



# Anglican Diocese of Grafton Registry Update

Edition 23 – September 2022

**For distribution to any office bearer within the Anglican Diocese of Grafton including its parishes and organisations.**

This is the latest edition of the Registry Update and as usual it contains important information on a variety of topics. These Registry Updates are not only important for reading at the time of receiving but also worthwhile for putting aside for future reference. If you are looking for any of the previous copies, you can find them on the Diocese's website at <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/registry-update/>

This Registry Update has been widely distributed by email but if you believe that someone has been missed who should also be receiving the Registry Update, please feel free to share your copy with them and advise [admin@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:admin@graftondiocese.org.au) of the update to the distribution list.

The information contained in this Registry Update is not confidential or private, so please feel free to share it with others who would benefit from knowing.

## **DIOCESAN CONFERENCE**

On Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 November, the Diocese is holding a conference "Resourcing Parish Leadership". This conference to be held at Opal Cove, Coffs Harbour is open to all interested Anglicans from across the Diocese. It will be especially valuable to members of Parish Council, Parish Treasurers and Grievance Officers.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Bishop Bradly Billings from the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. Bishop Brad is well known for his expertise in church governance at a practical level and heads a list of knowledgeable speakers.

Further information on the Diocesan Conference will be available soon.

## **COVID SAFETY AND VACCINATIONS**

COVID-19 is still with us; but circumstances are continuing to evolve.

Last year, the Bishop-in-Council decided to make vaccinations for COVID-19 compulsory for many ministry roles across the Diocese. That policy was spelled out in GEN-012 Vaccination for COVID-19.

However, Bishop-in-Council has now resolved to withdraw GEN-012 Vaccination for COVID-19.

The Bishop-in-Council resolution of 1 September 2022 is:

*"That Bishop-in-Council rescinds the policy/procedure document GEN-012 Vaccination for COVID-19 and encourages those in active ministry to consider mitigating the risk of infecting vulnerable people with COVID-19 through the use of ventilation, masks, hand sanitisation, social distancing and Rapid Antigen Testing. Despite the rescission of a policy that requires vaccination, Bishop-in-Council continues to encourage those in active ministry remain up to date with a full course of vaccination against COVID-19 as defined by the Australian Technical*

*Advisory Group on Immunisation, except where they have received medical advice to not be vaccinated.”*

Although, vaccination is no longer compulsory, the following remain important:

- Vaccination for COVID-19 is still considered a good safety measure and is encouraged, except for those who have received medical advice not to be vaccinated;
- Vaccination for COVID-19 may be a requirement in some settings (e.g. some health care locations);
- The risk to vulnerable people should be considered when undertaking ministry and church activities.
- Risk can be reduced through a combination of the following:
  - Isolation if infected with COVID-19 or displaying symptoms
  - Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)
  - Good ventilation
  - Masks
  - Hand hygiene
  - Social distancing

The Anglican Diocese of Grafton has received a supply of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) which are being provided to each parish and ministry district to assist with limiting the spread of COVID-19. If your parish is yet to receive a supply of RATs, please contact [admin@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:admin@graftondiocese.org.au)

Finally, although GEN-012 Vaccination for COVID-19 is no longer valid, any records taken for that procedure should be retained and kept secure.

## **MINISTRY TRAVEL AND REIMBURSEMENT**

The procedure MUP-003 Ministry Travel and Associated Expense Reimbursement gives details relevant for those travelling or driving vehicles as part of their ministry or in their church role. The procedure also includes the approved rates of reimbursement.

Bishop-in-Council has approved an amended form of MUP-003 Ministry Travel and Associated Expense Reimbursement which is now available on the Diocesan website at <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/policies-procedures/>

The following table shows the change to reimbursement rates that is effective from 1 January 2023.

<b>Rates for reimbursement for motor vehicle use</b>	<b>Current rate</b>	<b>New rate – effective from 1 January 2023</b>
Use of private vehicle as a requirement of role	Fixed component: \$8,000 pa Variable component: 26 cents per kilometre	Fixed component: \$9,200 pa Variable component: 30 cents per kilometre
Occasional use of private vehicle	Fixed component: Nil Variable component: 66 cents per kilometre	Fixed component: Nil Variable component: 78 cents per kilometre

## **PARENTAL LEAVE - MINISTRY**

The procedure MUP-001 Parental Leave – Ministry gives details relevant for when a stipended member of clergy or a Stipended Lay Minister has a child including adopting a child.

Bishop-in-Council has approved an amended form of MUP-001 Parental Leave - Ministry which is now available on the Diocesan website at <https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/documents/policies-procedures/>

## **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA DIRECTORY**

The Anglican Church of Australia Directory is a valuable resource used across the country as a reference for information about dioceses, parishes and clergy. After several years of not being produced, Broughton Publishing produces the directory in both print and as an on-line version.

At the recent General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, the following motion was passed in support of Broughton Publishing and the Anglican Church of Australia Directory:

### ***Broughton Publishing - Anglican Church of Australia Directory***

*Synod commends the board and management of Broughton Publishing and editor Colin Reilly on the production of the Anglican Church of Australia Directory in both print and online editions, and encourages dioceses, parishes and members of the clergy to fully support this project by offering every assistance in keeping information up to date.*

You can assist in maintaining the accuracy of the Anglican Church of Australia Directory by providing updated information to the Grafton Registry through the Parish Annual Return and for the Diocesan Year Book. Our updated information is passed onto Broughton Publishing.

Otherwise, you may contact Broughton Publishing directly.

## **GENERAL SYNOD - CLIMATE CHANGE**

It is well known that the parishes and agencies of the Grafton Diocese take Climate Change seriously and act as and where they can as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission “To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”.

This issue was also raised and supported at the General Synod meeting in May 2022 and the following resolution was passed.

In light of this resolution, each parish and agency is encouraged to further examine its contribution to climate change and consider further what can be done to mitigate climate change.

### ***Climate Change – Call to the Church***

*That this Synod,*

*A. Noting:*

- 1. Resolution A17:05 of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) 2017, in which the ACC recognised that there is a Climate Emergency and called on member churches to respond in ways that are ‘a living testament to our faith’;*
- 2. Resolution A17:06 of the ACC 2017, in which the ACC called upon member churches to work towards building climate resilience;*

3. *That the 2020 meeting of the General Synod of The Church of England (C of E) called on 'all parts of the C of E ..., to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target'.*

4. *With concern, the lack of progress in the Anglican Church of Australia in reporting on the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 and reporting on the calculation of emissions as requested in R62/17.*

*B. Recognises that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and a fundamental injustice, which ultimately stems from rebellion against our Creator and his commands to humans regarding stewardship of his world.*

*C. Trusts Jesus Christ as ultimate reconciler of all things in creation, through his blood shed on the cross and looks with hope to his promise of a renewed creation.*

*D. Encourages consideration of the actions involving worship, mission, advocacy, and community participation commended to the Church in ACC 2017 Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06.*

*E. Encourages the Diocese and Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia to work towards net zero carbon emissions by 2040, and to consider faster reductions where possible.*

*F. Urges the Dioceses and Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia to:*

*1. Strengthen their efforts to report on the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007;*

*2. Submit their best estimates of carbon emissions on an annual basis to The Standing Committee to enable us as a Province to track our progress toward net zero carbon emissions; and*

*3. Embrace the actions commended to the Church through ACC 2017 Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06, considered the most appropriate to their contexts.*

## **TRUST INVESTMENTS**

Parish Treasurers will have recently noticed that the quarterly statements of trust funds have shown some significant declines in trust balances. This contrasts with 2021 when trust balances were showing healthy increases.

This movement of trust fund values reflects the changing value of investments and is obvious at the moment while investment markets have been volatile.

Is this a cause for worry? As this is part of a market cycle there is no need to panic because the market will eventually regain its value and investments have been chosen to meet an average investment performance of CPI + 3% over a 5 year cycle.

The Corporate Trustees are carefully managing cashflow to avoid cashing in investments while at a low point in the cycle.

If your Parish Council has any questions on trust investments, they can be directed to [registrar@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:registrar@graftondiocese.org.au)

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### Bishop-in-Council

27 October 2022  
15 December 2022  
23 February 2023  
27 April 2023

27 July 2023  
21 September 2023  
30 November 2023

### Corporate Trustees

22 September 2022  
24 November 2022  
2 February 2023  
30 March 2023

25 May 2023  
24 August 2023  
26 October 2023  
14 December 2023

If you have any submission to a meeting of Bishop-in-Council or the Corporate Trustees, please provide these to the Registrar at least 10 days prior to a meeting to ensure that your submission can be included in the business of that meeting.

### Synod

23, 24 and 25 June 2023 at Opal Cove, Coffs Harbour.

Yours in Christ's service,

**Chris Nelson**  
**Registrar/General Manager**  
**Anglican Diocese of Grafton**