

The Role of Archdeacon

In the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn, Archdeacons are appointed to assist the Bishop in the administration of the Diocese and to exercise either regional or portfolio functions on his behalf. They have both statutory and delegated responsibilities.

Regional Statutory Responsibilities

1. Archdeacons have certain ministry unit and appointment responsibilities conferred upon them under the ordinances of the Synod

The Governance of the Diocese Ordinance 2000 envisages a crucial strategic role for Archdeacons in the structuring or reconfiguration of ministry units for mission by-

- *the establishing of parish ministry units & chaplaincy ministry units (Clauses 22 & 23 and Schedule 10)*
- *the alteration or abolition of ministry units (Clause 25)*
- *the modification of the structure of parish councils and chaplaincy unit councils (Clauses 37 & 38)*

In a changing and fluid environment Archdeacons need to be involved in the Combined Ministry District and Special Ministry District processes (Part 6 & 6A)

Archdeacons also have a key role in the appointments process following a vacancy in a ministry unit (Clause 39 and Schedule 8)

2. Archdeacons have property & finance responsibilities under Bishop In Council processes required by Bishop In Council

Archdeacons have property & financial responsibilities given to them by the Bishop in Council to assess proposals from a long term mission and ministry perspective. These include the sale, lease, mortgage or development of property.

Sometimes Archdeacons are asked to be involved in problem solving by pastorally investigating the reasons for non compliance in the payment of parish assessments

Delegated Responsibilities

- 1. Archdeacons confer prayerfully with the Bishop in discerning God's vision for mission and ministry in the Church in this Diocese and play their part in both developing and implementing strategies to achieve it.**
- 2. Archdeacons function honestly as a forum for confidential advice to the Bishop and support for him in the discharge of his responsibilities.**
- 3. Archdeacons nurture conscientiously the well being of clergy and ministry units within their sphere of oversight.**
- 4. Archdeacons contribute diligently to the health of the whole Diocese by building links, developing relationships and fostering cooperation which transcend the local and regional.**