



Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

FINANCE NEWSLETTER 154

TO: Parish Treasurers

FROM: Brendan Sweeney, Manager, Financial Services

DATE: 25 June 2013

1.	Parish Statistics to June 2012
2.	2013 – 14 Assembly Assessment.
3.	Relocation expenses for a minister on retirement
4.	Finance statistics form

1. Parish Statistics to June 2012

Statistics are now posted on the website. Please refer to link:

<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/church-statistics/statistics-2012>

2. 2013 – 14 Assembly Assessment.

Following the approval of the Council of Assembly of the budget for the next financial year, Assembly Assessment from 1 July has been calculated and notification sent to churches. I apologize for the late notification as I know churches have been doing their own budgets and have wanted this information. Please advise me if you have not received notification or require further detail on the calculation.

3. Relocation expenses for a minister on retirement

I have had the following notification from the Inter Church Working Party on Taxation:

Dear Church Administrators,

A parish had sought our advice as to whether or not the payment by them of relocation costs for their pastor on his retirement, from a church owned house to a retirement house owned by him, constituted taxable income to the recipient.

*According to the Staples Tax Guide, such payments **do** constitute taxable income to the clergy person involved, but they made no reference to the relevant sections of the Income Tax Act which back up that advice.*

Accordingly and because we knew that the clarification of the law is of interest to the Churches, we sought a legal opinion on the issue from Ian Millard QC.

We attach hereto a copy of his opinion which, as will see, agrees with and confirms the Staples' advice.

I have not attached the legal opinion but am happy to send a copy on request.

4. Finance Statistics form

I have had a query regarding the finance statistics form, and would like to reiterate its purpose. The finance form is designed to reflect the annual Profit and Loss report of the Church. It is a one page summary that summarizes, but doesn't replicate the P and L. There may be some inevitable distortion because of this but it is only the P and L that is made available to the congregation and other readers. All entries on the form are exclusive of GST.