

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE ARCHBISHOPRIC AND CLERGY

SUMMARY PAPER F – PARISH NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - DELAY

What this is about

Delays in first convening a parish nominations committee,¹ and delays in it completing its work.

What are the main issues

- How soon, in the normal case, a parish nominations committee should be convened.
- Processes to determine that the convening of a parish nominations committee should be delayed.
- What to do when a parish nominations committee has not recommended an appointment in a timely way.

What are the recommendations

In order to avoid doubt, the new legislation should provide that the designated bishop must, with all convenient speed, and at any event within two months, after the relevant circumstances have occurred, direct the Registrar to summon the parish nominations committee and the Registrar must do so.

The summoning of the parish nominations committee may be suspended for a period not exceeding 12 months in any case where the designated bishop, the archdeacon and the parish council consider it to be in the interests of the parish and the Diocese to do so.

The new Bill should require that a parish nominations committee be convened if (amongst other things) the Archbishop has notice that a parish is about to become vacant or the term of office of the vicar is about to expire.

The new Clergy Bill should provide that if the parish nominations committee is to be reconvened in the circumstances currently described in section 23 or 27 of the Appointments Act, it should meet again within one month.

The new Clergy Bill should provide that if a parish nominations committee has not made a recommendation, the Archbishop may appoint a new chair following the first 8 months from the date on which it could first have been convened, and must do so following 12 months from that date.

¹ formerly the "incumbency committee" – see Summary Paper B.

Where to find it in the consultation paper

Section 6.3, 6.4 and 6.8