

How does the Diocesan Pastoral Council achieve its goals?

The DPC has an Executive Officer, and in the Rockhampton diocese, this position is held by the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Coordinator.

The DPC through its Executive Officer

- * assists local parishes in the setup, ongoing formation and maintaining effective PPCs
- * assists parishes in developing their parish pastoral plans
- * collates local Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) reports to identify pastoral issues that could be addressed at diocesan level
- * works collaboratively with the local parishes and deaneries in helping them implement the Bishop's recommendations

Who are the members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and how are they chosen?

The Bishop appoints people to the DPC. The composition of the DPC reflects the entire portion of the people of the diocese. As such, the DPC of the Diocese of Rockhampton has members who include:

- * the Vicar General
- * the Council of Priests (one person)
- * religious orders (one person)
- * the laity from various parishes around the diocese (nine persons)

Membership (with the exception of ex-officio members) is generally for a three year period with a process of revolving replacement which balances continuing and new membership.

The members are appointed because each has already proven to the community their leadership qualities. These qualities include:

- * having a living faith
- * listening
- * being collaborative
- * being able to handle tension
- * attentiveness to process
- * being informed and reflective
- * being imaginative and visioning
- * being passionate
- * having a thirst for life



*"As a community of believers,
we live out the call of baptism,
through personal faith in Jesus,
witnessing together
to the Good News of the Kingdom."*

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The
Diocesan
Pastoral
Council

Diocese of Rockhampton

What is the Diocesan Pastoral Council?

Can. 511 In every diocese and to the extent that pastoral circumstances suggest it, a pastoral council is to be constituted which under the authority of the bishop, investigates, considers, and proposes practical conclusions about those things which pertain to pastoral works in the diocese.

Can. 512 §1. A pastoral council consists of members of the Christian faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church: clerics, members of institutes of consecrated life, and especially laity; who are designated in a manner determined by the diocesan bishop.

§2. The Christian faithful who are designated to a pastoral council are to be selected in such a way that they truly reflect the entire portion of the people of God which constitutes the diocese...

Can. 513 §1. A pastoral council is constituted for a period of time according to the precepts of the statutes which are issued by the bishop.

Can. 514 §1. A pastoral council possesses only a consultative vote. It belongs to the diocesan bishop alone to convoke it according to the needs of the apostolate and to preside over it...

The Diocesan Pastoral Council of the Diocese of Rockhampton

In the light of Canon Law cited above, the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) of the Diocese of Rockhampton is a group of people, appointed by the Bishop, and comprises priests and members of the laity, including religious. The DPC is the advisory body to the Bishop on the direction and formation of the pastoral life in the diocese. As such, the DPC is the focal pastoral point in the Diocese.

The Bishop sets the DPC agenda which arises out of his vision for the diocese and from his listening to the people and the various councils and commissions in the diocese (e.g. Council of Priests, Liturgical Commission, etc.). Feedback from Parish Pastoral Councils is encouraged and on occasions, the DPC may invite personal representation from other diocesan councils and commissions for more detailed information when planning for the future of the diocese. After listening and reflecting on these matters, the DPC members make recommendations to the Bishop. Through meeting with the DPC, the Bishop makes decisions or seeks further advice, or requests further study and reflection.

Once a decision is made the Bishop authorises the Executive Officer of the DPC to work closely with parishes and deaneries, councils, commissions and other bodies, to assist them with implementing the Bishop's recommendations. (See Flowchart, "How the DPC fits into the Life of the Diocese.")

How the DPC fits into the Life of the Diocese

