

NOTES ON THE CONSTITUTION

1. The Constitution of the Church of England in Australia was approved by the General Synod of the Church of England in Australia and Tasmania on 6 October 1955, and revised by the Continuation Committee appointed at the time, which was authorised to make such corrections of a non-contentious character as might seem to it necessary or desirable. The Chairman of Committees signed the final form of the text on 7 February 1956. This text was submitted to the dioceses for their assent, and it also formed the schedule to the New South Wales Act No. 16, 1961. The Constitution came into effect pursuant to section 68 on 1 January 1962.
2. The text printed here follows the official N.S.W. version, with very minor style changes such as the standardisation of upper and lower case.
3. The alteration of the name of the Church from *The Church of England in Australia* to *The Anglican Church of Australia* came into effect on 24 August 1981.
4. Appendix 1 immediately following lists the alterations to the Constitution which had come into effect as at 1 July 2014. These alterations are incorporated in the text of the Constitution. Footnotes to the text draw attention to these alterations.
5. Canons and Bills for the alteration of the Constitution which have not come into effect are listed in Appendix 2 immediately following Appendix 1. The text of those Canons and Bills is set out immediately following Appendix 2.
6. In 1981 the General Synod passed two Bills to alter the Constitution. These Bills required the assent of at least three-fourths of the diocesan synods including the synods of all the metropolitan sees in order to come into effect. When they were considered by the diocesan synods, some synods acted on legal advice that the Constitution could be altered only by Canons and not by Bills. Other diocesan synods acted on advice that Bills were the proper way to alter the Constitution. To ensure that alterations made at the 1985, 1987 and 1989 sessions of General Synod would not be rejected by diocesan synods on the same grounds, General Synod legislated for changes to the Constitution by passing both a Canon and a Bill, each making the same changes.
7. Alterations to the Constitution passed by General Synod in 1987 came into effect on 1 July 1992, prior to the 1992 session of the General Synod. One effect of these alterations was to make it clear that alterations to the Constitution would in future be made by Canon.
8. One of the Bills passed in 1981 [Bill No.2, 1981] was further dealt with in Canon No. 1, 1987 and Bill No. 1, 1987, which came into effect on 1 July 1992. Sec.2 of the Canon and of the Bill of 1987 provide together a method for Bill No. 2, 1981 to be brought into effect without a matching Canon.
