

**The Right Reverend Dr Keith Joseph
Bishop of North Queensland**



General Synod Profile 2022

An Anglican since birth, growing up in the northern suburbs of Sydney, attending churches at Wahroonga, St Ives and Gordon.

For the first twenty-five years of my adult life, I was mainly engaged either in academic work or military service. Usually army part-time and student or lecturer full-time, but often the other way round. I was in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, and rose through the ranks from Private, to Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant, and then Warrant Officer Class 2. I had an honourable but undistinguished military career. At the same time I completed various studies at Macquarie University and then Newcastle University, completing a PhD in ethics and philosophy of science.

In 1995 the Army caught up with me and decided that a Warrant Officer with a PhD was an absurdity and I was commissioned as a Captain. Whilst serving as a Captain (and subsequently as a Major) I concentrated on administration and staff work, and my last full-time posting was at the Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre as a Logistics Contracts Manager. At the same time, I was also used by Defence to teach military ethics, particularly in association with the Chaplain's Department, and undertook part-time theological studies at St Mark's in Canberra.

In 2004 I left full-time service with the Army and proceeded to the Solomon Islands as a member of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, moving from the Army to the Australian Federal Police, again as a Logistics Contracts Manager. Whilst in the Solomon Islands I was called to ordination as a Deacon; in 2006 my time finished and rather than return to Australia and further military or police service I was asked by the then Archbishop of Melanesia to stay in the Solomon Islands and run the Bachelor of Theology course that had just started. When I agreed to do that +Ellison also told me that I was going to be ordained as a Priest.

At the end of 2010 I returned to Australia and from early 2011 was a parish priest in the Diocese of Newcastle, in one of the parishes that sadly was at the epicentre of the historic sexual abuse cases in that Diocese. In November 2013 I was installed as the Dean of Darwin, and held numerous appointments in the Diocese of the Northern Territory, including Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, Director of Anglicare NT, and from 2015 Administrator of the Diocese. I also served as an Army Reserve chaplain and continue as such on an irregular basis.

In March 2019 I was installed as Bishop of North Queensland. The Diocese is of a similar size in population and number of parishes to the Dioceses of Newcastle or Canberra & Goulburn, but is stretched out over a far larger geographic area. It is the most diverse diocese in Australia – regional centres in Mackay, Townsville and Cairns; a rural and tourist coastal strip from Sarina in the south to Cooktown; the outback including Mount Isa and the southern Gulf; Aboriginal communities on the Cape York Peninsula; and the Torres Strait Islands. I also continue to retain close links with the Solomon Islands and the Anglican Church of Melanesia. I am also active in academic research work in areas such as ethics and ecclesiology.