Diocesan Pastoral Council FAQ

1. What is a Diocesan Pastoral Council?

A Diocesan Pastoral Council is a consultative body. Under the leadership of the Bishop, it 'is to study and weigh those matters which concern the pastoral works in the diocese, and to propose practical conclusions concerning them' (Code of Canon Law, 511).

Pope Francis has taught that the Diocesan Pastoral Council, along with the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Consultors forms part of the ongoing instruments of synodality that lead to and implement the work of Diocesan Synods.

Each of these bodies helps the Bishop, Priests and Baptised proclaim Jesus to the world and to make Jesus known and loved.

2. How will the members of a Diocesan

Pastoral Council be chosen and how will they be nominated?

A Working Party will propose options for consultation. Membership should reflect the nature, culture and demography of the Archdiocese. The majority of members must be lay people.

3. How was the Working Party chosen?

Archbishop Christopher was conscious of the need to balance knowledge, expertise, insight, representation, time constraints and agility. Each of the members brings different experiences – three are parents with children in different stages of life; several bring theological and canonical expertise; two are members of the Plenary Council; several have served on different Archdiocesan bodies; all have thought about the best way to facilitate consultation within the life of the Church. Each is passionate about enhancing the mission of the Church.

4. Can I have a say in deliberations of the Working Party?

Yes. A webpage within the Archdiocesan website will be established with links to much of the material being considered by the working party.

An email account, workingparty@cg.org.au has been set up for people to present ideas to the working party.

The Report to the Archbishop will be released to the Archdiocese along with some questions for feedback and a process to elicit the views of the whole Archdiocese between September and December.