

## 1.19 PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Provincial Synod of New South Wales is comprised of the Diocesan Bishops of the 7 Anglican Dioceses of New South Wales – Armidale, Grafton, Bathurst, Canberra and Goulburn, Newcastle, Sydney and the Riverina. The Diocesan Bishops are ex-officio members of Provincial Synod, with clerical and lay representatives from each diocese.

There are three “houses” in the Synod – the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy, and the House of Laity. Membership is proportional on the number of active clergy in the Diocese. Newcastle Diocese has 11 members of General Synod: the Bishop in the House of Bishops, 5 in the House of Clergy and 5 in the House of the Laity. The Synod is presided over by the Metropolitan, the Archbishop of Sydney.

The Provincial Synod operates similar to general Synod and the Synod of Newcastle, using similar procedures to Parliament.

Provincial Synod, under its current ordinance meets at least every five year. At its recent meeting (11 May 2011) the Synod resolved to amend the membership ratio as follows:

Diocese	Current Membership	Proposed Amendment
Armidale	6	2
Bathurst	6	2
Canberra/Goulburn	10	4
Grafton	6	2
Newcastle	10	4
Riverina	4	2
Sydney	24	10

In order to hold a bi-annual Convention. The first convention will be held in Canberra and Goulburn over the January long weekend.

In accordance with the Provincial Synod Constitution Ordinance 1907-1970 this change to the representation of Dioceses will require ratification by General Synod with a draft Canon distributed amongst all Australian dioceses for their adoption. This change therefore would not become active until 2015/16 at the earliest.