

‘Suitable Housing’ Standard Policy Vicarages and Clergy Housing

1. Objective

- 1.1. To define the standard of a house that is referred to as ‘Suitable Housing’ in the Financial Regulations Statute 2000, Section 14 Housing.
- 1.2. To apply the principles of the Financial Regulations Statute in relation to suitable housing so that occupants are not housed in sub-standard homes.
- 1.3. Provide a standard to measure clause 1.1. for property inspections as required by Financial Regulations Statute 2000 14.8.1 (e).
- 1.4. Provide guidance for specifications and locations for the purchase and construction of vicarages.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this document the following terms are defined:

- Financial Regulations Statute – The Financial Regulations Statute 2000 of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.
- Healthy Homes – Healthy homes standards as set out from time to time by the New Zealand Government.
- Sub-standard home – a residential property that does not meet the requirements set out by the New Zealand Government for private rental properties.
- Diocesan Council – as defined by The Diocesan Council Statute 2019.
- Ministry Units – all ministry units and mission ventures within the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.
- Clergy Housing – housing where a clergyperson resides provided for by the church, whether owned or rented.
- Vicarage – a house owned by the church used to primarily house the vicar/priest-in-charge.

3. Scope

3.1. The scope includes residential properties:

- 3.1.1. Owned, typically by the General Trust Board of the Diocese of Auckland; or
- 3.1.2. Rented privately by a Ministry Unit or the Diocesan Council.

4. Standard

Diocesan Council agrees:

4.1. For the purpose of defining the 'Suitable Housing' standard, all Clergy Housing shall:

4.1.1. Meet no less than same criteria set out by the New Zealand Government for private rental properties regarding:

- (i) Healthy Homes
- (ii) Smoke alarms
- (iii) Property maintenance
- (iv) Access and inspections
- (v) Pests and infestations
- (vi) Quiet enjoyment
- (vii) Any other criteria that provide for a safe and healthy living environment.

4.2. Clergy Housing should adhere as much as possible to the following specifications:

4.2.1. Four bedrooms; and

4.2.2. Separate study with external entrance (if no on-site office is provided); and

4.2.3. Separate water closet facility for visitors.

4.3. When assessing the suitability of a new Vicarage purchase or construction, the Ministry Unit and the Diocesan Council will take account of the way in which the house is intended to be used and the provision of other facilities on the church property available for meeting and entertaining spaces.

4.4. Where possible Vicarages and Clergy Housing should be located within the parish boundary of the associated Ministry Unit, or within easy travelling distance of the church.

5. Review

5.1. This document will be reviewed annually by Diocesan Council and any amendment communicated to Ministry Units.

6. Reference

Anglican Diocese of Auckland – The Financial Regulations Statute 2000

Tenancy Services – <https://www.tenancy.govt.nz/>