

Role of Area Deans

1. As Area Deans are elected by their peers, they in turn will be people who take the initiative in 'gathering' their peers.
2. The Bishop expects all licenced clergy to attend their Area Deanery meetings. Clergy with an Authority to Officiate and retired clergy are very welcome to attend Area Deanery Meetings if they wish.
3. The purpose and frequency of those gatherings is to be determined at a local level and would include:
 - Prayer
 - Fellowship and encouragement and pastoral care of clergy and ministry staff
 - Sharing ideas and resources
 - Planning of deanery events (missions, prayer gatherings, across-church social events, training programs, Carols, Civic gatherings etc).
4. The organisation of 'Induction' services according to the *Guidelines for Induction Services* and all 'Induction' services to be written in concert with the Dean of the Cathedral; a formal welcome on behalf of the Deanery for the new incumbent (and their family); ensuring the new incumbent meets with the Bishops' Liaison Officer, New Ministry Orientation and Integration Program; a visit from the Area Dean to the new incumbent early in the incumbency.
5. Keeping a pastoral 'eye' on clergy/ ministry staff. Being available for prayer and dialogue. Keeping pastoral confidences, but within bounds of confidentiality alerting Archdeacons to pastoral issues if need arises.
6. Regular meetings (determined locally) with the Archdeacon to advise (within the bounds of pastoral propriety) the 'state' and 'shape' and 'health' of ministry units in the Deanery.
7. When a Parish has no priest or incumbent the Area Dean should bring to the attention of the Parish matters that the Parish needs to be aware of.
8. At Diocesan events at the Cathedral such as Ordination Services, Area Deans are to wear copes and as was past practice be invited to sit in the choir stalls. If Area Deans don't have a cope one maybe borrowed from the Cathedral on those occasions. (*Dean of the Cathedral to follow-up to ensure this happens*).
9. Two half day meetings with the Bishop each year.

The Right Reverend Stuart Robinson
Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn
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