



News from Diocesan Council

December 2011

PASTORAL MATTERS

Safer Church Principles (Child Safe Environment):

Ms Linda Vinall, presented to Diocesan Council on Safer Church. Ms Vinall is the Quality Initiative Presenter Manager of the Safe Church Training Agreement (SCTA) with the National Council of Churches in Australia, addressed Council on Safe Church Training.

Key points of the presentation:

- The Safe Church Training began in 2005 as a result of conversations at a safest churches forum attended by a number of heads of churches and practitioners working with training in safety. It was apparent that they were all doing the 'same thing' and that it would be more productive to do it collectively. There are some differences in denominations, but essentially all are working towards the same goal by ensuring a safe environment to further the kingdom of God together.
- A number of standards were developed and drawn up in a training agreement suitable across denominations.
- The Safe Church Training program is now supported by all major denominations and a number of other denominational churches across Australia. To date, 36 church groups are involved with six denominational groups who have signed on as training partners and/or will recognise parishioners who have been trained in this program.
- The Agreement is a national churches joint commitment to creating an holistic safe churches (physical, emotional and spiritual) environment where we can grow in safety in our faith and ministry. It is a 'united front' to show to the Australian community that the Church cares.
- The Agreement will aim to balance a number of facets: pastoral, legal, risk management: taking on board that which Jesus commanded to love our neighbours as ourselves. It will also look at policies and procedures, both for prevention and education as well a appropriate response to allegations.
- Being part of the Agreement will mean participating churches will have access to

collective resources, personnel, nationally recognised training, quality assurance of programmes and in providing training and people to train that meet standards. It will give higher accessibility and availability to training, including access to external endorsing bodies with another 'set of eyes' to look at and review policies, practices and procedures. Participating churches who become endorsed training partners will be able to recoup costs.

- Training material is provided by Safe Ministry Resources. This organisation is constantly working on, reviewing and keeping material alive and updated with connection to networks, researchers and resources around world.
- The Agreement is a member of the SCTA insurance company.
- The Safe Church national training database is a slightly different model from previously. It allows appointment of an administrator at the local level who will keep records and enter information into the national database. The local administrator will be able to view information from across Australia; determining who are the Anglicans in their State who have done the training. Individuals will also be able to view their own data. Information is transferable across borders.
- The Manual is produced with content consistent across all denominations, but can be adapted to add individual churches' details, policies, forms etc.

Council resolved to become a member of the NCCA Church Training Agreement by paying the establishment assessment fee and membership fee and to work towards setting up a course across the Diocese for the program to be implemented.

Diocese of Popondota:

The Administrator spoke at length about his visit to Popondetta remarking how it had made a great impact on him.

Council resolved to make a gift of \$5,000 to the Diocese of Popondota.

FINANCE & AUDIT

Assistance for Registrar: Council approved a draft Job & Person Description for an Administrative Assistant to the Registrar / Bishop .

Clergy Travel - Rates for 2012

Replacement Component:

Over 20,000 km per annum

\$6,600 (\$550 per month).

Under 20,000 km per annum

\$5,280 (\$440 per month)

Fixed Costs: \$2,400 per annum (\$200 per month)

Kilometre Rate: The kilometre rate is 17 cents a kilometre.

Clergy not in Full time Ministry: The kilometre rate is 40 cents a kilometre.

OCF & HMF - Target recommendation for 2012:

The OCF & HMF target recommendations for 2012 remain at \$13,000 for each target.

Endowment of Churches Fund:

Council resolved that the internal diocesan investment distributions credited to the Endowment of Churches Fund held in the Synod Trust Accounts be reversed to bring the account in line with the actual value of the funds invested separately with the Adelaide ADF.

Resignation: Mrs June Bradley-Sperryn retired as minute secretary for the Diocesan Council. The Administrator and Diocesan Council thanked June for her 19 years of service.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Testing & Tagging: Council resolved to accept Lakkey Test and Tag It as the diocesan contractor and contact for testing and tagging parish electricals. The Diocese would be billed for the testing and tagging and will recoup the cost from parishes. Those parishes that already have a proper test and tag procedure will not need to engage with Lakkey's.

DIOCESAN LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS

Financial obligation for ordinands: Still under review.

SOME DATES FOR 2012

2nd February	Diocesan Council
18th February	Special Call of Synod
29th March	Diocesan Council
2nd April	Chrism Mass
18th & 19th May	Diocesan Synod
JUNE	ORDINATION CANDIDATES FUND MONTH
11th June	Volunteer's Day
JULY	ac.care Sunday
2nd August	Diocesan Council
SEPTEMBER	HOME MISSION FUND MONTH
4th October	Diocesan Council
6th December	Diocesan Council