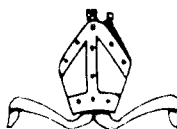


THE MOST REVEREND K. RAYNER, A.O., Ph.D., Th.D.  
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Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia



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14 August 1997

Mr Dally Messenger  
National President and Administrator  
Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants Inc.  
4/168 Lennox Street  
RICHMOND VIC 3121

Dear Mr Messenger

Further to my letter of 8 April in response to yours of 21 March 1997, I have now had an opportunity to consult on matters raised in your letter.

Anglican clergy, doubtless like civil celebrants, vary in the degree of skill and professionalism with which they fulfil their ministry. I certainly cannot endorse any implication that as a group the clergy do their work with less care, dedication and skill than civil celebrants. The Church cannot make any distinction between what you term "ritual" and "well prepared" funerals. We expect our clergy to be well prepared, and our newer liturgical forms make provision for greater flexibility in funeral services than previously so that there can be no suggestion that they are purely "ritual".

It may well be that we shall recommend some increase in the general fee for clergy funerals, but if this is done it will be in recognition of the fact that our recommended fee has not altered for some years while the value of money has diminished. This will be a matter of consultation with other churches which has not yet occurred. I do not anticipate that we would want to make as our benchmark the fee charged by civil celebrants.

Yours sincerely

+ Keith, Melbourne