

DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON
SCHOOLS COMMISSION CANON 1998

Preamble

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the establishment and operation of schools which are owned, operated or administered by Church institutions in the Diocese of Rockhampton **BE IT THEREFORE DECLARED AND ESTABLISHED** by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Rockhampton in Synod assembled as follows:

Short Title

1. This Canon may be cited as the “Schools Commission Canon 1998”.

Interpretation

2. In this Canon or in any regulation made pursuant to this Canon, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires or indicates –

“Commission” means the “Anglican Schools Commission - Diocese of Rockhampton” as constituted by this Canon;

“Fund” means the Schools Commission Fund set up in accordance with the provisions of this Canon;

“Member School” means a school which has become a member school of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of this Canon;

“School” means an Anglican School in the Diocese of Rockhampton and includes –

- (a) a school which is owned or administered by The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Rockhampton; or
- (b) a school in the Diocese of Rockhampton which is owned or administered by any Religious Order of the Anglican Church;
- (c) a school which is owned or administered by or affiliated with a Church Institution as provided under the “Church Institutions Canon 1997”.

“Church Institution” means a body authorised pursuant to the provisions of the “Church Institutions Canon 1997”.

Commission constituted

3. There shall be a body which shall be called the “Anglican Schools Commission - Diocese of Rockhampton” with such objects membership and functions as are set out in this Canon.

Authority of the Commission

4. (1) The Commission shall have the authority to conduct its affairs in accordance with any general or specific directions of the Synod or the Bishop-in-Council given from time to time.

- (2) The Commission shall not have the power to affect such authority and independence of the governing body of any School as is granted to such governing body in accordance with the constitution of such school but shall have power to give such advice as it thinks appropriate to such governing body concerning the administration and/or operation of the school.

Objects of the Commission

5. The objects of the Commission shall be the promotion of education in Anglican schools, and more particularly –
 - (a) to guide and support the planning and establishment of new Schools to serve the whole of the community as part of the mission of the Church especially in developing areas.
 - (b) to guide and support the establishment and development of methods of governance for new Schools;
 - (c) to facilitate consultation and encourage communication and co-operation among Schools and between Schools and the Commission;
 - (d) to promote liaison between Anglican Schools and the Parishes to which students and staff belong or from which they are drawn;
 - (e) to recommend and encourage in Anglican Schools the use of programs designed to help parents and staff recognise the importance of a complete education of students in a Christian school and to understand and perform their respective responsibilities in such education;
 - (f) to promote in schools religious education, Christian faith and worship;
 - (g) to encourage the provision of facilities within Anglican Schools for those with special needs including persons who are disadvantaged through economic social intellectual physical emotional or linguistic disabilities;
 - (h) to liaise with bodies in the Diocese involved in training for both the ordained and lay ministries, especially in the areas of chaplaincy and religious education;
 - (i) to develop or assist in the development of religious education programs for use in schools;
 - (j) to develop and recommend from time to time general educational policies for schools;
 - (k) to recommend to the Bishop-in-Council policies and initiatives in the promotion of education within a Christian context;
 - (l) to consult and co-operate with schools and with educational bodies similar to the Commission in other Anglican dioceses and in other Churches, with other relevant educational bodies and agencies; and with relevant tertiary institutions on matters affecting the education provided in Anglican Schools;
 - (m) to provide liaison between the Diocese and federal, state and local governments and other relevant educational bodies and agencies on matters relating to education and

on matters relating to the provision of governmental funds for non-government schools;

- (n) to advise, consult with and co-operate with the Bishop-in-Council concerning provision of school sites, construction of school facilities and funding;
- (o) to promote the raising of money for Member Schools;
- (p) to consult with and advise Member Schools;
- (q) to undertake such other functions as may be committed to the Commission from time to time by Bishop-in-Council.

Member Schools

- 6. (1) Any School as defined in this Canon may apply to the Commission to become a Member School of the Commission. The Commission may accept or reject such application and if it decides to accept such application it may impose such condition or conditions as it thinks appropriate.
- (2) The governing body of any Member School may by resolution withdraw that school from being a Member School of the Commission, but without prejudice to any responsibility, financial or otherwise, which such Member School may have in respect of the Commission.
- (3) With the consent of the Bishop-in-Council the Commission may admit a school which is not a School as defined in this Canon as a Member School of the Commission, provided that the educational and religious policies and practices of such school are not inconsistent with the objects of the Commission.

Schools Commission Fund

- 7. (1) There shall be a Fund of the Diocese of Rockhampton to be called the "Schools Commission Fund" which shall consist of –
 - (a) moneys which shall be received for the purposes of the Commission;
 - (b) other such moneys as the Synod or the Bishop-in-Council may direct shall be credited to the Fund.
- (2) The moneys held to the credit of the Fund shall be applied so far as the same shall extend to the objects of the Commission.
- (3) The Treasurer of Synod shall present to each annual session of Synod an audited statement of the accounts of the Fund.

Funding from Member Schools

- 8. The governing body of each Member School shall pay such moneys, and at such times, into the Fund as shall be determined from time to time by the Commission.

Members of the Commission

- 9. (1) The members of the Commission shall be –

- (a)
 - (i) the Bishop, who shall be the Chairman of the Commission;
 - (ii) a person who shall be a communicant member of this church appointed from time to time by the Bishop-in-Council;
 - (b) the Registrar;
 - (c) the person (if any) holding for the time being the office of schools officer or consultant as hereinafter provided, who shall have a seat on the Commission but without a vote;
 - (d) for each Member School, one person who shall be a communicant Member of this Church appointed by the Bishop-in-Council as hereinafter provided;
 - (e) up to three persons co-opted by the aforementioned members of the Commission.
- (2) The members of the Commission appointed by the Bishop-in-Council shall be appointed for a term of three years except as hereinafter provided, and shall hold office until their successors are appointed.
- (3) The Bishop-in-Council shall appoint such of the aforesaid members of the Commission as are required at the meeting of the Council held next after each ordinary session of the Synod, on the nomination of the governing body of each Member School who shall nominate at least two persons to the Council for such purpose.
- (4) In appointing members of the Commission, the Bishop-in-Council shall give due regard to the relevant experience and qualifications of each person nominated to it, in relation to the objects of the Commission.
- (5) The co-opted members of the Commission shall hold office for such term, being not more than three years, as may be specified when the said members are appointed, and if no term is so specified for a term of three years.
- (6) Any vacancy in the office of a member of the Commission appointed by the Bishop-in-Council shall be filled by the Council in the same manner as the original appointment was made.
- (7) A vacancy shall occur in the office of a person appointed or co-opted to membership of the Commission when –
 - (a) the person resigns in writing to the Bishop-in-Council and such resignation is accepted by it;
 - (b) the person having been appointed by the Bishop-in-Council ceases to be a communicant Member of this Church;
 - (c) the person shall have been absent without leave from three successive meetings of the Commission.
 - (d) the Bishop-in-Council shall have received and adopted the advice of the governing body of the Member School which nominated the person for appointment that the governing body no longer wishes the person to be the member of the Commission for that School;

- (e) the Bishop-in-Council shall have declared the person's office as a member of the Commission vacant for any reason which it shall deem fit.

Functioning of the Commission

- 10. (1) In the absence of the Bishop meetings of the Commission shall be chaired by a member of the Commission appointed by the Bishop, and failing such appointment, or if the member so appointed is absent, the members of the Commission shall appoint one of their number to chair the meeting.
- (2) The chairman of any meeting of the Commission shall have both a deliberative vote and a casting vote.
- (3) The Commission may appoint such other officers from among the members of the Commission as it shall consider expedient or convenient for the functioning of the Commission and define their duties from time to time.
- (4) The Commission shall meet once in every six (6) month period as the Commission shall itself determine, and the Chairman shall call a special meeting at the request of the Bishop-in-Council or any three members of the Commission.
- (5) A quorum for the transaction of business shall be one-half of the members of the Commission.
- (6) The Commission may establish such committees as it shall consider expedient or convenient for the functioning of the Commission, provided that at least one member of any committee shall be a member of the Commission, and the chairman of such committee shall be appointed by the Commission.

Officer or Consultant

- 11. (1) The Bishop-in-Council may appoint an officer to perform such duties relating to Anglican schools and the Commission as the Council shall determine with the advice of the Commission.
- (2) The appointment shall be made by the Bishop-in-Council after consideration of the recommendations of the Commission on such terms and conditions as it shall determine with the advice of the Commission.

Commission to report

- 12. (1) The proceedings of the Commission shall be sufficiently reported to the next succeeding meeting of the Bishop-in-Council, and shall be fully reported in writing to the next succeeding meeting of each of the governing bodies of the Member Schools.
- (2) The Commission shall report to the annual session of Synod.

Regulations

- 13. The Bishop-in-Council may from time to time make, amend or repeal such regulations not inconsistent with this Canon as may be considered by it to be necessary or expedient to give effect to this Canon.

Commencement

14. This Canon shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Bishop-in-Council.