

Proposal to Change the Parish of Dulwich Hill to a Provisional Parish

(A Report from the Georges River Regional Council.)

The Proposal

1. The application to change the Parish of Dulwich Hill to a Provisional Parish was made by the Minister and Churchwardens of Holy Trinity, Dulwich Hill. It was considered by the Georges River Regional Council on 11 August 1998.
2. The requirements of the Parishes Ordinance, Clauses 4 and 5 have been complied with.

Parish Information

3. According to the ABS 1996 Census, the Parish's total population is 11,018. It has declined 3.4% since 1991. There are 930 persons claiming to be Anglican and are 8.5% of the population (down 0.7% since 1991).
4. The ethnic background of the parish indicates 46% are born in Australia (as against the national average of 75%). The major non-English groups are Vietnamese (5.9%), Greeks (5.6%), Chinese (4.3%), Lebanese (3%), Indonesian (1.7%) and Fijian (1.3%).
5. The Parish has experienced considerable change in its ethnic diversity in the last 20 years and no longer has a traditional Anglican population.
6. The present staffing arrangements are the Minister (full-time) and two part-time youth workers (2½ days each). Last year there was also a part-time administrator.
7. Sunday Service attendances over the last few years are as follows -

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total	113	90	76	51
8. Sunday services at present are -

8.00 am	Holy Communion	23
10.00 am	Family Communion	28
9. The Parish's major outreach focus has, been to unattached youth through its youth centre, 'Trinity's'. This ministry operates seven days a week. It effectively reaches non-churched youth and has been widely recognised by local government and police authorities. Other Parish activities include prayer, friendship and Bible Study groups and Scripture teaching. The financial support for the youth ministry has come from non-parish funds.
10. The Parish's mission statement, "The whole church bringing the whole gospel to the whole community," is implemented by the goals of "Growth with God", "Growth with each other", "Outreach" and "Management". These are worked out in a number of strategies.
11. The Parish has struggled for a number of years to meet its full financial obligations and has made use of its reserves. The Minister has been underpaid for some years. However, particular financial difficulties experienced by the Parish earlier this year required a \$50,000 loan from the Finance and Loans Board. The Parish is anxious to maintain its ministry particularly to youth and reclassification will assist in this.
12. A summary of the parish's financial position for the last three years is as follows -

	1995 \$	1996 \$	1997 \$	1998 Budget \$
Receipts				
Offeratories	48,980	48,687	44,877	40,000
Interest	398	351		
Investments	15,168	6,976		12,000
Property Income	13,947	21,533	18,445	12,500
Grants	35,604	6,700		5,000
Others	1,993	1,057	18,496	22,460
Total	116,090	85,304	81,818	91,960

	1995 \$	1996 \$	1997 \$	1998 Budget \$
Payments				
Stipends and allowances.	77,211	52,070	64,408	68,111
Assessments	8,331	8,450	7,960	4,500
Missions	738	712	183	500
DEET programmes.	-	4,500		
Invested	16,200	10,000		
Other	18,937	8,634	34,592	24,610
Total	121,417	84,366	107,143	97,721
Surplus (deficit)	(5,327)	938	(25,325)	(5,761)

13. Details of the Church Trust Property -

	Replacement Value \$	Condition
Church	6,417,000	Good
Contents	272,000	
Stone walls	92,000	Good
Seats	4,000	
Columbarium	22,000	Good
Hall (front)	500,000	Good
Hall (rear)	123,000	Fair
Rectory	584,000	Good
Garage	9,000	Good
House (13 Herbert Street)	127,000	Good
House (17 Bedford Avenue)	97,000	Poor
Shed	3,000	Fair

13. There are no debts outstanding on these properties. However, the parish received a loan of \$50,000 in February 1998 and it is to be repaid from the proceeds of the sale of 17 Bedford Avenue.

Recommendation

14. The Georges River Regional Council has provisionally reclassified Dulwich Hill as a Provisional Parish from 1 January 1998 and recommends that Synod confirm this reclassification.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

GEOFF HUARD

Archdeacon of Liverpool

21 August 1998