

## DEFENCE FORCE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY INC. (DFACI)



### INTRODUCTION

DFACI was established by Anglican Defence Force Chaplains as their collective representative and professional organisation. DFACI is funded by compulsory personal contributions from Australian Defence Force Anglican Chaplains.

DFACI was pleased to welcome The Right Reverend Grant Dibden as the Bishop to the Defence Force (BDF) and Chair of DFACI in early 2020. Bishop Dibden's consecration was impacted by COVID 19, reducing attendees due to it aligning with the implementation of the first nationwide restrictions. Like the remainder of the Church, COVID – 19 has continued to impact the working of DFACI over the past three years.

### PURPOSE

DFACI was established to support Anglican Ministry in the Australian Defence Force. Anglican ministry is provided by Chaplains spread across Australia working in ecumenical and multi-faith teams. The core role of Australian Defence Force Chaplains is to bring honour to the dead, support to the sick and hope to those in distress. Alongside their core military role Chaplains provide religious, spiritual and pastoral care and support to members of the ADF and their families at home and on operations. In 2020 this included providing assistance through the Bushfires and COVID 19 responses.

The BDF leads and supports this ministry by providing, on behalf of the Primate, episcopal oversight of 40 full-time Anglican Chaplains, 46 part-time Anglican Chaplains and 6 Defence funded Anglican ordination candidates/in service trainees. In turn the BDF is supported by DFACI in the provision of approximately 40% of the Bishop's remuneration package. DFACI members support the BDF and other DFACI operations including professional standards financially through their subscription fees.

The detailed purpose of DFACI can be found in the objects of the association as contained in Rules and Regulations of DFACI (attached below).

### MISSION AND VISION

DFACI and DFB form Defence Anglicans and together have this mission and vision:

#### **Mission**

*To minister, proclaim and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ within the ADF community*

#### **Vision**

*That all may know the reign of God (Mt 28: 19, Col 1: 28).*

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*Under God we seek to serve the ADF community by:  
Restoring the broken (Luke 4: 18)  
Awakening people to God  
Inviting the community into relationship with Jesus  
Sustaining and nurturing them on their faith journey  
Praying for the community  
In all this we demonstrate the love of God.*

### STRATEGIC GOALS AND INITIATIVES

In order to fulfil this mission and vision, in 2020 the Bishop to the Defence Force instigated a review of the strategic planning via two Defence Anglican Strategic Planning Meetings between the Defence Force Anglican Chaplains Incorporated Committee and the Defence Force Board. These meetings determined these five common goals for Defence Anglicans<sup>1</sup>:

- Engage and build partnerships with the broader Anglican Church of Australia.
- Support Defence as Anglicans ministering inside Defence.
- Provide strong and appropriate advocacy in Defence.
- Support and enhance the role of the Bishop to the Defence Force.
- Provide episcopal, governance and other support to chaplains.

DFACI will make their unique contributions to these goals, as will Defence Force Board, as *together* we seek to pursue our mission and vision.

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

To this end DFACI has the following goals for 2022:

- To examine how to better meet the needs of the future, including examining how we can better support Chaplains working in often difficult or remote settings.
- To optimise our partnerships with local Diocese' and other like organisations to clearly be seen as an outreach and mission arm of the Church.
- To build up our support of the care of Australian Defence Force members and veterans through our partnership(informal) with SPAHS.
- To examine, in conjunction with the Defence Force Board, how to provide further administrative support to the BDF to enable the ongoing pastoral and ministry support for Anglican Chaplains.
- To begin working with partner organisations to develop Christian programs for use by or to support the work of Defence Force chaplains.

### MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Membership is currently 97. The DFACI Committee for 2022 is:

- The Right Rev'd Grant Dibden (Chair)
- Principal Chaplain The Ven Andrew Lewis (Archdeacon Navy)
- Chaplain The Ven Glenn Buijs (Archdeacon Army)
- Principal Air Chaplain The Ven Kevin Russell – (Archdeacon Air Force)
- Chaplain Phil Riley (Secretary)
- Chaplain John Raike (A/Sec)

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<sup>1</sup> Defence Anglicans is the pulling together of the Defence Force Board and the Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Incorporated to assist with alignment, focus and energy of the two organisations. It has no formal status or authority.

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- TBA (Treasurer)
- Colonel Mark Francis (Rtd) (Registrar)
- Chaplain Andrew Taylor (Public Officer)
- Chaplain Colin Tett (Navy Rep)
- Chaplain Jessica Grant (Army Rep)
- Chaplain Stuart Asquith (RAAF Rep)
- Chaplain Armen Nalbandian (Reserve Rep)
- Mr Alan Gallimore (Defence Force Board Lay Rep)
- Chaplain Andrew Nixon (Defence Force Board Clergy Rep)

A condition of endorsement as an Anglican Defence Force Chaplain is financial membership of DFACI.

### ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD

- Farewelled The Right Reverend Ian Lambert as BDF Oct 19
- Welcomed The Right Reverend Grant Dibden as BDF and Chair of DFACI
- Meetings  
2017 (5), 2018 (4), 2019 (5: 2 + 3 teleconference), 2020 (6: 2 + 4 combination teleconference and in person); 2021 (5: 1 + 4 teleconference) and 2022 (1 prior to this report).
  - 26 DFACI committee meetings
  - 1 Special General Meeting to change the regulations such that the AGM could be held by electronic means.
  - 2 Joint Defence Anglican Strategic Planning Meetings with the DFB
  - 5 AGM (3 in person and 2 electronically)
- Annual Retreats primarily for full-time Chaplains. Held collectively in 2017-2019 and individual retreats, held locally to allow for COVID-19 regulations in 2020 and 2021
- Collation of ADs Andrew Lewis (Navy) and Rob Sutherland (Army) (Dec 18)
- Collation of AD Glenn Buijs (Feb 22)
- Pastoral care and support of Chaplains
- Joined National Redress Scheme and completed on boarding requirements

### MATTERS FOR NOTING DURING THE PERIOD

- To underwrite the BDF remuneration (as requested by the Primate) and to provide administrative support to the BDF (covered in detail in the DFB Report) DFACI member personal contributions from salary have substantially increased. This is having an impact upon some chaplain families and on chaplains giving to other Anglican organisations including local churches.
- DFACI financially supported professional standards investigations into Anglican Defence Chaplains when matters were referred by BDF.
- The BDF commenced as Chair to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services on 1 Jan 22.

Chaplain Philip Riley

Secretary  
Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Inc

25 February 2022