

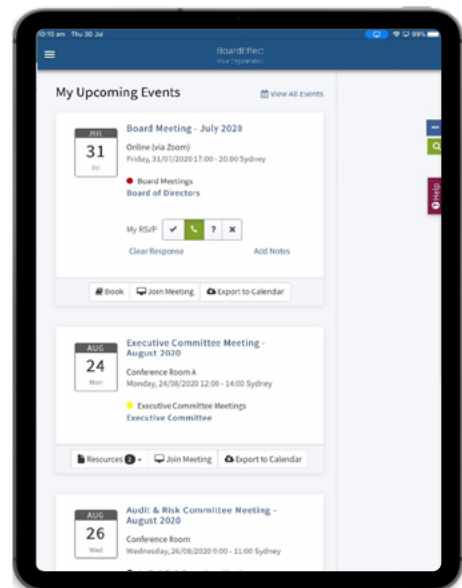
Anglican Church of Australia General Synod future proofs its board portal outcomes with BoardEffect

The [Anglican Church of Australia](#) represents 23 dioceses across Australia. The General Synod functions as a forum for the 23 Dioceses and is focused on projects, programs or research around themes and topics that affect the life and ministry of those within the Anglican Church and broader community.

CHALLENGE:

The Anglican Church of Australia's General Synod Standing Committee meets bi-annually to discuss strategic issues affecting the general welfare of the Anglican Church of Australia. It is a 30-person committee, designed to represent the interests of national diocesan Bishops, clergy, laity and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC).

Its meetings span two days with a comprehensive 500-page board pack and agenda being prepared by a single staff member for each meeting. In conjunction, the General Synod was managing a custom-built portal for board governance, developing a solution from the ground up with an external web service provider. It faced regular updates requiring additional investment and slow response times when improvements were requested.



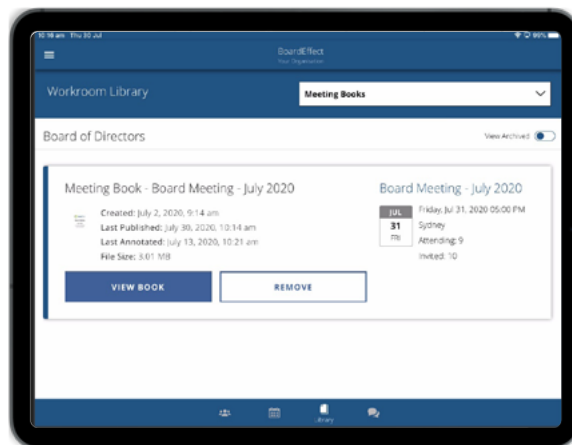
“BoardEffect is an excellent board management platform investment for the General Synod. It's extremely efficient and easy to use. It has provided significant administration benefits in our communication processes with our Standing Committee and sub-committee members. We also have the option to scale and add more committees and staff, further maximising our ROI.”

Marianne Yacoel,
Finance & Operations Manager

SOLUTION:

Following the realisation an off the shelf solution may be more in line with their requirements and budget, the General Synod Office for the Anglican Church of Australia went in search of a purpose-built offering. Following an approach to stand-out Board governance provider, Diligent Corporation, its more suitable NFP solution in the Diligent suite, [BoardEffect](#), was selected for its board management platform expertise.

BoardEffect is now responsible for the Anglican Church of Australia's General Synod Standing Committee and sub-committee meetings plus additional committee meetings.



“The moment we selected BoardEffect all of the support and administration overheads we were grappling with just disappeared. Production time for agenda and board packs has drastically improved from a long lead up to now being able to finalise board pack formats in an hour confidently. Our Standing Committee members have no problem navigating through electronic board packs, and it's inherently easy to use. BoardEffect has transformed the efficiency levels of our small team.”

Sarah Mayhew
Executive Officer

RESULTS:

- 1 HOUR** Turnaround for digital Board pack collation versus one day
- 20%** Productivity and time saving with managing off the shelf solution
- 100%** Transformation to electronic Board meeting book during COVID-19

RESOURCE HEAVY MEETING MANAGEMENT

Before implementing BoardEffect, the General Synod Office was responsible for both the Board portal it had developed externally, plus the ongoing build and deliver of hard-copy and electronic Board packs for the Standing Committee and sub-committee meetings. Standing Committee board packs housed over a hundred files in two full binders, with the production process for 30 packs described as ‘incredibly painful’ according to Sarah.

“Each set of papers would require a full day to prepare agendas, paginate original and amended documents, with multiple edited versions requiring extensive administration support for printing and shipping hard copy sets to each attendee.”

Sarah Mayhew, Executive Officer

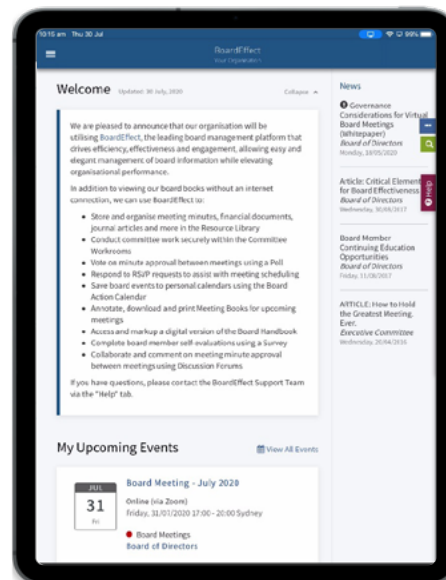
FINDING TRUE PURPOSE

The General Synod Office has reshaped the preparation of its Board meeting packs with BoardEffect. It has also gained productivity benefits as it no longer needs to divert valuable resources and budget to the development of a custom solution.

Since the implementation of BoardEffect in 2019 for the Standing Committee and associated sub-committees, it has also been phased into additional committee meetings.

“It’s been very easy for us to onboard our Standing Committee members, and we have had minimal enquiries about how to use the portal – we take that as a strength. Members can access papers, and we have built out the library feature to inspire more self-service behaviour. It’s working,” outlined Marianne.

BoardEffect is so easy to use other staff members are independently building agenda and meeting papers for sub-committee and additional committee meetings without the need for any training.



MAINTAINING GOVERNANCE THROUGH COVID-19

BoardEffect delivered an unexpected but very welcome benefit with the disruption to the Standing Committee meeting timeline as COVID-19 hit. With everyone moving to a work from home scenario, all board packs were collated and exclusively distributed electronically for the first time. Typically Standing Committee members were provided with hard copy packs. Without anyone in the office to oversee the production and distribution of these extensive papers, the team took the opportunity to change the process.

“Our Standing Committee members are much more familiar now with accessing the BoardEffect portal, and they know the version they have is up to date and secure. Our Standing Committee meeting went off in a digital environment without any problems. We hope this level of confidence can be applied to all committees to ensure the safety of board packs in the future.”

Sarah Mayhew, Executive Officer

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