

**APPENDIX O**

**WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY**

**REPORT 2008**

**Membership**

Dr J McGaffin (Chairperson)

Mrs JM Bruton

Mr J Clarke

Rev Canon WA Murphy

Mr I Slaine

**1. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Standing Committee, in March 2005, established the Working Group on Disability to address issues concerning disability that affect the Church of Ireland and to consider the implications of legislation and proposed legislation on disability in both jurisdictions. The Church of Ireland is periodically invited to comment on consultation documents, white papers and draft legislation. It was envisaged that a working group with expertise in this area would be in a position to prepare considered responses on behalf of the Church.

**2. CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERSHIP**

Mrs Margaret Mann resigned from the Group this year. The committee acknowledges the commitment that Mrs Mann has given to the group since its inception in 2005 prior to her resignation.

The Committee notes with sadness the sudden death of the founding Chairman Rev R Harris.

**3. DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY**

This is the fifth such Sunday in the Church of Ireland calendar. As with previous years all parishes in the Church of Ireland received material to help them celebrate *Disability Sunday* on the third Sunday in November. The theme this year was communications.

**4. MINISTRY TO DEAF PEOPLE**

The group continues to work with the Rev Canon W Murphy and other agencies with expertise in this area of ministry to raise awareness and to provide services to deaf people