complied with, in consequence of the altered state of circumstances since the enactment of the Canons, we are of [the] opinion that they must be, as far as possible, complied with in substance.'
In the decade following the 1850 conference, diocesan bishops in Australia had to take the initiative for local decision-making, however uncertain it was whether English ecclesiastical law applied in their own colony. Each Australian diocese worked out its own constitution to create a synod with power to regulate the life of the diocese. The Australian Colonies Act 1850 (UK) separated Victoria from New South Wales as an independent colony in 1851. Bishop Perry (Melbourne) took advantage of this new colonial structure and obtained the passage of the Church of England Act 1854 (Vic) through the Victorian legislature. This Act allowed the Church in Victoria to convene assemblies for the management of Church life. Tasmania followed suit in 1858. The three dioceses in New South Wales (Sydney, Newcastle and Goulburn) obtained similar constitutional framework legislation from the New South Wales Parliament in 1866. Leaders of the dioceses in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, as a matter of principle, proceeded by way of consensual compact because they wished to preserve separation from the State.

In 1872, Bishop Frederic Barker, as Metropolitan of Australia, convened a meeting of delegates from each diocese who agreed to form a General (National) Synod for the whole Australian colonial church. It was to meet every five years, but 'Determination' of the General Synod only became law in a diocese when adopted by the diocesan synod.

The Church of England Australia was organised on the basis that it was part of the Church of England, not merely 'in communion with', or 'in connection with', the Church of England. Thus any changes to doctrine or practice in England were to be applied in Australia, unless the local situation made the change inapplicable.

Legislation was passed in each of the States dealing with temporal affairs of the Church, including administration of trusts on which property for the purposes of the Church is held.

A new national constitution was agreed in 1961 and came into force on 1 January 1962. This created a new church, the Church of England in Australia, and severed the legal nexus with the Church of England. Each State and Territory legislature passed enabling Acts in similar but not identical terms annexing the constitution as a schedule. The wording of the covering act may affect the force of the constitution in a particular state or territory. The South Australian Act contains an 'escape clause' which allows the Diocese of Adelaide, and any diocese formed out of Adelaide, to withdraw from the constitution by resolution passed at two successive synods.

A list of the relevant legislation appears below:

**New South Wales**
- Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act, 1961, No.16

**Queensland**
- The Church of England in Australia Constitution Act of 1961
- Anglican Church of Australia Act, 1977 (change of name)
South Australia
- The Church of England in Australia Constitution Act, 1961
- Church of England in Australia Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1980
  (change of name)

Tasmania
- The Church of England Constitution Act, 1973
- Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Amendment Act, 1992
  (change of name)

Victoria
- Church of England in Australia Constitution Act, 1960
- Anglican Church of Australia Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1977
  (change of name)

Western Australia:
- Church of England in Australia Constitution Act, 1960
- Anglican Church of Australia Act, 1976 (change of name)

1.10 On 24 August 1981 the name of the Church was changed to The Anglican Church of Australia.
2. LEGAL CHARACTERISATION

2.1 Prior to 1962

The Anglican Church of Australia was initially an established church. Subsequently it became a voluntary religious organisation based on each diocese. This is described in *Wylde v Attorney-General (NSW)* (1948) 78 CLR 224; *Scandrett v Dowling* (1992) 27 NSWLR 487.

2.2 Since 1962

Since the 1961 constitution came into effect on 1 January 1962, the Church has been characterised as a national voluntary religious association as described in *Scandrett v Dowling*. 
3. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

The 1961 Constitution gives the General Synod wide plenary powers. However, General Synod canons declared to affect 'order and good government' in a diocese or the property of a diocese have no effect in a diocese until adopted by ordinance of that diocese. Resolutions of General Synod are not binding on a diocese. Under the 1961 Constitution the diocese remains the central entity of Australian Anglicanism. The key provisions of the Constitution are Sections 5, 7, 26, 30, 51 and Chapter IX.

3.1 Key Provisions

Section 5 provides for plenary power of the Church:

Subject to the Fundamental Declarations and the provisions of this chapter this Church has plenary authority and power to make canons, ordinances and rules for the order and good government of the Church, and to administer the affairs thereof. Such authority and power may be exercised by the several synods and tribunals in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 7 provides for the diocese to be the unit of organisation of the Church.

A diocese shall in accordance with the historic custom of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church continue to be the unit of organisation of this Church and shall be the see of a bishop.

1.10.1 Section 26 sets out the powers of the General Synod, including the power to make canons and rules relating to the order and good government of the Church relating to discipline:

Subject to the terms of this Constitution Synod may make canons rules and resolutions relating to the order and good government of this Church including canons in respect of ritual, ceremonial and discipline and make statements as to the faith of this Church and declare its view on any matter affecting this Church or affecting spiritual, moral or social welfare, and may take such steps as may be necessary or expedient in furtherance of union with other Christian communions.

Section 30 provides a comprehensive scheme to prevent canons that affect the order and good government of the Church in a diocese or the church trust property of a diocese from taking effect in that diocese unless that diocese adopts the canon. The section provides mechanisms for determining whether or not a canon has the relevant effect, namely:

- Deeming, where the canon affects the ritual, ceremonial or discipline of the church (sub-section (a));
- If the General Synod declares the canon to have the relevant effect (sub-section (b));
• If the General Synod does not make such a declaration but a diocese notifies its opinion that the canon has the relevant effect and:
  • The General Synod Standing Committee agrees with that opinion (sub-section (c)(i)(ii));
  • The Appellate Tribunal determines that the canon has the relevant affect (sub-section (c)(iii));
  • A diocesan synod may by ordinance exclude a canon which it has previously adopted (sub-section (d)).

The text of Section 30 follows:

Subject to the preceding section and unless the canon itself otherwise provides, a canon duly passed by General Synod shall come into force on and from a date appointed by the President, being not later than one calendar month from the date upon which the canon was passed. The canon as on and from the appointed date shall apply to every diocese of this Church and any ordinance of any diocesan synod inconsistent with the canon shall to the extent of the inconsistency have no effect.

Provided that:-

(a) Any canon affecting the ritual, ceremonial or discipline of this Church shall be deemed to affect the order and good government of the Church within a diocese, and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the said canon.

(b) If General Synod declares that the provisions of any other canon affect the order and good government of the Church within, or the church trust property of a diocese, such canon shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the said canon.

(c) If General Synod should not so declare the synod of a diocese or the diocesan council may declare its opinion that the provisions of the said canon affect the order and good government of the Church within or the church trust property of such diocese and notify the President within one month thereafter and then the following provisions shall apply:-

(i) If the said diocesan synod or council declare its opinion as aforesaid within a period of two years from the date of the passing of the said canon and the Standing Committee advises the President that it agrees with the said opinion the canon shall not and shall be deemed not to have
come into force in such diocese unless and until it is adopted by ordinance of the diocesan synod;

(ii) If the said diocesan synod or council declare its opinion at any time after the expiration of the said period of two years and the Standing Committee advises the President that it agrees with the said opinion the said canon shall cease to apply to the said diocese as from the date of the said declaration and shall not after such date again come into force in such diocese unless and until it is adopted by ordinance of the diocesan synod;

(iii) If the Standing Committee in either case should not so advise the President he shall refer the question raised by the said opinion to the Appellate Tribunal for its determination and unless the Appellate Tribunal determines the question in the negative the canon shall be deemed not to have come into force in the said diocese in the first case or to have force or effect in the said diocese after the date of the said declaration in the second case until the diocesan synod by ordinance adopts the said canon.

(d) Any canon adopted as aforesaid by a diocesan synod may by ordinance be excluded at a subsequent date.

(e) This section shall not apply and shall be deemed never to have applied to a canon to alter this Constitution.

Section 51 empowers diocesan synods to make ordinances for the order and good government of the Church within the diocese:

Subject to this Constitution a diocesan synod may make ordinances for the order and good government of this Church within the diocese, in accordance with the powers in that behalf conferred upon it by the constitution of such diocese.
Chapter IX (sections 53 to 63) provides for the establishment of the following tribunals:

- Diocesan tribunals to deal with disciplinary matters;
- Provincial tribunals to hear and determine appeals from diocesan tribunals and original jurisdiction as prescribed by diocesan synods;
- The Special Tribunal to deal with disciplinary matters relating to diocesan bishops or bishops assistant to the Primate in his capacity as Primate;
- The Appellate Tribunal to hear and determine appeals from diocesan and provincial tribunals and the Special Tribunal and to determine or express an opinion on questions arising under the Constitution.

3.2 Membership of General Synod and Frequency of Sessions

Chapter IV of the Constitution governs the composition and procedure of the General Synod.

The General Synod is comprised of three Houses:

- The House of Bishops, comprised of Diocesan Bishops.
- The House of Clergy, comprised of ordained priests, including Assistant Bishops.
- The House of Laity, comprised of lay Anglicans.

The numbers of clergy and lay members is determined pursuant to a formula which is appended to the Constitution. Each diocese governs by ordinance the method of electing its clerical and lay representatives to the General Synod.

Section 17(a) of the Constitution provides for clerical and lay representative members from amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglicans to be members of the General Synod.

The most recent session of the General Synod, the fifteenth, comprised 23 Diocesan Bishops, about 115 clergy members and about 115 lay members.

Section 23 of the Constitution allows for ordinary sessions of the Synod to be held at intervals not exceeding four years and for special sessions of the Synod to be convened if necessary.

In practice, the General Synod has convened at three yearly intervals since 1985.

3.3 General Synod Standing Committee

Every ordinary session of the General Synod appoints a Standing Committee which continues in office until the appointment of their successors.

The Standing Committee is governed by Rule II.
The Standing Committee is comprised of:

- The Primate, who shall be the President;
- The Metropolitans of the Provinces including any bishop exercising the authorities, powers, rights and duties of a Metropolitan as provided in the Constitution;
- The Chairman of Committees for the time being of the Synod;
- The Secretaries for the time being of the Synod;
- Three Bishops to be elected by the House of Bishops;
- Nine members of the House of Clergy to be elected by the House of Clergy;
- Nine members of the House of Laity to be elected by the House of Laity;
- Two persons nominated by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, being one Aboriginal person and one Torres Strait Islander person, who are members of Synod;
- The General Secretary for the time being of the Synod.

The Primate calls meetings of the Standing Committee. In practice, the Standing Committee meets in May and November over three days on each occasion.

The duties and powers of the Standing Committee are set out in sections 5 and 6 respectively of Rule II:

5. *It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee:-*

(a) To act as advisers to the Primate in all such matters as he may refer to them arising out of the rules and canons of Synod or affecting the general welfare of the Anglican Church of Australia.

(b) To make arrangements for the sessions of the Synod, and to prepare the business to be brought before the Synod.

(c) To propose such business as may appear to the Committee to be necessary or desirable to be brought before the Synod.

(d) To print a report of the proceedings of the Synod from time to time, and all documents ordered by the Synod to be printed.

(e) To apportion among the dioceses on an equitable basis the necessary working expenses of the Synod and of the Standing Committee and other expenses specially authorised by the Synod; to collect such apportionments, and therewith to defray the expenses aforesaid.

(f) To make elections to vacant offices as the Synod shall from time to time determine.

(g) To consider and report upon any matter which the Synod may from time to time refer to it and to carry out or assist in carrying out the resolutions passed by the Synod.
(h) To communicate the canons of the Synod to the dioceses, and conduct such correspondence as may be necessary for the forwarding of the work of the Synod.

(i) To procure and have in custody all requisite documents and funds in connection with the proceedings of the Synod.

(j) To consider such matters as by the Constitution it is directed to consider and to advise the President of Synod thereon.

(k) By resolution to request the Primate to convene a special session of Synod under Sec. 23b of the Constitution.

(l) To attend to all such other business as the Synod may from time to time refer to it.

(m) To present a report of its proceedings including an audited statement of receipts and expenditure to the Synod at every ordinary session thereof and an interim report of its proceedings annually to all members of Synod through the diocesan bishops.

(n) To invest and deal with the moneys of the General Synod not immediately required in such manner as the Standing Committee may from time to time determine.

6. The Standing Committee is hereby authorised:

(a) To appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer who need not be members of the Committee and an Auditor who shall not be a member of the Committee.

(b) To delegate any portion of its powers and duties to committees with obligation to report to the Standing Committee, but the powers so delegated shall be strictly defined and be revocable by the Standing Committee at pleasure.

(c) To deliberate and confer upon all matters affecting the interests of the Anglican Church of Australia and cognisable by the Synod.

(d) To communicate with the civil powers and all such bodies and persons as it shall consider necessary, to present petitions and addresses to all such bodies and persons, and take such action with reference to national issues and public functions as it should consider desirable, to confer with or co-operate with other Christian bodies on such subjects and at such times as it may think fit - provided that any such action taken by the Standing Committee under this sub-section and not previously sanctioned by the
Synod shall be reported to the Synod at its next meeting.

(e) To obtain such expert opinion as it may seem desirable upon the legal and constitutional validity of rules and canons made by or proposed to be brought before the Synod.

In summary, the Standing Committee makes arrangements for sessions of the General Synod and conducts the business of the General Synod between sessions.

3.4 Executive Committee of the General Synod Standing Committee

At its first meeting after a session of the General Synod, the Standing Committee elects an Executive Committee comprised of:

- The Primate as Chair (ex officio);
- The General Secretary (ex officio);
- The Treasurer (ex officio);
- 6 members of the Standing Committee of whom there shall be at least:
  - 2 with finance qualifications or experience
  - 1 member of the House of Bishops
  - 1 member of the House of Clergy
  - 1 member of the House of Laity

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are as follows:

1. The Executive Committee will deal with such matters as are referred to it by the Standing Committee for advice or action.

2. In addition the Executive Committee shall:
   a. Review and approve a draft budget each year for recommendation to the Standing Committee.
   b. Have authority to approve up to $30,000 expenditure.
   c. Receive monthly finance reports and present a financial report to the Standing Committee.

The Executive Committee meets for a day at least twice a year about six weeks before a meeting of the Standing Committee. Occasionally, additional meetings are held.

3.5 The Primate

The Primate Canon, 1985 regulates the election of the Primate. Briefly, the Canon provides for a Board of Electors which consists of:

- all members of the House of Bishops
- 12 members of the clergy
- 12 members of the laity.
The Canon provides for reserves to be appointed if members of the House of Clergy or the House of Laity are unable to attend a meeting of the Board.

All Diocesan Bishops are automatically candidates for election, unless they have attained the age of 70 years.

The Primate’s term of office is six years, renewable for a further three years.

The office of Primate becomes vacant upon:

- termination of the period for which the person has been elected;
- resignation;
- the Synod passing a resolution declaring the position to be vacant;
- the incumbent is seen to be an ineligible bishop;
- the incumbent attaining the age of 70 years.

The Primate’s formal functions are limited to:

- convening sessions of the General Synod, meetings of the General Synod Standing Committee, meetings of the Executive Committee of the Standing Committee, meetings of the Primate Election Board and meetings of the Bishops;
- appointing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the General Synod on the recommendation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council;
- presiding at sessions of the General Synod;
- exercising a casting vote in elections to various offices in the Church under Rule III;
- chairing the General Synod Standing Committee;
- chairing the Executive Committee of the Standing Committee;
- chairing meetings of the Bishops;
- appointing the Bishop to the Defence Force;
- passing sentence on the recommendation of the Special Tribunal;
- appointing Chairs and members of Expert Reference Commissions and Task Forces on the recommendation of the General Synod Standing Committee pursuant to the *Strategic Issues, Commission, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998*;
- functions in relation to the revocation of relinquishment or deposition from holy orders under the *Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon, 2004*;
- membership of Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Limited;
- attendance at meetings of the Primates of the member churches of the Anglican Communion;
- membership of the Heads of Churches meeting and the Executive of the National Council of Churches in Australia;
- presidency of the Australian College of Theology Limited; and
- numerous other formal positions as chairman or president.

The Primate does not have extensive executive powers, nor does he have the power to intervene in the governance or management of a diocese.
3.6 The General Secretary

The administration of the affairs of the General Synod is carried out by the General Secretary and the staff of the General Synod Office. Currently, the General Synod Office has five full-time staff including the General Secretary and four part-time staff. The National Register Officer, a part-time member of staff administers the National Register and provides administrative assistance to the Episcopal Standards Commission. The General Secretary has limited powers in relation to the administration of the General Synod and its bodies and has no power to intervene in the governance or management of the dioceses or their agencies or in the affairs of parachurch organisations.

3.7 Committees, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks

VI of the Constitution empowers the General Synod to establish committees, boards and commissions as may be required for the purposes of the Constitution.

3.7.1 Committees

The Standing Committee is one of these committees.

The Standing Committee appoints:

- The Executive Committee of Standing Committee
- The Audit Committee
- Legal Assistance Committee (to determine applications for legal assistance under The Special Tribunal Canon 2007).

The Standing Committee has also established the Dioceses and Financial Advisory Group to assist dioceses with financial management and reporting. "Ad hoc" working groups are established from time to time.

The General Synod has established the following bodies by Canon:

- Anglican Board of Mission – Australia
- Australian College of Theology Ltd
- Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd
- The Defence Force Board
- Long Service Leave Fund Board
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council
- National Home Mission Fund (also known as Australian Outback Fund)

The General Synod has an interest in Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd which publishes hymnody.

3.7.2 Commissions

The General Synod has passed the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon, 1998 pursuant to which the following Commissions have been established:
A. The Doctrine Commission

The functions of the Doctrine Commission are:

(a) to examine questions of doctrine, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee, and
(b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters of doctrine which are of importance to this church (Section 9).

B. The Ministry Commission

The functions of the Ministry Commission are:

(a) to examine questions of mission in this church on all matters dealing with the competency of ordained and authorised lay ministry, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and to the Standing Committee, and
(b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters of mission and ministry which are of importance to this church (Section 10).

C. The Liturgy Commission

The functions of the Liturgy Commission are:

(a) To examine questions of liturgy referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee.
(b) To advise the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, on matters relating to the creative nurture and renewal of the liturgical life of this church (Section 11).

D. The Church Law Commission;

The functions of the Church Law Commission are:

(a) to examine questions of Church law referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee.
(b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters of church law which are of importance to this church (Section 12).

E. The Professional Standards Commission

The functions of the Professional Standards Commission are:

(a) to examine questions of professional standards, safe ministry practices and training, and care and support for ordained and authorised lay ministry, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee;
(b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters relating to professional standards, safe ministry practices and training, and care and support for ordained and authorised lay ministry (Section 12A).
F. The Public Affairs Commission

The following Terms of Reference for the Commission were adopted at the November 2002 meeting of Standing Committee:

(a) to develop a process to assist people engage with public affairs;
(b) to respond, within its capacity, to aspects of public affairs. These aspects may be referred to the Commission or initiated by the Commission; and
(c) to report to General Synod.

The Chair and members of the Commissions are appointed by the Primate on the recommendation of the Standing Committee. Members of the Commission have expertise in matters central to the commission’s work.

3.7.3 Task Forces

Task forces established under the "Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon" are currently:

- Fresh Expressions Australia Task Force
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministry Task Force
- Episcopal Ministry Task Force
- Financial Principles and Policies Task Force
- National Unity Task Force
- Viability of Structures Task Force

It is anticipated that all these task forces other than Fresh Expressions Australia will have completed their work by 16th Session of the General Synod.

3.7.4 Networks

Networks are organisations of individuals or bodies within the Church who share common ministry or professional interests. Current networks are:

- Anglican Schools Australia
- Anglicare Australia
- Archivists
- Australian Anglican Diaconal Association
- Australian Anglican Women’s Network
- Catechumenate
- Cathedral Deans
- Children’s & Youth Network
- Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Incorporated
- Professional Standards Directors
- Registrars
4. DIOCESES OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

There are 23 dioceses in the Anglican Church of Australia.

These dioceses vary considerably in a number of respects:

- in geographical and numerical size;
- in resources available to them;
- constitutionally;
- in arrangements for management of their affairs;
- in theological and ecclesiological outlook;
- in expectations of and support for the General Synod and its various bodies and activities.

Some dioceses are incorporated. Others are unincorporated associations.

Some dioceses operate under a consensual compact while others are constituted by state legislation. The Diocese of the Northern Territory was established as a Missionary Diocese by a canon of the General Synod but is no longer a Missionary Diocese.

All dioceses have:

- a diocesan bishop
- a synod
- a diocesan council (or standing committee)
- parishes
- a diocesan tribunal to deal with offences
- a body to deal with questions of fitness for office.

Some dioceses have:

- assistant bishops
- one or more welfare agencies operating within their boundaries
- one or more schools operating within their boundaries
- parachurch organisations operating in conjunction with or outside of parishes.

All diocesan synods pass laws (known as ordinances, acts or canons) to regulate their affairs. Usually, unlike General Synod legislation, there is no mechanism for, say, parishes to decline to adopt diocesan legislation. Whether or not diocesan legislation is legally binding depends on its character. Legislation relating to property is usually binding.

Diocesan legislation comes into force only when the bishop assents to it.

Subject to the 1961 Constitution referred to above, the dioceses are autonomous. No other body or person in the Church has power to intervene in the governance or management of a diocese.
4.1 Diocesan Bishops

4.1.1 Appointment

The method of appointing diocesan bishops varies from diocese to diocese. There are two principal models. Under the first model the bishop is elected by the diocesan synod. That synod may be served by a nomination committee elected by the synod. The second model provides for a committee or board elected by the diocesan synod to appoint the diocesan bishop. There are various mechanisms for dealing with deadlocks in the appointment process.

4.1.2 Tenure of Diocesan Bishops

Usually diocesan bishops retire at the age of sixty-five or seventy. Most dioceses provide for the office of diocesan bishop to become vacant upon physical or mental unfitness, bankruptcy, conviction for a relevant offence.

Some dioceses have provisions to extend the bishop's tenure.

4.1.3 Powers and Duties of Diocesan Bishops

Diocesan bishops exercise the primary leadership role in a diocese. That leadership is exercised both pastorally and temporally. The temporal leadership is usually defined in various ordinances of the diocese or constitutions of diocesan bodies. The diocesan bishop's functions include:

- chairing meetings of the Synod, the diocesan council and various other diocesan bodies;
- licensing clergy and laity to minister in parishes, as chaplains or in other roles;
- appointing persons to membership of various diocesan bodies;
- implementing recommendations of disciplinary bodies; and
- approval of liturgy.

Diocesan bishops may withhold their assent to diocesan legislation.
5. **PARISHES**

Dioceses are comprised of parishes in numbers ranging from the low twenties to the high two hundreds.

Traditionally, parishes are defined geographically. However, in the last decade or so, dioceses have introduced the concept of congregations centring on special interests or established outside of traditional structures in order to reach out and minister to people not attracted to the traditional parish model.

A parish is traditionally organised in a manner paralleling a diocese, usually having:

- a priest (also known as a vicar, minister, pastor, senior pastor, presbyter or incumbent)
- churchwardens (also known as wardens)
- a parish council.

Many parishes also employ staff such as:

- curates (also known as an assistant ministers or assistant pastors etc);
- pastors or workers engaged to minister to particular community sectors such as women’s pastors, youth workers etc; and
- clerical staff.

### 5.1 Parish Clergy

The traditional view at law is that parish clergy are holders of an office appointed by the diocesan bishop, not employees of either the diocesan bishop, the diocese or a parish.

The processes for appointing parish clergy vary from diocese to diocese but they may be described broadly as follows. The diocese and the parish appoint representatives to a board or committee to identify appropriate candidates. Agreed candidates are submitted to the diocesan bishop for approval. The diocesan bishop causes a request to be made for a report from the National Register to determine whether the National Register holds any information concerning sexual misconduct or child abuse relevant to the appointment. If the diocesan bishop approves the appointment, they issue a license to the appointee to minister in the relevant parish. The duration of the appointment is not usually specified and, in some dioceses, the licence is expressed to be terminable by the diocesan bishop either at will or on giving a specified period of notice.

Diocesan ordinances regulate the duties, powers and disciplinary regime applicable to parish clergy.

Typically, the powers of parish clergy include:

- overall leadership of the parish and responsibility for the spiritual health and pastoral care of parishioners;
- conduct and control of divine service;
- appointment of staff, with the concurrence of the churchwardens and/or parish council and the diocesan bishop;
- appointment of persons to ministries conducted within the parish; and
- appointment of one churchwarden and one or more parish councillors.
5.2 Churchwardens

The usual role of churchwardens includes responsibility for parish property, administration of finances and reporting to the diocesan bishop for any deviations from authorised liturgy.

Churchwardens often have informal roles as the parish priest's confidants.

There are usually three churchwardens, one appointed by the parish priest and two elected by parishioners.

Churchwardens are also members of the parish council.

Churchwardens' tenure is usually from one annual general meeting to the next.

5.3 Parish Council

The parish council commonly has at least a consultative role but may also have a deliberative role in relation to spiritual and temporal matters within a parish. This varies from diocese to diocese.

The number of parish councillors may vary but the usual pattern is for the parish priest to appoint one member for every two elected by the parishioners.

Parish councillors' tenure is usually from one annual general meeting to the next.

5.4 Parish Staff

Staff are appointed by the parish priest, usually with the approval of the parish council and the diocesan bishop. Terms of employment are usually agreed at least by the churchwardens if not also the parish council.

5.5 Parish Activities

Parishes conduct a wide variety of activities reflecting their composition and the demography of their locality. A parish typically conducts the following kinds of activities:

- Divine service. Some services might be designated "youth" services.
- Pastoral ministry, primarily spiritual counselling.
- Bible studies, usually held in parishioners' homes on weekdays.
- Youth ministry:
- Youth groups meeting on weekdays or weeknights or on late Sunday afternoon.
- Youth camps, probably conducted by a diocesan youth ministry organisation.
- Children's ministry such as crèches and Sunday Schools.
- Youth clubs such as CEBS (formerly known as Church of England Boys' Society) and GFS (formerly known as Girls' Friendly Society).
- Children's and Youth holiday clubs.
- Community outreach and welfare activities.
- Evangelism.
6. PROVINCES OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

1.11 The Diocese of Australia was founded in 1836 and the Diocese of Tasmania separated in 1842. The Diocese of Australia ceased to exist in 1847 on the creation of the dioceses of Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Newcastle.

1.12 Thereafter, grouping of dioceses into Provinces tended to follow colonial boundaries except that the Northern Territory is part of the Province of Queensland.

At least 3 contiguous dioceses are required to form a province. Each Province has a Synod whose members are representatives of the dioceses comprising the province, elected or appointed according to the rules of that diocese. The powers of provincial synods are limited. Provincial synods do not meet as frequently as diocesan synods. The diocesan bishop of the senior diocese of a province presides over the provincial synod.

The senior diocese of each Province is located in a mainland capital city. The diocesan bishop of a senior diocese is known as Archbishop of that diocese and Metropolitan of the relevant Province.

1.13 The present distribution of dioceses is:

**Province of Queensland:** Brisbane (1859), Rockhampton (1892), North Queensland (1878), Northern Territory (1968).

**Province of New South Wales:** Sydney (1847), Newcastle (1847), Goulburn (1863) & Canberra (1949), Armidale (1867), Bathurst (1870), Riverina (1888), Grafton (1914)

**Province of Victoria:** Melbourne (1847), Ballarat (1875), Bendigo (1902), Gippsland (1902) Wangaratta (1902)

**Province of South Australia:** Adelaide (1847), Willochra (1915), The Murray (1970)

**Province of Western Australia:** Perth (1857), Bunbury (1904), North West Australia (1910)

**Extra Provincial:** Tasmania (1842)

1.14 Notes

Carpentaria (1900) was absorbed into North Queensland in 1996. St Arnaud (1926) was absorbed into Bendigo in 1976. Kalgoorlie (1914) was absorbed into Perth in 1973.

Within the worldwide Anglican communion, the Anglican Church of Australia is known as the Province of Australia.

A map showing the provinces and dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia is attached (Appendix 3).
7. DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY

The Anglican Church of Australia provides chaplains to the Australian Defence Force.

*Defence Force Ministry Canon 1985* provides for the Primate, with the approval of a majority of Metropolitans and the Defence Force Board, to appoint a Bishop to the Defence Force.

7.1 Bishop to the Defence Force

The Bishop to the Defence Force is a bishop assistant to the Primate.

The role of the Bishop to the Defence Force is to be responsible to the Primate for the episcopal oversight of chaplains serving in the Defence Force and the Church’s ministry to Defence Force personnel and their families.

The term of office of the Bishop to the Defence Force expires on resignation or attaining the age of sixty-five years.

The stipend of the Bishop to the Defence Force is paid by the Commonwealth Government.

7.2 Defence Force Chaplains

The Defence Force appoints and pays the stipends of the Defence Force Chaplains and the Bishop.

The Primate licenses Defence Force Chaplains on the recommendation of the Bishop to the Defence Force or he delegates that function to the Bishop to the Defence Force.

The stipends of the Defence Force Chaplains are paid by the Commonwealth Government.

7.3 Defence Force Board

The Defence Force Board Canon 1985 establishes a Defence Force Board, the successor to the Armed Services Board established in 1996.

The Board comprises:

- The Bishop to the Defence Force as Chair
- Three members of the clergy, at least one of whom has experience as a chaplain
- Three lay persons.

The clergy and lay members of the Board are elected by the House of Clergy and the House of Laity respectively at a session of the General Synod.

The Defence Force Board's functions are primarily to act as a resource to the Primate, the bishops, the synod and the General Synod Standing Committee on all matters concerned with ministry of the Church to Defence Force personnel and their families and to administer funds allocated to it by the General Synod.
7.4 Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Incorporated

Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Incorporated is a incorporated association operating since 2011. DFACI's objects include, most relevantly, to be the professional Association for those delivering the mission of the Church to the Defence Force personnel and their families (clause 3(b)). Pursuant to that object, the Association has promulgated a code of practice to which members must adhere.

7.5 Ministries of Defence Force Chaplains

There are currently 40 full-time Anglican Defence Force chaplains.

The chaplains are either stationed in Defence Force establishments or on deployment.

Defence Force chaplains' ministries include pastoral care and counselling of Defence personnel; chapel familiarisation; chapel services; character guidance classes; family pastoral counselling; pastoral services such as baptism, confirmations, weddings and funerals; Sunday schools, scripture in schools and Confirmation classes.

To go to the Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy website, click here www.defenceanglicans.org.au
8. MISSION AGENCIES

The three major missionary societies associated with the Anglican Church of Australia are Anglican Board of Mission-Australia Limited, the Bush Church Aid Society of Australia and the Church Missionary Society.

8.1 Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Limited

ABM is a corporation limited by guarantee.

ABM is effectively owned by the Anglican Church of Australia. The company has two members – one being the Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation and the other being the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia. ABM was incorporated with the consent of General Synod under the Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Canon 2001 which authorises General Synod Standing Committee to do those things required of it in the ABM Constitution.

ABM’s objects include leading, encouraging and serving the Church in Christ’s mission in the world by:

(i) Educating and stimulating the Church in the responsibility of mission;
(ii) Recruiting, training and supporting persons to serve in churches of the Anglican Communion;
(iii) Engaging in and providing assistance to activities such as would foster evangelism and church growth within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Australia and member Churches of the Anglican Communion;
(iv) Engaging in and providing assistance to sustainable development activities, activities for the relief and eradication of poverty, and emergency relief operated under ecumenical auspices or in churches of the Anglican Communion or in partnership with such churches;
(v) Engaging in and providing assistance to ecumenical and other activities relevant to the objectives of the Company.

The General Synod Standing Committee appoints six directors, one from each Province of the Church and one from the Diocese of Tasmania. The directors so appointed may appoint an additional four directors. The Associates elect one director. The directors appoint an Executive Director.

The company reports to every ordinary session of the General Synod of the Church and to the Standing Committee in years when an ordinary session of the General Synod is not convened.

ABM has provided personnel, namely missionaries, for ministry as, for example, teachers, parish clergy and medical staff, and support for institutions which delivered such ministry, such as schools, parishes and medical facilities. Ordained personnel are usually licensed by the Bishop of the diocese in which they work and are subject to diocesan policies.

To go to the Anglican Board of Mission – Australia Ltd website, click here Anglican Board of Mission - Australia

8.2 The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia was formed in 1919 and was incorporated in 1939.
The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia is a voluntary mission society that works in association with the Anglican Church of Australia and the various Anglican Dioceses to provide clergy and other Christian workers to remote, regional and rural communities in Australia. These clergy are known as BCA Field Staff.

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia is a company limited by guarantee. Its objects which may be summarised as providing ministry and a wide range of practical help to persons in sparsely settled areas of Australia.

The membership comprises persons who demonstrate practical commitment to the Society.

The Council consists of five officers (President, Vice-President, Chair, National Director and Honorary Treasurer) and twenty other Ordinary Councillors elected by the members. Sixteen Ordinary Councillors are allocated from various states and four others with no residency requirement.

To go to the Bush Church Aid Society of Australia, click here The Bush Church Aid Society

8.3 Church Missionary Society

CMS-Australia is an Australian public company limited by guarantee established under the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth). It is the coordinating body for the state branches who are a mix of corporations limited by guarantee and incorporate or associations.

The Church Missionary Society is a voluntary society whose membership is comprised principally of members of the Anglican Church of Australia and, as such, is not under the authority of the General Synod. Its ethos and theological base is that of the Anglican Church; it has no other doctrinal statements. It is based upon those evangelical and protestant principles of the Church Missionary Society of the United Kingdom from its foundation.

Each branch has its own constitution but for the purposes of consistency all branches have adopted the same Principles and Objects as contained in the CMS-Australia constitution.

CMS policy for many years has been that missionaries of the Society serve under the authority of the local church or institution in which they work. Therefore CMS has no structures overseas. In several countries CMS was responsible for starting what became Anglican Dioceses and Provinces and missionaries worked within these.

To go to the Church Missionary Society Australia website, click here CMS Australia
9. ANGLICAN WELFARE AGENCIES

Anglican Welfare Agencies deliver a wide range of services to care for the welfare of families and individuals. Most incorporate “Anglicare” into their names. Many agencies deliver programs in partnership with Government.

There is a plethora of legal forms of organisation for Anglican Welfare Agencies. Most operate as a company limited by guarantee or incorporated association, whereas some are simply part of the Diocese (notably Anglicare Sydney and Anglicare Southern Queensland). However those that are independent still often have a place reserved for the Bishop as visitor or an identified seat(s) on the board for Diocesan or parish nominees. Each independent agency has an individual constitution.

Anglicare Australia is a network of welfare agencies established under the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998. Part of Anglicare’s role is to advocate for clients of its members’ services, primarily to government.

There is a total of 39 members of Anglicare Australia.

Two of these members operate nationally, in every province.

To go to the Anglicare Australia website, click here Home – Anglicare in every community.
10. ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

There are 147 Anglican schools in Australia.

Governance arrangements for each school are varied. Anglican Schools have a relationship with their dioceses. Some are members of their diocesan schools commission or come under some diocesan control. For many the relationship lies in the diocese having the right to nominate or approve some appointments to the governing body, or in having ex officio clergy members on the schools' governing bodies. The principal may be appointed by the diocese, or nominated by the governing body for the approval of the bishop or bishop in council, or be appointed by the governing body. The Chair of the governing body may be elected by the governing body or by the bishop or bishop in council or as a nomination of the governing body to the diocese or schools commission for approval.

Some dioceses have Schools Commissions which own and manage schools. In general the diocese through the bishop or bishop in council approves the constitution of the commission and appoints some of the members of the commission and the commission reports annually to the diocesan synod.

In general Anglican Schools would also be members of the relevant state independent schools body. The state independent schools bodies federally come together as the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) but, as education is administered by states, it is the state bodies which have a role to play in advising on matters which might include administering child protection policies and procedures. The state independent schools bodies do not have any mandating role.

Teacher registration is managed by the States. There is a body ATRA (Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities) which was established to facilitate cooperation and collaboration across the Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions in the regulation of the teaching profession.

A table showing the total number of Anglican schools, the numbers directly controlled by dioceses, controlled by a diocesan schools commission or which are independent and the legal characterisation of those which are not independent is attached. To view a list, click here List of Australian Anglican Schools.

Anglican Schools Australia (ASA) is a network of Anglican schools established under the Strategic Issues, Commission, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998 and organises itself on a provincial basis. Under the ASA constitution all Anglican Schools are automatically members of ASA but only those who pay the levy are deemed the financial members. ASA's member schools are listed below by province:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASA provides a national forum for Anglican schools and it engages with external bodies on matters which affect the Church's mission through Anglican Schools. It does not have a governance role with its member schools, nor does it have authority to make requirements of the members.

To go the Anglican Schools Australia, click here Australian Anglican Schools.
11. PARACHURCH ORGANISATIONS

A number of parachurch organisations are associated with the Church. CEBS, GFS and the Mothers' Union tend to mirror the structure of the Church in that there are local branches in parishes and/or dioceses with a national council. Although these parachurch organisations support the Church and are supported by the Church, they are independent.

11.1 CEBS – The Anglican Boys’ Society (Australia) Incorporated

The name CEBS derives from Church of England Boys’ Society.

The aims of CEBS Australia are to nurture the spiritual development of boys to maturity and encourage their lifelong involvement in the Church. CEBS branches are based in parishes. Branches are governed within the framework of the Constitution of the Society for the particular diocese in which the branch is located. In each diocese CEBS has its own Diocesan Council. The dioceses, in turn, are governed within the framework of the Society for the relevant state of Australia. Each State Council is responsible for the administration and pastoral oversight of branches within the State which are not governed by a Diocesan Council.

There is a national council called the Australian Council of the Society. The Australian Council consists of the following persons:

- A President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Two representatives of each State Council and each Diocesan Council of the Society.

The affairs of the Society between council meetings are administered by an Executive Committee comprising the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Australian Council’s authority is limited to:

- administering the affairs of the Society on a national level
- deciding matters of a national character
- interpreting the Constitution.

In many respects, the activities of CEBS are similar to those of scouting movement with a spiritual foundation.

To go to the CEBS website, click here Australian CEBS Home Page

11.2 GFS Australia Inc.

GFS Australia Inc. is an incorporated association which previously operated as a company limited by guarantee until April 2013.

GFS is an organisation within the Anglican Church operating at a parish level providing weekly (or fortnightly) school term sessions to children starting from 4 or 5 years of age and continuing through to adult years. In the course of their activities they have met in larger groups (several parish groups, diocesan, state or national) for camps over weekends, or longer. The organising committees are diocesan based with some state based committees (NSW and Victoria) and we also have a national executive committee.
The national body is governed by a National Executive comprised of its officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and no more than three Ordinary Members, each of whom are elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

Each GFS within a diocese is governed by its own constitution and follows the directions of its relevant diocese. Each GFS reports to its diocese.

GFS has operated as a provider of parish based or school based groups mainly to girls but in some dioceses it operates under the name of Kidsplus, Kidslink which include boys within their groups.

The Townsend groups are a ministry of GFS to adults operating in many dioceses. They have succeeded children’s groups which no longer operate.

GFS currently has children’s and adult ministry groups in Perth*, South Australia, Melbourne*, Ballarat, Gippsland*, Wangaratta, Bendigo, Sydney*, Tasmania, Newcastle, Grafton, Brisbane*, Rockhampton*, North Queensland*. (Dioceses marked * are currently operating children’s groups but all would have been operating with children’s groups at some stage in their history).

To go to the GFS website, click here GFS Australia - Welcome to GFS Australia On-line

11.3 The Australian Council for the Mission to Seafarers Inc.

The Australian Council for the Mission to Seafarers Inc. oversees, supports and encourages the work of all Mission to Seafarers centres located around the Australian continent.

The Council is guided by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Australia. It seeks to promote throughout its Australian seafaring centres an atmosphere of family and a sense of service and solidarity in its maritime ministry.

The centres minister to seafarers and their families.

The biennial national conference of representatives from the centres elects six of their colleagues to sit on the Council on a voluntary basis.

The Council employs a full-time National Coordinator to carry out the executive work of the Council.

To go to the Australian Council for the Mission to Seafarers Inc., website, click here The Mission to Seafarers - Australia - Council

11.4 The Church Army in Australia

The Church Army was formed in Australia in 1932 for the purpose of identifying, equipping, sending and supporting evangelists. It works in partnership with churches and organisations to reach people who do not normally have meaningful contact with the church.

Many Church Army evangelists work in Anglican parishes.

To go to the Church Army in Australia website, click here Church Army in Australia
11.5 The Council of the Mothers' Union in Australia Incorporated

The Council of the Mothers' Union in Australia Incorporated is a part of the Worldwide Mothers' Union.

The governing body for Australia is the Australian Council which meets once every eighteen months and consists of a total of 40 members:

The Executive Committee
- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two Vice Presidents
- Immediate Past President
- Heads of Departments –
  - Caritas and Promotion & Development
  - Education, Mia Mia,
  - Overseas and Northern Outreach,
  - Prayer and Spirituality,
  - Publication,
  - Social Responsibility

Diocesan Presidents
- From the 22 Dioceses
- President of the Northern Territory branch

Life Vice Presidents
- No more than four.

The working body is the Australian Executive Committee which meets once in every year, and runs the organisation between meetings of the Australian Council.

The primary purpose of Mothers' Union Australia is summarised in its Mission Statement: Sharing Christ’s love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.

The names of the different departments listed in the membership of the Executive above suggest the nature of the Mothers’ Union's activities.

To go to the Council of the Mothers' Union Australia website, click here Home - Mothers Union - Australia
12. PERSONS UNDERTAKING MINISTRY WITHIN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

12.1 Clergy

There are three orders of clergy: Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

Bishops are the spiritual leaders of dioceses. They are officeholders, not employees.

Priests who are licensed as incumbents in parishes are also officeholders.

Priests may be appointed as assistant priests in parishes or may occupy administrative positions in diocesan organisations. Even though they may hold licenses from their Diocesan Bishops, they may be employees.

Deacons are the first stage of ordained ministry. In most dioceses they are ordained as priests within a year or two of ordination as deacons. In some dioceses there is a permanent diaconate, that is, deacons who do not become incumbents of parishes remain as deacons.

12.2 Lay Persons

Some parishes and church organisations employ lay persons, usually as youth workers or pastoral workers. Many of these are licensed to their ministries by diocesan bishops.

Most lay ministry in churches is conducted by volunteers. This includes teaching Sunday School, leading in youth groups, reading services, reading the Scriptures and praying in services, community outreach work and pastoral work.

12.3 Ordination and Licenses

A person may be consecrated as a bishop or ordained as a priest or a deacon but may not function in those capacities unless licensed by the diocesan bishop. This is similar to professions such as lawyers who may be qualified to practise but may not do so unless authorised by a professional body.
13. DISCIPLINE

13.1 Diocesan Bishops

The disciplinary process for diocesan bishops is complex.

The Special Tribunal Canon establishes the Episcopal Standards Commission whose function is to investigate complaints against bishops and to determine whether the conduct complained of constitutes an offence or conduct suggesting unfitness for office. If *prima facie* an offence has been committed, the Commission may promote a charge in the Special Tribunal unless the relevant diocese has by ordinance excluded the Commission’s power.

If the complaint is of conduct which does not warrant a charge but nevertheless suggests unfitness for office, the Commission may only investigate that complaint if the relevant diocese has adopted the Episcopal Standards Canon. If an investigation warrants, the Commission may refer the complaint to the Episcopal Standards Board.

On finding that an offence has been committed, the Special Tribunal may make recommendations for action by the Primate ranging from rebuke to deposition from Holy Orders.

The Episcopal Standards Board has power to make a range of determinations similar to those of the Special Tribunal. Failure of the subject Bishop to comply with the determination constitutes an offence in respect of which the Episcopal Standards Commission may promote a charge in the Special Tribunal.

The General Synod Standing Committee has appointed an Episcopal Ministry Task Force to review all these arrangements and to propose a new system for consideration at the next session of the General Synod in late June 2014.

13.2 Other Clergy

Assistant bishops, priests and deacons may be subject to charges in diocesan tribunals or investigation by a professional standards board (or similar body) constituted by their diocese to investigate fitness for office. The General Synod has approved a model professional standards ordinance to cover disciplinary processes in relation to complaints of sexual misconduct and child abuse against clergy. Most dioceses have passed ordinances along these lines, some adopting the model ordinance without modification, others with varying degrees of modification.

The diocesan tribunals and professional standards boards have powers similar to those of the Special Tribunal and the Episcopal Standards Board. Determinations and recommendations of those bodies are referred to the diocesan bishop.

13.3 Laity

Lay persons licensed to ministry within a diocese and volunteers are subject to disciplinary processes of diocesan professional standards boards in many cases.
13.4 Disciplinary Administration within Dioceses

Each diocese has appointed a Director of Professional Standards (DPS) whose function is to receive complaints of sexual misconduct and, in some cases, all kinds of misconduct. Complaints are usually investigated by independent professional investigators who report to a professional standards committee (or similar) which then determines whether a charge should be promoted in the diocesan tribunal or the matter should be referred to the professional standards board (or similar). Some Directors are retained by more than one diocese.

13.5 National Register

The National Register Canon 2007 establishes a register on which Information involving sexual misconduct against both children and adults and other forms of child abuse is recorded by Directors of Professional Standards and is available on enquiry to authorised persons as a tool to assist in determining whether or not to issue a licence to a person or to employ a person in a relevant role.

Reports are sought from the National Register in relation to candidates for election to the role of Primate, membership of the Appellate Tribunal, membership of the Special Tribunal, membership of the Episcopal Standards Board and appointment to the role of General Secretary of the General Synod.