

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE ARCHBISHOPRIC AND CLERGY

SUMMARY PAPER C – LICENSING, AGE AND RETIREMENT

What this is about

The retirement age of clergy, when clergy over the retirement age may be licensed, and having part-time incumbents.

What are the main issues

- Whether there should be a retirement age for all Diocesan clergy (not only vicars).
- Whether in any circumstances vicars over the retirement age should be able to hold a licence.
- Whether non-parochial clergy over 70 should be able to hold a licence.
- Whether it should be possible for part-time vicars to be incumbents.

What are the recommendations

The current requirement that a priest cease to be vicar of a parish on attaining 70 years of age should continue, but with discretion in the Archbishop to extend the date for requirement for up to 6 months where this is appropriate having regard to local needs and circumstances.

The current review should consider establishing 72 as the age of retirement of a vicar of a parish if they were aged 62 or more at the time of their first appointment as vicar of that parish.

The Archbishop's ability to appoint an interim vicar should take two forms—

1. for up to 15 months without any associated process;
2. for any period up to two years following a declaration by the Archbishop in Council of suitability for an intentional interim vicar, in which case (a) the Archbishop may appoint an intentional interim vicar; (b) the designated bishop and parish nominators¹ must be consulted regarding the priest to be appointed; (c) the Archbishop may, at the Archbishop's discretion, licence the priest as an intentional interim vicar (revocable at will); (d) the incumbency process is suspended until 6 months before the expiration of that period; (e) the priest appointed as intentional interim vicar may be aged 70 or more.

The new Clergy Bill should provide for the possibility of clergy licensed to parishes less than full time to be licensed as incumbents, for a period of 5 years with the possibility of extension for further periods of 5 years.

¹ and the archdeacon – see recommendation 31

The new Bill should provide that all clergy licensed to an office are deemed to have relinquished that office on turning 70 (except in the case of vicars if specific rules apply).

The new Bill should state explicitly that the Archbishop may give a general or specific licence to any person in Holy Orders except for parish ministry.

Where to find it in the consultation paper

Sections 4.3 – 4.5, 4.7 - 4.8