



General Proposal 1 – Presbytery Capacity

Frequently Asked Questions

What is being proposed?

A proposal for the 39th Synod to strengthen presbytery capacity across Queensland. Its purpose is to equip presbyteries to better support congregations and faith communities in mission, ministry, renewal and growth.

Structurally, the proposal would replace the seven existing presbyteries with three new presbyteries within the Synod of Queensland from 1 July 2027. The proposal would also empower the General Secretary to ensure each new presbytery has its basic requirements in place until it meets to establish its own leadership, life and priorities.

A parallel proposal is also being developed to explore a new model for financially resourcing presbyteries. The two proposals are related, but not dependent on one another.

Why is this being considered?

This work is about strengthening the whole Church for mission. Presbyteries play a vital role in supporting congregations and faith communities, and the project asks how they can be better equipped, encouraged and resourced for that work.

Have presbyteries helped shape the way forward?

Yes. The project was initiated by the collective group of Presbytery Ministers following an extended period of prayerful reflection. This has been a genuine process of listening, conversation and discernment. Presbyteries across Queensland have contributed through local discussion, formal feedback and practical insight.

How did the proposal originate?

The project concept arose from the Healthy Sustainable Ministry conversation. To have healthy ministers and congregations, Presbyteries needed capacity to support this work. This project has always been about building capacity in our leaders, teams and presbyteries.

Did you consider four presbyteries?

Yes. The consultation paper last year included a variety of models for consideration including four presbyteries. A four-presbytery model was deemed unworkable as two smaller regional presbyteries would not address all the issues and realise the benefits the work was striving to achieve. Thus, the move to one greater regional presbytery is proposed.

Who was part of the consultation workshop held in January?

Each Presbytery had three members represent them at workshop in January. It was at the January workshop that we had consensus for the three-presbytery model, which included Toowoomba and surrounds as part of Southern presbytery. This is the model that we took to formal consultation with Presbyteries.

What were the Presbyteries responses as part of the formal consultation?

These can be found on the Synod website. There was overall conditional support in favour of the Draft Proposal. For resourcing there was overall general support in favour of the draft proposal.

Was Muth arrak part of the consultation?

Kym Korbe (PSI) and Rev Roberta Stanley (SSC) were part of every step of decision making. PSI which includes representatives from Muth arrak, presbyteries and agencies were a key reference group throughout the process. Updates for feedback were also shared at Muth arrak meetings. If the proposal is approved, there will be a gathering in February with members of Muth arrak, presbyteries and Synod Office staff to clarify ways of working going forward. The proposal includes directing the Synod Standing Committee to review Muth arrak terms of reference.

Has supporting younger generations ministry been considered in the staffing?

While it is up to each Presbytery to determine its final staffing requirements, the New Presbyteries Information paper suggests the inclusion of a presbytery ministry role to support younger generations ministry within each Presbtyery.

Has there been thought into what we will happen for existing staff?

Yes. And if the proposal is passed one of the first items on implementation team's "to do" list is working with Presbyteries and Synod People & Culture team to ensure clarity around staffing.

How does this support the Presbytery's work in concerns and complaints?

While it is up to each Presbytery to determine staffing, the New Presbyteries Information paper suggests presbytery ministry staffing models with one of the roles holding responsibility for complaints and concerns. This paper also recommends Presbytery's explore options for further delegation or cooperation with the Synod Office on this matter.

How does this align with work on the future of formation?

The New Presbyteries Information paper suggests a Presbytery Minister role could incorporate formation as part of their responsibilities. This role could be a partner of the Uniting Formation Network, enhancing cross-Presbytery and Synod strategic collaboration in formation – discipleship and leadership.

How does this connect with Renewal and Growth?

It aligns with Basis of Union's call to presbyteries to exhort those within its bounds to fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus (para 15). This work relates directly from the 38th Synod's commitment to Renewal and Growth, particularly the priority of Flourishing Presbyteries. It is not change for its own sake. It is one practical way the Church is seeking to build stronger foundations for renewal, growth and mission across Queensland. A reminder, this proposal has its origins in the collective Presbytery Minister group exploring together ways to help enhance presbytery capacity to support congregations and leaders.

What would the proposed model seek to achieve?

The proposed model seeks to build presbyteries with greater capacity for leadership, pastoral care, mission planning, governance and shared resourcing. The aim is to ensure presbyteries have the people, support and resources they need to serve congregations and communities well, now and into the future.

Has a decision been made?

No. A final decision has not been made. The proposal for consideration by the 39th Synod draws on the feedback, prayerful reflection and discernment already received. Synod members will then consider the proposal as part of the wider Renewal and Growth journey.



Where can I find the earlier discussion paper and draft proposals?

The Presbytery Capacity material is available on the Synod website, including August 2025 discussion paper, February 2026 draft proposals and video introduction. Find the [web page here](#).