

**PROTOCOL FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF MINISTRY SUITABILITY INFORMATION
BETWEEN THE CHURCHES OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

cf [Anglican Consultative Council resolution 16.27](#)

Definitions

1. In this Protocol:

“applicable Church worker” means a Church worker who:

- (a) has been authorised to undertake ministry by a Church authority of the Authorising Province; and
- (b) applies, or has been nominated, for appointment to a position or ministry in the Assessing Province.

“Assessing Province” means the Province of which a Church authority is assessing whether an applicable Church worker should be authorised for ministry;

“Authorising Province” means the Province or Provinces in which the applicable Church worker has previously been authorised to undertake ministry by a Church authority;

“Church authority” means the person or body with responsibility for authorising Church workers for ministry in the Authorising Province or the Assessing Province;

“Church worker” means a member of the clergy or lay person;

“Ministry Suitability Information” means a statement of a Church authority of the Authorising Province in relation to an applicable Church worker that discloses:

- (a) whether or not there has been; and
- (b) if applicable, the substance of;

any allegations, charge or finding, as the case may be, of the commission of a criminal offence or the breach of the rules of the Authorising Province relating to the moral conduct of Church workers;

“Province” includes part of a Province.

System for the disclosure of Ministry Suitability Information by the Authorising Province

2. We will have and maintain a system for the disclosure of Ministry Suitability Information by the Church authority of the Authorising Province in relation to an applicable Church worker that includes a process for:
 - (a) the application by the Church authority of the Assessing Province for the disclosure of Ministry Suitability Information; and
 - (b) the disclosure of Ministry Suitability Information to the Church authority of the Assessing Province.

System for assessing the suitability of an applicable Church worker for authorisation for ministry in the Assessing Province

3. We will have and maintain a system for assessing the suitability of an applicable Church worker for authorisation for ministry in the Assessing Province that includes:
 - (a) the Church authority of the Assessing Province applying for Ministry Suitability Information;
 - (b) the Church authority of the Assessing Province not authorising the applicable Church worker for ministry until it has made an assessment, having taken into account the Ministry Suitability Information disclosed by the Authorising Province, that the applicable Church worker is not a risk to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of people.