



Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

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Circular to Ministers & Churchwardens

Use of Anglican Halls and Rooms as Polling Places for Elections

With the upcoming Federal Election to be held Saturday 24 November 2007, I am writing to remind you that the ACPT has a standard licence agreement for use of a church hall or rooms as a polling place. The agreement has been approved by the NSW Electoral Commissioner for signature by Returning Officers.

If you are approached by a Returning Officer on behalf of the NSW Electoral Commission or Australian Electoral Commission for use of your hall or rooms for an election you can easily access the agreement on our website www.sds.asn.au as follows:-

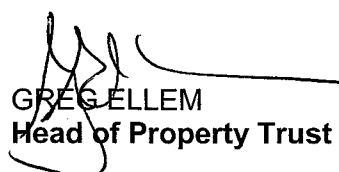
- Select the "drop-down" menu: *"For Church Wardens and Parish Councillors"*
- Then select the "drop-down" menu: *"Property"*
- Then select the link: *"Leasing & Licensing of Church Property"*
- Select the licence agreement: *"Licence agreement for use of an Anglican Hall or Rooms (excluding Church building) as a Polling Place"*

There is no prescribed fee payable for the hire of church premises for use as a polling place. Rather the cost of hiring premises is subject to negotiation between the Returning Officer and the Churchwardens.

The licence agreement includes a clause which allows the Churchwardens to issue directions to the Returning Officer about the use of the premises for the election eg, the distribution of political information and "how to vote" cards on church property can be prohibited; similarly access to areas of the church grounds can be restricted. Such directions should be given to the Returning Officer in writing by the Churchwardens.

A final note of caution. Returning officers may proffer a government agreement for hire of premises for use as a polling place. Churchwardens should not sign such an agreement as it will not provide protection from legal liability, and is not in a form that is approved by the Property Trust.

If you have any questions at all about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (gxe@sydney.anglican.asn.au or 9265 1546).


GREG ELLEM
Head of Property Trust