
PRIMACY OF CONSCIENCE ACT 2007

ACT NO. 3, 2007

AN ACT

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRIMACY OF CONSCIENCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN REGARD TO ACTIVITIES CONSEQUENT UPON THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD

WHEREAS the Synod heeds the call of the 1998 Lambeth Conference “to affirm that those who dissent from, as well as those who assent to, the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate are both loyal Anglicans.” (Lambeth Conference 1998, Resolution III.2)

AND WHEREAS the Synod acknowledges that not all clergy and laity of the Diocese in good conscience hold different positions concerning the ordination of women to the priesthood

AND WHEREAS the Synod seeks to encourage and promote the peace, harmony and concord of the Diocese

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Bishop, the clergy, and the laity of the Anglican Church of Australia within the Diocese of Wangaratta in Victoria duly met in Synod according to law as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the “Primacy of Conscience Act 2007”
2. A person shall not be required to participate in any service or activity within the Diocese if the person in good conscience is unable to do so because of his or her position consequent upon the ordination of women to the priesthood.
3. Any member of the clergy or lay person who in good conscience is unable to participate in any service or activity within the Diocese because of his or her position consequent upon the ordination of women to the priesthood may inform the Bishop in writing in the form of the Notice set out in the Schedule hereto.
4. Any person who has notified the Bishop in accordance with Section 3 hereof may request consultation with the Bishop regarding the act of conscience in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 hereof.
5. No person shall suffer any discrimination or prejudice because of an exercise of an act of conscience in relation to his or her position consequent upon the ordination of women to the priesthood.
6. Any person who considers that he or she has been discriminated against because of an exercise of an act of conscience in relation to his or her position consequent upon the ordination of women to the priesthood may request consultation with the Bishop regarding the perceived discrimination in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 hereof.
7. (1) The Bishop shall consult with any person who has requested a consultation in accordance with Section 4 or 6 hereof as soon as practical after he receives the request for consultation from the affected person.

Short Title

No requirement to participate

Non-participation requirement for

Notification of non-participation -- consultation with Bishop

No discrimination or prejudice

Perceived discrimination – consultation with Bishop

Prompt consultation

PRIMACY OF CONSCIENCE ACT 2007

Independent facilitator

(2) If the Bishop and the affected person agree a mutually agreeable independent facilitator may be appointed by the Bishop to assist the consultation process.

Alternative arrangements – procedure for

(3) The Bishop, after completion of the consultation process, shall at the request of the affected person seek to make mutually agreed alternative arrangements for the affected person.

Bishop's right to officiate or preach

8. Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of the Bishop to officiate or preach at any service within the Diocese.

SCHEDULE

To:

The Right Reverend the Bishop of Wangaratta

I, (name), of (address) hereby inform you that, in accordance with the Primacy of Conscience Act 2007 ("the Act"), I cannot in good conscience attend (name of activity) to be held on (date).

In accordance with the provisions of the Act I request a consultation with you concerning the exercise of this act of conscience. (Delete if not applicable).

Date:

Signature:

Passed: 31ST August 2007
Assented to: 27th September 2007