

## **7/94 Copyright Licence for Parishes**

(A report from the Standing Committee)

### **Introduction**

1. Synod Resolution 7/94 was -

“This Synod requests Standing Committee to continue the investigation concerning the option of obtaining copyright licences which would make available to all parochial units in the Diocese a wide range of music to be used in conjunction with overhead projector equipment, and to report back to the Synod after such investigations (including likely costs and the desirability of this resource for parishes).”

### **Progress**

2. Copyright exists in many forms and this makes the issue of copyright and the use of music in churches very complex. In relation to the use and performance of music in conjunction with an overhead projector there are a number of different copyrights which must be considered: for example, the copyright in the music, the copyright in the lyrics, the copyright in the published edition and the copyright in a sound recording.

3. There are several organisations which make licences available to permit the use of copyright material. For example, a licence from Copyright Agency Limited permits the photocopying of certain material, a licence from the Australian Performing Rights Association permits the public performance of certain works and a licence from the Australian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society permits the making of audio and/or video recordings of worship services.

4. There is no single licence available which is sufficiently comprehensive to cover all aspects of copyright as it relates to the use of music in a church. A parish could obtain each of the licences referred to in item 3 (and others which have not been mentioned), but even then not have complete protection.

5. A new body, Christian Copyright Licensing Incorporated, now operates in Australia and differs from the organisations referred to in 3 in that CCLI's principal focus is the use of music by churches. Many of our churches already hold individual CCLI licenses.

6. The CCLI licence, while quite comprehensive, has some deficiencies but discussions with CCLI indicate that they are keen to develop a diocesan-wide copyright licence which is comprehensive in its protection. As yet this product does not exist.

7. In March 1994 material on CCLI was circulated to 20 parishes, selected randomly, with a view to obtaining feedback and information on the CCLI licence and how the licence could be improved. The parishes which responded generally endorsed the concept of a diocesan CCLI licence and made a number of suggestions which are being taken up with CCLI. Sadly, the majority of parishes to which material was sent (13 out of 20) did not respond at all.

8. Discussions are continuing with CCLI. At this time, the likely cost of a diocesan licence has not been determined. If the terms of a diocesan licence can be agreed and Synod decides to enter into that licence, CCLI will require that all churches in the Diocese be covered by the licence. Preliminary indications are that the total cost will be cheaper than the combined cost of each church entering into a CCLI licence.

9. A further report will be made on the cost of a diocesan-wide licence and the desirability of that licence after more details are known. But there would be an annual licence fee which would have to be met possibly as part of the diocesan budget (whether from parish assessments or other income).

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE

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