

Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group (AVPG)

1st July 2016

Background

The Council of Anglicare Victoria approved the Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group (AVPG) as one of two official support associations of the organisation on the 11th May 2016.

History

The Anglicare Victoria Auxiliaries have been in existence since the establishment of the former agencies, namely, The Mission to the Streets and Lanes in 1886, The Mission of St James and St John in 1919, and St John's Homes for Boy's and Girl's in 1921. In their heyday there were 72 auxiliaries associated with local parishes who provided financial support through fundraising, provision of food, emergency relief and practical support to children and families in need.

In July 1997, Anglicare Victoria was created by the amalgamation of these three long established and well-respected Anglican child and family welfare agencies. All the existing Auxiliaries remained actively involved in supporting the work of Anglicare Victoria.

An ageing population within the parishes and diversification in the population has led to a significant decline in membership. It had become apparent to Auxiliary members that there was a need to adapt to changing social patterns within Diocese across Victoria and to explore the most effective way for the work and support of Anglicare Victoria at parish grassroots level to continue into the future.

In March 2016 an Open Dialogue about the future of the Anglicare Victoria Auxiliaries was held to explore the most effective way for the this work in supporting Anglicare to continue.

In April 2016, the Anglicare Victoria Board approved the formation of the AVPG, which in effect reflected the evolution of Auxiliaries to a new and exciting operating model. This was subsequently ratified by the Anglicare Victoria Council on the 11th May 2016.

What is the Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group (AVPG)?

The AVPG is a network of small, local groups based from Anglican parishes and other local community groups who agree to the aims to support and advocate for Anglicare Victoria in their work for vulnerable families, young people, children and individuals in the community.

The aims of the AVPG are:

- To raise the profile and awareness of Anglicare Victoria
- To create a valued and dynamic new Partnership Group network.
- To provide a forum for creative ideas
- To Network amongst parishes and parishioners along with other interested parties throughout Victoria
- To fundraise for Anglicare Victoria

Purposes

1. The provision of support to Anglicare Victoria as an approved Support Association is pursuant to clause 27 of the Constitution of Anglicare Victoria.
2. The appointment of members (2) of the Council of Anglicare Victoria pursuant to clause 6 (2)(g) of the Constitution of Anglicare Victoria.
3. Financial support including fundraising and donations; provision of volunteers in support of agency programs; advocacy through a speakers group; and other means of support in furtherance of point 1.

Objectives

1. To provide opportunities to the AVPG network to learn more of the work of Anglicare Victoria and in turn share this knowledge with others and create further awareness of Anglicare Victoria in the wider community. Provide advocacy through a speakers group, and other initiatives, as part of the AVPG.
2. To provide opportunities for members to meet socially with other AVPG members.
3. To drive fundraising activities and initiative that support Anglicare Victoria's work.

Membership

There is no formal admission, no joining fee and no annual subscription for members of the AVPG. However, all AVPG Network Groups ("Network Groups") and their members need to be registered with the AVPG Coordinating Group ("Coordinating Group").

Recommendations for the Future

The initial Coordinating Group of the Support Association will actively seek opportunities to grow its membership especially from within Anglican parishes across Victoria. The Coordinating Group recognises that while the broader membership continues to be drawn from the Anglicare donor base, we will also be seeking involvement from the broader community who share the values and desire to support the work of Anglicare Victoria.

The Coordinating Group will also develop a number of Network Group initiatives to be implemented following launch of the AVPG on the 1st July 2016.

Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group (AVPG)

Draft Rules (16 May 2016)

(The AVPG was approved by the Council of Anglicare Victoria on the 11th May 2016. The draft rules of this new Support Association are outlined below)

1. NAME

The name of the Support Association is Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group "AVPG"). The Support Association will have an umbrella Coordinating Group as well as Network Groups at Anglican parishes or other geographical locations across Victoria. The Coordinating Group and Network Groups must at all times adhere to the over-arching rules and purposes of the AVPG.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the AVPG are:

- 2.1 The provision of support to Anglicare Victoria as one of two approved Support Associations pursuant to clause 27 of the Constitution of Anglicare Victoria.
- 2.2 The appointment of two (2) AVPG members to the Council of Anglicare Victoria pursuant to clause 6 (2) (g) of the Constitution of Anglicare Victoria.
- 2.3 To provide financial support including fundraising and donations; advocacy through a speakers' group to increase the awareness and promoting the good work of Anglicare Victoria in the wider community; networking and social activities for members and other means of support in furtherance of paragraph 2.1 above.

3. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

These Rules must not be altered without the prior approval of the Council of Anglicare Victoria.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Any person attached to an Anglican parish in Victoria or any person that has a desire and wishes to share and promote the values of Anglicare Victoria may form and/or become a member of an AVPG Network Group.
- 4.2 Each and every person that is a member of the AVPG Network Groups will be required to have the member's name entered in the AVPG register of members held by the Coordinating Group Secretary.

5. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The Secretary of the AVPG Coordinating Group will maintain a register of members containing names, addresses, contact details (phone and email where available), the name of their local Anglican Parish or network name and joining date.

6. CEASING MEMBERSHIP

- a. An AVPG member may resign at any time by notice in writing.
- b. The Secretary will delete names from the register of members upon resignation

7. DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- a. If the Coordinating Group is of the opinion that a member has not complied with these Rules, or has engaged in conduct unbecoming as a member or prejudicial to the interests of the AVPG, the Coordinating Group may suspend or expel the member.
- b. The member will be given seven days' notice in writing of the Coordinating Group meeting and will be afforded the opportunity to defend himself / herself in person and in writing before the Coordinating Group passes a resolution suspending or expelling the member.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. The Coordinating Group will arrange an Annual General Meeting for AVPG members.
- b. The Business will be:
 - i. To receive Coordinating Group reports on the past year;
 - ii. To elect Coordinating Group members;
 - iii. To receive annual financial statements;
 - iv. When required pursuant to clause 6 (2) (g) of the Constitution of Anglicare Victoria, to appoint persons to the Council of Anglicare Victoria; and
 - v. Any other business of which notice has been given.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

The Coordinating Group can organise General Meetings for Network Group members at their discretion, e.g. to discuss special issues or forums for creative ideas. Ideally, two weeks' notice should be given for such meetings.

10. COORDINATING GROUP

- 10.1 The affairs of the AVPG will be managed by the Coordinating Group.
- 10.2 The Coordinating Group will comprise a Chairman (appointed by the Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare Victoria), three elected members (to include a Secretary) and ex officio the Anglicare Victoria General Manager or Manager, Parish Partnerships.
- 10.3 The Coordinating Group will hold office until the following Annual General Meeting, at which the Chairman will be confirmed again by the Anglicare Victoria Chief Executive Officer, and elected members can re-stand for election.
- 10.4 The Coordinating Group may fill a casual vacancy from among the registered members of the AVPG, and second as needed.
- 10.5 Nominations for the Coordinating Group will be in writing signed by two registered members of the AVPG and the nominee.
- 10.6 If the nominations exceed the vacancies, a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.
- 10.7 The Coordinating Group will meet bi-monthly or otherwise as determined by the Chairman.
- 10.8 The Secretary will give notice in writing of the Coordinating Group meetings.
- 10.9 A quorum for the Coordinating Group meetings is three.
- 10.10 The Chairman or, in his / her absence, the Secretary will chair the Coordinating Group meetings.
- 10.11 The Coordinating Group may request a staff member from the Community Relations Group of Anglicare Victoria to act on its behalf and assist in any way it sees fit.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL OF ANGLICARE VICTORIA

- 11.1 At the Annual General Meeting, or a special general meeting of the AVPG prior to the Annual General meeting of the Anglicare Victoria Council, and thereafter every three years, the AVPG will elect two persons to be appointed to the Council of Anglicare Victoria pursuant to clause 6 (2) (g) of the Constitution of Anglicare Victoria.
- 11.2 Persons nominated must be registered members of the AVPG. Persons nominated must not be employees of Anglicare Victoria.

- 11.3 Nominations for Anglicare Victoria Council will be in writing signed by two members of the AVPG and the nominee.
- 11.4 If the nominees exceed the vacancies, a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

12. MINUTES

The Secretary of the AVPG Coordinating Group will keep minutes of all Annual General Meetings, General meetings and the Coordinating Group meetings.

13. THE FORMATION OF NETWORK GROUPS

The Overall Aim is for the establishment of Network Groups throughout Victoria, based in Anglican parishes and the community, with the purpose of supporting and advocating for the work of Anglicare Victoria. The network groups need to comply in these ways:

- a) All Network Groups must be registered with the Coordinating Group.
- b) All Network Groups are to have a minimum of three registered members.
- c) All Network Groups are to operate in accordance with the Rules of the AVPG (as above).
- d) All Network Groups are to provide a report to the AVPG Annual General Meeting on activities and effective practices in support and advocacy for Anglicare Victoria.
- e) All Network Groups are to operate in relationship with each other and the Coordinating Group in Christian understanding of good community and good neighbours.

14. FUNDS

- 14.1 The Coordinating Group will manage the financial affairs of the AVPG, including funds raised and donated to Anglicare Victoria.
- 14.2 The Coordinating Group will keep accounts, including a bank account, with full details of all receipts and expenditure, and will arrange an annual audit of the accounts by an independent auditor.
- 14.3 Network Groups need to keep an account of financial transactions, with full details of all receipts, donations and expenditure. It is strongly recommended that Network Groups associated with parishes operate through the Parish Finances/Books.
- 14.4 Cheques issued on behalf of the Coordinating Group will be signed by two Coordinating Group members, or otherwise as determined by the Coordinating Group.

15. CUSTODY OF RECORDS

- 15.1 The AVPG Coordinating Group Secretary will keep all books, documents, register of members, and accounts of the association in his / her custody.
- 15.2 Members may inspect the records on request by arrangement with the AVPG Coordinating Group Secretary.

16. WINDING UP

In the event of the winding up on the AVPG, its assets will be disposed of in accordance with direction from the Council of Anglicare Victoria.