

Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre

The Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre (ADMSC) manages the finances of the Diocese and has a Governance Board (ADMSCGB) that provides strategic direction on the management of the Anglican Diocesan Ministry Support Centre and fulfil the statutory reporting obligations.

The ADMSCGB meets no fewer than six times a year. It consists of three members of Standing Committee; the Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley, who is the Chair, the Rev'd Tony Kippax, and Mr Byron Behm who replaced the Rev'd Dr Thomas Brauer when he resigned from the Board in the latter part of the year. There are two co-opted members: Mrs Lynn Shearing, and Mr Tim Stevenson. Bishop Peter attends in his capacity as Bishop and Mr Edwin Boyce, the Diocesan Manager, is an ex officio member. The Diocesan Finance Manager, Mrs Lynda Alexander, also attends all meetings and Mr Scott Walter records the minutes.

I give thanks to all the members of the Board for the time, wise counsel and governance that they give freely of the work of ADMSC.

There are two meetings a year with CPTs Committee of Audit, Risk and Finance (CARF) to discuss shared matters of significance. These meetings ensure that there is clear communication between the two entities.

A lot of the work of the ADMSCGB is routine, such as preparing and monitoring budgets and preparing reports to Standing Committee regarding the financial decisions, but the year 2020 brought with it new challenges, not only for the ADMSCGB but for all of us.

COVID lock downs put parishes under financial stress, and it was decided to monitor parish finances on a weekly basis. I am thankful to all those parish treasurers and administrators who provided the data to the Diocesan Manager from which weekly reports were prepared for Bishop Peter and myself. Monitoring and reporting of some parish finances is continuing.

Parishes were helped by the COVID wage subsidy. Again, I give thanks for the work of those in the parishes that made those applications and for the Anglican Centre staff who administered the payments. Parishes were also helped by parishioners making their donations by on-line payments. From what we can see these payments have continued.

However, parishes continue to face financial stress and the ADMSCGB continues to receive requests from parishes for financial support in one form or another. A Pandemic Fund was set up and parishes and individuals generously gave to it. This Fund has been used to support parishes that were hardest hit by the effects of COVID lockdowns.

Whilst COVID presented us with problems it did bring about positive changes as well. The ADMSCGB has learned to meet by Zoom thus, when used, saving travel time for members, and benefiting the environment in a small way.

Beyond COVID problems and parish finances the ADMSCGB also must deal with the ever-increasing need to meet compliance requirements. The church does not operate in a vacuum and must comply with several standards and regulations. I am thankful to our Anglican Centre staff who are in the front line when it comes to dealing with such compliance matters. The same staff manage our Parish Accounting Scheme (PAS), providing accounting support to 27 of our parishes and dealing with the auditors, all of which takes a considerable load of the parishes. Whilst it would be beneficial to have all our parishes on the PAS, the staff are now working at full capacity.

Health and safety is just one the many areas where compliance is necessary. The ADMSCGB also has responsibility, as the employment body of the Diocesan Ministry Team (DMT), for their health and safety and as such this is a regular item on the meeting agendas.

The Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley
ADMSCGB Chair