

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev Craig Roberts asked the following question –

1. Is the Archbishop aware of –
  - (a) Any ministries or ministry positions that have been curtailed as a result of the 1.14% levy placed on parishes in 2011?
  - (b) What, if any, gospel good his assistant bishops have done in 2011?

1. I am informed the answer is as follows –

- (a) At its meeting on 15 November 2010 the Standing Committee requested all Parish Councils to report the impact, if any, of the 1.14% assessment levy on their 2011 budgets following their 2011 annual general meeting.

On 9 December 2010 the Diocesan Secretary sent an email to all parishes conveying the terms of the Standing Committee's request. A total of 12 responses were received.

Many of the responses noted the levy would place further pressure on parish finances. Three outlined particular ministries or positions that would need to be curtailed.

One parish commented that: "Other ministry priorities will need to be laid aside" but did not outline what those priorities were. One noted the parish council needed to rescind a previous resolution to provide two small scholarships for two ministry apprentices. Another parish noted, had its levy not been paid by an individual from another parish, it would have needed to make cuts to its Sunday School and Youth Ministry.

- (b) Part (b) of the question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(e) because it is expressed in language which, in my opinion, could be regarded as disrespectful. Doubtless this is unintentional.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Mrs Susan Hooke asked the following question –

2. How much money is held in the balance sheets of the entities (whether, Committees, councils, colleges or other organisations) in receipt of funds from Synod Appropriations in 2010 and 2011 described as surplus, accumulated surplus, accumulated funds or reserves, as at 31 December 2010?

2. I am informed that the answer is as follows.

There were 16 entities that received Synod funds in 2010 and 2011. The significantly different nature of these entities creates a practical difficulty in answering this question –

- (a) Some organisations, such as the Work Outside the Diocese Committee and the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee, exist purely as an intermediary to determine an appropriate application of the Synod allocation for that purpose and disburse those funds to the work of particular ministries. They have no other sources of income and hold no assets apart from the Synod funds they receive.
- (b) Other organisations, such as the Regional Councils, may have other sources of income and/or may hold assets related to their function that have not been derived from funds they received from Synod. The amount of accumulated funds held by such organisations is therefore not an indication of their cash reserves.
- (c) For a third group of organisations, such as Moore Theological College and Youthworks, the funding they receive from Synod represents only a small portion of their total income and they also have substantial capital assets, such as land and buildings, used to in the pursuit of their objects or purposes. These organisations typically show substantial accumulated funds, but the majority of that is represented by fixed assets and is certainly not an indication of their cash reserves. Furthermore, what reserves they do hold may not have been derived from the Synod funding they have received.

Given these factors it would be misleading to provide a list of figures for each entity in receipt of Synod funds without an explanation as to what each of those figures represent having regard to the nature and operation of the organisation.

It is noted that Mrs Hooke moved an amendment to the motion concerning Funding Principles and Priorities, that was accepted by the movers, which requires a review of the reserves held by a body seeking funds from the Synod. The matter will therefore be considered in that context.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev Canon Warwick de Jersey asked the following question –

3. The surrender of St Andrew's Cathedral property to allow the development of St Andrew's House to go ahead provided guaranteed parking. Will that be affected by the current restructuring?
  
3. This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a) because it contains several assertions concerning the parking arrangements.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

4. Concerning access by Synod members to Diocesan organisations' Annual Reports:
  - (a) Why do some diocesan organisations, required to report under the AAAR Ordinance, not make publicly available their annual reports, which include their full audited financial accounts, (eg, Moore college and Anglican Retirement Villages) while others do (eg, Anglicare)? (In this context, it is noted that the Annual Reviews, or so-called Annual Report from Moore College, do not constitute an "annual report" as commonly accepted by that term, due particularly to the lack of the audited accounts.)
  - (b) Given all diocesan organisations have access to either their own website, or that run by SDS, why cannot all diocesan annual reports be published on the web providing free public access (as does Anglicare, for example)?
  - (c) Why is Sydney Standing Committee insisting to General Synod that audited financial statements of bodies subject to its ultimate control should be published on General Synod's website "promptly after the signing of the relevant audited reports" (Standing Committee's Report, Attachment 3, page 84) but it continues to make accessibility of similar documents so difficult in Sydney, even to Sydney Synod members?
  - (d) Will the governance review by the Chairman's Committee, as proposed at paragraph 3.2.7 in the Report of the Archbishop's Commission, or the current Governance Review Group, reconsider the current arrangements, whereby some diocesan organisations refuse to make their Annual Reports publicly accessible, particularly noting the established best practice for Australian corporations, as reflected in the Corporations Act 2001?
  
4. This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(a), (b), (c) and (d) because it contains assertions, makes inferences, expresses an opinion and offers an argument.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

5. This question seeks a costed breakdown of certain Synod Appropriations and advice on surpluses and acquittal processes –
- (a) Could Synod please be provided with a costed breakdown for items in the funding lines for 2012 (actual column on pages 71 and 72 of the Document “Reports and Papers for the pre-Synod briefings and the Synod session) – specifically for –
    - (i) policy 1(b) (Gospel Work Outside the Diocese); and
    - (ii) all items listed under policies 2 and 3.
  - (b) Where such a breakdown cannot be provided, please explain on what basis the size of the allocations have been determined?
  - (c) Are recipients of the monies for the line items specified in part (a) of this question allowed to keep as surplus any unspent funds from year to year? If so, please provide for each item a statement of expected surplus held by the recipients for 2011 and 2012.
  - (d) What is the acquittal process in place for expenditure under Synod’s Appropriations and Allocations? Will a formal acquittal be sought for each of the above items and, if not for some items, how will Synod know –
    - (i) that the funds were spent for the purposes given and
    - (ii) how much surplus is being retained each year?

5. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Policy 1b - Work Outside the Diocese: The Work Outside the Diocese Committee reports to the Standing Committee the detail of all allocations made from these funds as individual projects/payments are approved.

Regional Councils administrative support: The Mission Board will approve the allocation of this amount.

On-going support and assistance for Mission Areas: Bishop Ivan Lee will approve quarterly payments to each of the parishes to which a Mission Area leader is licensed.

Each of the other organisations listed will receive an allocation of the amount shown to be used for the purposes listed. No costed breakdown for the intended application of these funds is available.

- (b) The amount of each individual allocation has been recommended by the Mission Board Strategy Committee based on detailed work undertaken by each of the Policy Groups. These recommendations were then reviewed by the Mission Board before being incorporated in an ordinance passed by the Standing Committee.
- (c) With the exception of a few particular line items for which the funds are held in the Synod Fund until particular applications are approved by the Mission Board, each of the other line items are paid in full to the recipient organisation and then expended in the year in question or retained by that organisation for the purpose identified in the Ordinance. The line items for funds which may be retained in the Synod Fund are –
- Policy 2 – Support for Mission Areas
  - Policy 3 – Training for Mission Areas
  - Policy 4 – Reform of structures
  - Administration – General Synod Assessments, Provincial Synod costs, Contingencies
- (d) There is no formal acquittal process for expenditure under the Synod Appropriations and Allocations Ordinance. However the use of funds is monitored by the Mission Board in strategic conversations with the organisations.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Ms Lyn Bannerman asked the following question –

6. Relating to Synod members' access to Standing Committee minutes –
  - (a) In what way is Standing Committee's need (identified in May this year) to access the minutes of the Mission Board different from Synod's need, as owner, for access to Standing Committee minutes?
  - (b) Why is access by Synod members to Standing Committee minutes on an ongoing basis not now granted in view of –
    - (i) the example of adequate precautions regarding confidential matters having been made in Standing Committee's access to Mission Board minutes,
    - (ii) we now know that Perth Diocese has led the way with a policy granting such access in their diocese, also with relevant precautions (Policy dated 14 April 2011).
  
6. This question is out of order under business rules 6.3(4)(a) and (c) as it contains assertions and offers an argument.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev Philip Griffin asked the following question –

7. What percentage of parishes and provisional parishes store their archival material in the Diocesan Archives?

7. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

A precise percentage cannot be obtained. The Sydney Diocesan Archives now holds the church and parish records of some 300 churches in the Diocese, mostly still open but some of which have closed. Churches continue to deposit their non-current records into the archives each year and many request the assistance of the archivist in preparing their records for deposit, many of them very large quantities. The records created by churches and parishes represent a substantial and steadily increasing section of the Sydney Diocesan Archives holdings.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev Philip Griffin asked the following question –

8. (a) How many of the originally appointed Mission Area Leaders have now resigned?
- (b) Have any or all of them been replaced?
- (c) If any or all of them have not been replaced, when is it expected new appointments will be made?
- (d) Is there any consultation with those in the mission area before new appointments are made?

8. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) Of the twenty mission area leaders, two have resigned, one due to ill health, the other due to special parish commitments. Two others have moved out of their mission areas.
- (b) Two have been replaced.
- (c) Discussions are underway and appointments will be announced as soon as possible.
- (d) Yes.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev Philip Griffin asked the following question –

9. In light of the diocesan finances –
- (a) Has Standing Committee and/or the relevant councils entered into any discussions regarding ways in which Moore Theological College and Youthworks College might partner with each other in order to reduce the costs associated with operating these two colleges?
  - (b) If so, have any conclusions been drawn?
  - (c) If no, why not?

9. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The Standing Committee has not entered into any discussions. However the Policy 3 Committee of the Mission Board has discussed with Youthworks and Moore College whether it would be advantageous to establish a Diocesan Training Precinct at Newtown. Youthworks and Moore College have also themselves been in conversation about possible campus co-location for a number of years.
- (b) Consideration was given to housing Youthworks College and Ministry, Training and Development within Moore College as the departments of youth ministry and parish ministry respectively, however it was concluded that such a move would be unlikely to save significant expense and unlikely to be effective for ministry training.

Youthworks and Moore College have continued to discuss the possibility of sharing campus facilities. However, if there are any savings, they are unlikely to be of a magnitude that would significantly change the financial position of the Diocese overall.

Youthworks and Moore College continue to partner to improve their ministry effectiveness. This has led to –

- (i) Youthworks College graduates (with a credit average) being able to apply for entry to second year of Moore College,
- (ii) Moore College first year students joining Youthworks College classes for foundational units in youth ministry
- (iii) Youthworks College faculty being visiting lecturers at Moore College to teach degree units in youth ministry, and

(iv) Youthworks College faculty having membership of the Moore College library.

(c) Not applicable.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Dr Robert Mackay asked the following question –

10. Further to the Final Report of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission on Structure, Funding and Governance and with reference to the Standing Committee report on the work of the Archbishop's Strategic Commission/Financial Sustainability of the Endowment of the See –

- (a) What is the known value/most recent valuation of the retail assets comprising the St Andrew's House Arcade?
- (b) What is the current yield of this asset group?
- (c) What percentage of the tenancies is church related?
- (d) What strategies are intended to enhance these retail spaces, the leases and yield return?

10. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The latest valuation of St Andrew's House was completed on 31 December 2010. The commercial office tower, retail arcade and car park were valued as a single asset. However, the valuer, as a guide only, notionally apportioned a value of \$32 million to the retail arcade as at 31 December 2010.
- (b) The budgeted net operating income from the retail arcade for the year ending 31 December 2011 is \$1.7 million, which when applied to the notional value apportioned to the retail arcade of \$32 million as at 31 December 2010 provides a yield rate of 5.3%.
- (c) There are currently 3 church related tenancies in the arcade or about 8% of the total arcade tenancies. The 3 church related tenancies are Mothers' Union, Kidzlink and the St Andrew's Cathedral School Uniform Shop.
- (d) The strategies include –
  - (i) External management of the arcade: Colliers International was appointed as the property and leasing agent for the arcade in early 2010.
  - (ii) Review of the retail tenancy mix: An appropriate tenancy mix for the retail arcade has been developed and is being implemented to meet the needs of the core customer base.
  - (iii) Cost control: The appointment of Colliers provides the opportunity to benchmark and manage the costs of operating the arcade.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev David Clarke asked the following question –

11. In response to the 2010-2012 Strategic Directions document, in 2009 the Synod agreed to allocate \$300,000 for Mission Area training 'to work together in mission'. How much of this allocated funding has been spent so far, and can an itemised list of how it has been spent please be provided?

11. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The amounts paid to date total \$6,799.

In many cases training has taken place where the presenter or site hire has been provided without charge, or participants have covered the costs themselves. It is anticipated that there will be further opportunities for training to be held in future years.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Miss Jennifer Flower asked the following question –

12. As the Archbishop from time to time has emphasised how important he regards the employment and ministry of Christian teachers in our Government, Anglican and other Christian schools –
- (a) Does he know approximately how many of the current Christian teachers are likely to retire from the teaching profession in the next 3 years?
  - (b) What steps is the Diocese or any other Christian organisation taking to ensure that there is a sizeable pool of applicants who are academically well qualified and strongly committed to Christ from which principals can appoint appropriate replacements?

12. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) It is estimated that about 4,000 Christian teachers are likely to resign or retire from teaching in government, Anglican and other Christian schools in Sydney and the Illawarra over the next three to four years. Many of these will be Principals and very experienced teachers and Christian role models.
- (b) As far as we know, this is the only Anglican Diocese in Australia which is addressing this significant challenge. We have been doing so through the employment of Mr Ian Keast by the Anglican Education Commission for the past seven years. No other Christian organisation has yet risen to this enormous challenge. To date, Mr Keast considers there are 500 Christians who have entered the teaching profession as new graduates or mid-life career changers who have been influenced to do so by his influence.

Anglican schools are encouraging between 10 and 20% of their graduating Christian students to become teachers. Our parishes can play an important role in promoting teaching as a worthy vocation and ministry.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Canon Sandy Grant asked the following question –

13. (a) For each of the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, please advise the total amounts listed as Parish Donations for the following categories –
- (i) To Christian organisations outside the parish from general parish funds (Item No 6-2310);
  - (ii) Passing on donations designated for organisations outside the parish (Item No 6-2320);
  - (iii) To another Parish from general parish funds (Item No 6-2330).
- (b) In addition, please express the combined donations from general funds (the combined totals under 6-2310 and 6-2330) as a percentage of Net Operating Receipts for each year?
- (c) Please also express designated donations passed on to outside organisations (Item No 6-2320) as a percentage of Offertories and Donations (Item No 4-1000) for each year?
- (d) Please also list the total amount being directed to the capital or working funds under the control of Synod or its committees, Regional Councils or other diocesan organisations such as Youthworks or SAIPMC, arising from the operation of parish property ordinances (principally from the large receipts provision) for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010.

13. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

- (a) The answer to part (a) of the question will be given in tabular form. A copy will be given to the questioner and a copy will also be posted on the notice board in the foyer.

	2008	2009	2010
Amount received as donations designated for an organisation, body or society outside the control of the parish (Item No. 4-2100)	2,663,777	2,646,368	2,848,616
Amount paid to Christian organisations outside the parish from general parish funds (Item No. 6-2310).	3,325,751	3,349,313	3,403,722
Amount paid to other parishes from general parish funds (Item No. 6-2330).	110,919	94,816	100,761

- (b) 2008: 4.56%  
2009: 4.38%  
2010: 4.23%

(c) 2008: 4.34%  
2009: 4.05%  
2010: 4.14%.

(d) It is not possible to answer this question. It is not known which entities received funds from the operation of parish property ordinances in those years, let alone the amounts received and the purposes for which those funds could be applied. In some cases the ordinance authorising the distribution would have been passed some years ago by the Standing Committee and may not have come up for review in recent times. Further, some distributions, particularly those arising from lease income, would be made by the relevant parish directly to the entity.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Archdeacon Deryck Howell asked the following question –

14. Noting the purposes of ‘New Fellowships’ as defined in last year’s explanatory report for the Department of Evangelism (New Churches) Reconstitution Ordinance 2010, namely –

“to reach a particular ethnic group, affinity group, or to begin new gospel work in some geographic area where local churches do not have the resources or people to begin such a new fellowship”,

- (a) Is it true that ‘New Churches’ will enable the commencement of a ‘New Fellowship’ in Oran Park town?
- (b) If so, why is it deemed appropriate and necessary that ‘New Churches’ be used to commence this work given that Oran Park Town is within the existing and recently reclassified full Parish of South Creek, a 9 year old church-planting ministry which has well-developed plans for church-planting in Oran Park Town, and has, for example, recently raised funds and appointed a second full-time minister to enable expansion of ministry within the Parish?

14. This question is out of order under business rule 6.3(4)(c) as it offers an argument.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

The Rev Gary Haddon asked the following question –

15. How many parishes received the benefit of having another parish, known or anonymous, making payment to the SDS on their behalf, amounts to cover in part or in full, the cost of their levy for the purposes of contributing towards the EOS?

15. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

The answer to this question is not known. Anecdotally SDS is aware of three instances where one parish (or an individual from it) has paid the levy for another parish.

**Question: 10 October 2011**

Mr Andrew Frank asked the following question –

16. Has Standing Committee or Synod in the last 10 years considered any reports regarding principles of restorative justice with an emphasis on restitution and reconciliation with regard to the workings of the Diocesan Tribunal? If yes please identify the reports considered.

16. I am informed that the answer is as follows –

No.