

6.3 CLERGY HOUSING - ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR STIPENDIARY CLERGY HOUSING

1. Stipendiary clergy are required to live in the residence provided by the Parish/Chaplaincy unless the Bishop approves other arrangements.
2. Clergy seeking other arrangements should apply to the Bishop in writing, having discussed the need for such an arrangement with the Parish Council. The Parish Secretary should inform the Bishop in writing the decision of Parish Council concerning the proposed the alternate housing arrangement. The Bishop will seek the advice of the relevant Archdeacon, Diocesan Council and Property Approvals Board (if necessary).
3. Subject to the Bishop's approval, If there is no existing Rectory the Bishop will refer the request to the Archdeacon and Property Approvals Board
4. If there is an existing Rectory, the Parish lease the property in accordance with Policy 14.5
5. Where practical, the Parish should lease a suitable alternative property observing any relevant policy from the Property Approvals Board. The Parish is responsible for all rental payments and the relevant utility costs of the rented property.
6. Where clergy seek permission to live in their own home, the following guidelines apply –
 - a) The residence should normally be within the parish boundaries. In more urban settings, consideration may be given where the residence is no more than 15 kilometres outside the parish boundaries.
 - b) The cost of travel to and from the residence and to and from the main centre of worship, must be borne by the member of the clergy.
 - c) The Diocesan Business Manager will advise the member of the clergy and the Parish Council of the relevant housing benefit which shall be paid in a similar manner to the cash component of the stipend and must not
 - exceed 75% of the rental value of the rectory plus the utilities expenses
 - exceed the maximum housing benefit payable as determined by the Emoluments Board each year.
 - d) The member of clergy is responsible for meeting all costs associated with their own residence and cannot make any claim on the parish nor arrange for any expenditure to be processed through the parish accounts or through any clergy discretionary account.
 - e) The member of the clergy is responsible for relocation costs unless permission to live in his/her own residence occurs at the beginning of the ministry in the parish.

- f) In relation to telephone expenses, the member of the clergy will be reimbursed for line rental and ministry related calls but will be required to meet the costs of any installation.
 - g) The member of clergy is responsible for ensuring appropriate disclosure to the Australian Taxation Office and Centrelink.
7. Every arrangement approved by the Bishop under this policy will be reviewed from time to time by the relevant Archdeacon and a report forwarded to the Bishop and the member of the clergy.
 8. The Bishop may revoke such permission by giving six months notice to the member of the clergy unless the ministry is being terminated when the notice periods under the relevant ordinances will apply.
 9. Nothing in this policy guarantees a member of the clergy continued ministry nor limits the Bishop's power to withdraw a licence in accordance with any Ordinance.
 10. No Diocesan body, leader or officer will be responsible for any financial disadvantage incurred by the member of the clergy who is granted permission to live in their own residence at any time including in the event his/her ministry concludes or is terminated.