

Chair's Report



I write my report in the shadow of ongoing global unrest. Billions of our sisters and brothers are being impacted by the ravages of war, economic and social instability as well as by damaging floods, fires, and drought. Even in Australia, the lucky country, cost of living pressures and natural disasters have affected millions of people, particularly the poor and vulnerable living in our regional and remote communities.

In times of uncertainty, it is natural to focus inwards, on our own needs and security. However, it is even more important that we look outwards, with increased kindness and generosity of spirit towards those who suffer from poverty and social exclusion, especially our First Nations people. Many will be grieving the disappointing outcome of a referendum which sought to give them constitutional recognition through a voice to parliament.

The result of the referendum has only strengthened Mercy Works' resolve to support programs focused on First Nations people by improving the lives of young Aboriginal women and their children through such projects as Nunga Babies Watch and Keeping a Good Thing Going.

As Board Chair, it has been a privilege to witness the success of our activities both in Australia and overseas. Like many of those who attended the Friends of Mercy Works event in October 2022, I was moved by those who shared their stories of how Mercy Works initiatives had changed their lives and the lives of their communities. Our project in partnership with the Villa Maria Good Shepherd Sisters, mentoring former trafficked women to become strong advocates, was particularly inspirational and demonstrated how we can make an immediate difference and be a catalyst for generational change. These projects, like those across PNG and Timor Leste, are only possible through the ongoing generosity of our donors and supporters.

The sad reality is that the issues of global conflict and poverty will continue to be with us. Our commitment is that Mercy Works will do what it can to make life better for the poorest and most vulnerable communities. We will continue to work with partners to identify and address needs and look to leverage our current undertakings and further expand our activities.

For those escaping conflict and commencing a new life in Australia, Mercy Works continues to provide practical support through its Mercy Connect project, operating in NSW, Victoria, and Western Australia. This vital program is one of our largest, recruiting, training, and supporting hundreds of volunteers who offer their time and expertise to assist school students, families, and other adult groups from refugee backgrounds, adapt to life in Australia. This project assists refugees to flourish aided by the compassion and good will of those who work with them.

We are also committed to engaging with the next generation of leaders to encourage them to live in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. I am comforted in the fact our schools' program is exposing students to the many Mercy Works projects which empower people and improve the lives of their communities. The opportunity to motivate these students to give witness to the work of Catherine is both exciting and rewarding.

Of course, stewardship of these projects is only possible because of the hard work of the staff, board, and committee members of Mercy Works Ltd. I acknowledge and thank my Board Directors, Committee members, Sr Sally Bradley RSM, and her team of professional and dedicated staff for their endeavours over this last year. Together we have made great progress and created a pathway for even greater things into the future.

The years ahead will be exciting, albeit challenging as we too grapple with the realities of economic and social uncertainty. There is always more to be done, things that we could do better, more arms we could twist and ears we might bend, but as Catherine McAuley said:

"The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow."

Finally, I thank our members and our many donors, large and small, individuals, corporates and foundations who have generously provided the vital financial resources required to fund our many projects. Thank you for your trust in us, your generosity and ongoing support. Together we have made a difference to the lives of thousands of people and with that, a better world.

Joe Zabar / Board Chair

Key Project *Outcomes*

From providing education and skills training to health, nutrition and advocacy, here is a snapshot of what we have achieved in FY2022-2023. Mercy Works is grateful to our members and donor community for making these outcomes possible.

Overseas Projects

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kiunga Program

- 32 Village Health Volunteers received received skills training (Tarakbits and Bolovip)
- **Adult Literacy:** 18 women attended a training workshop on how to run Adult Literacy classes in their own communities.
- **Family Life:** A 5-day marriage encounter seminar for 28 participants from 8 parishes.
- **Girls Hostel:** Safe housing and educational support was provided to 9 girls, from remote villages, while studying in Kiunga.
- Trained 21 teachers in classroom and financial management.

Simbu Program

Building capabilities benefiting 3,502 people.

- Expanded **income generating production:** flour, spices, cooking oil, soap, potholders, table mats, clothing, baked goods, etc.
- Beyond potato and onion **farming**, more are growing sweet potato, ginger and mushroom. Some are producing natural fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Financial literacy training.** 16 of the savings cooperatives remain active.
- Five speakers purchased to broadcast **news updates** during village visits.
- 26 prisoners trained on anger management, self-esteem, and life skills.

TIMOR LESTE

Maucatar Nutritional Project, Cova Lima

Benefited 1,596 people (798 children, 692 women, and 106 men).

- FY2022-23: **maternal nutrition has improved, and low birth weight reduced.**
- 1878 patients attended **health screenings.**
- **Health and nutrition education** sessions in remote villages.

- Mothers taught nutritious meal preparation with local produce.
- 22,080 eggs provided to 1472 malnourished children and mothers.
- 42 families with severely malnourished children were each provided with 3 egg-laying chickens.
- 46 women and 27 men attended chicken raising training.

Community-based Rehabilitation and Inclusive Education for Children and Young Adults with a Disability, KATILOSA

Benefited 244 people with a disability, including 57 children.

- 75 received physiotherapy. 48 have **increased mobility** (e.g they can now move their limbs).
- 20 referred to major health centers for wheelchair, walking stick, cane, or mobility footwear.
- 57 students with a disability received **inclusive education.** Nine are now in mainstream schools. Ten receive home-based schooling.
- Educated families on providing their children with basic physical therapy.
- Advocated nationally for the protection and inclusion of people with disability.

PHILIPPINES

Creating Change for Women Through Advocacy, Cebu City

Awareness raising of human trafficking of women and children, and lobbying government, has directly reached 1,296, people (officials, service providers and public). Trained 46 anti-trafficking advocates.

- Mayor of Moalboal committed to enforcing existing ordinances.
- Mayor of Santa Fe is now hosting mandatory education sessions for business owners renewing licenses.
- Toledo City is supporting our anti-trafficking advocates and has invited us to present to Municipal Staff and other leaders.

- Mayor of Cebu City is implementing the “Zero Tolerance to Human Trafficking” ordinance.
- National Housing Authority affirmed the need to **prioritize women survivors for housing**.
- TESDA (technical school) has asked us to refer women survivors to them for scholarships.

Balay Banaag, Davao City

- **Supported 15 girls** living at the Centre with education, play therapy, psycho-social and spiritual activities, as well as basic life skills.
- **All students performed well academically**, with 8 receiving a certificate of honours in the 2nd quarter, 9 in the 3rd quarter. 11 received awards and medals in the 4th quarter.
- Three students graduated in Grade 6 and are now eligible for Junior High School.
- One child was reintegrated with her family.

Domestic Projects

INDIGENOUS

Cape York Girl Academy, Cairns QLD

Boarding school for Indigenous teenage mothers and their babies to live and learn. In partnership, we built a multisensory **calming room**. In FY2022-23 the room **benefited 25 students and three babies**.

Dr Crystal Williams: *“Your generous contribution... has had a profound impact on the lives of the girls we are assisting, and we cannot thank you enough.”*

Salt ‘n’ Pepper, Adelaide SA

Outreach program for Indigenous women in Adelaide Women’s Prison, supporting their rehabilitation and transition back into society. In FY2022-23, **107 adults (82 were Indigenous women)** and 117 children were supported. (see page 4)

Nunga Babies Watch, Adelaide SA

Supports Aboriginal families when engaging with the Department of Child Protection (DCP) to ensure they are heard, and rights are protected. In FY2022-23, **41 adults (36 females)** and **33 children** were supported.

NBW produces a **monthly newsletter** providing insights into the rights of Indigenous families and news on working with the DCP. This newsletter is distributed to the Indigenous community, stakeholders and leaders.

Baabayan Empowered Educator, Mt Druitt NSW

Partnered with the Baabayyan Aboriginal Corporation to support their **Mums and Bubs Group**, a program enhancing the parenting life skills of Indigenous mums. In FY2022-23, 40 adults and 22 children participated.

We supported the **education of Early Childhood Administrator**, Janaya Hickey (studying for a Certificate IV in Business). Janaya’s mentor reports she has **strengthened her leadership role**. She hosted a visit from OLMC Parramatta students and teachers.

Kuro Yerlo: Yartangka Tirkanthi Camp, Learning on Country, Adelaide SA

Supported two overnight camps for city-based **Indigenous youth** and youth leaders to stay on Country and **learn from Aboriginal Elders** about their culture and language. The camps benefited 20 children and 13 adults. Participants reported enjoying the opportunity to **connect with Country** and to learn skills from their Elders. The youth team and Elders were also very satisfied with their experiences.

REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER

Romero Centre Gateways to Employment for people seeking asylum – Brisbane QLD

Preparing asylum seekers and refugees for employment. In FY2022-23 we achieved higher employment outcomes than expected with **37 people securing employment**. 55 adults directly benefited from the program (23 men and 32 women).

Mercy Connect – New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia

Pairs trained volunteers with asylum seekers and refugee school students and adults to provide mentorship and educational support.

 VOLUNTEERS
136

 PRIMARY SCHOOLS
48

 **18**
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

 ADULT CLASSES
9

STUDENTS
 **1,194**

Financial Statements

INCOME STATEMENT

For year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Revenue	\$	\$
Monetary Donations and Gifts		
- From Members	445,422	378,660
- From Other Parties	706,430	739,430
Grants - Other Australian	144,995	91,014
Bequests	49,706	33,448
Other Income		
- Interest Received	103,744	97,765
- Distribution Received from Investments	108,782	93,030
- Gain on Revaluation of Investments	57,400	-
Total Revenue	1,616,479	1,433,347

	\$	\$
Expenditure		
International Aid & Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
- Funds to International Programs	322,263	353,377
- Program Support Costs	109,180	43,944
Community Education	33,828	42,420
Public Fundraising Costs	66,552	38,064
Accountability and Administration	164,700	146,874
Other Expenditure	-	-
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	696,523	624,679
Domestic Program Expenditure (incl Monetary and Non Monetary)	524,219	621,714
Loss on Revaluation of Investments	-	109,419
Total Expenditure	1,220,743	1,355,812
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure	395,736	77,535

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Assets	\$	\$
Current Assets		
- Cash and Cash Equivalent	288,386	262,721
- Trade and Other Receivables	15,031	9,812
- Financial Assets	2,598,642	2,496,914
- Other Assets	15,955	16,216
Total Current Assets	2,918,014	2,785,663
Non Current Assets		
- Financial Assets	1,396,729	1,230,547
- Property, Plant and Equipment	11,817	10,481
- Right-of-use Assets	-	9,233
Total Non Current Assets	1,408,546	1,250,261
Total Assets	4,326,560	4,035,924

	\$	\$
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
- Trade and Other Payables	26,652	43,353
- Other Liabilities	39,813	37,069
- Employee Benefits	76,629	135,588
- Lease Liability	-	27,620
Total Current Liabilities	143,094	243,630
Non Current Liabilities		
- Employee Benefits	9,518	12,192
- Lease Liability	-	1,890
Total Non Current Liabilities	9,518	14,082
Total Liabilities	152,612	257,712
Net Assets	4,173,948	3,778,212

	\$	\$
Equity		
Retained Surplus	4,173,948	3,778,212
Total Equity	4,173,948	3,778,212

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other
Balance as 1 July 2022	3,778,212	-	-
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	395,736	-	-
Balance as 30 June 2023	4,173,948	-	-

The income for our programs comes from a wide variety of donors, including the Sisters of Mercy, associated ministries, Corporations and members of the public. During the year, specified donations have been received for Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Philippines, Mercy Connect and other domestic projects.

Obligations for projects carried forward to FY24 are adequately covered by cash and cash equivalents. These funds have been directed towards the retained earnings and will be used to fund future projects.

The ACFID-Code-compliant financial statements comply with the presentation and disclosure requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct. Refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct website for further information. <https://acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/>

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with relevant legislation, accounting standards, provide a true and fair view of their financial position and performance, and that the organisation can pay its debts as and when they become due. These financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the Board. The full statutory financial statements separately from the Annual Report is available on: <https://www.mercyworks.org.au/who-we-are/financial-statements-and-annual-reports/>



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MERCY WORKS LIMITED

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of Mercy Works Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that special purpose financial report in our report dated 7 November 2023. That financial report, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, or the relevant Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of Mercy Works Limited.

The Responsibility of the Board Members for the Summary Financial Report

The Board Members of the entity are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with *Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Mercy Works Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report.

NOT FOR PROFIT ACCOUNTING SPECIALISTS

KESWICK SA 5035

Ian Mostert CPA

Registered Company Auditor No 539768

Dated: 7 November 2023



Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Our People

OUR BOARD



Joseph Zabar
Board Chair,
Finance Risk and Audit
Committee



Travis Bowman
Board Member,
Finance Risk and Audit
Committee Chair
(Resigned Nov. 2023)



Francis Elvey
Board Member,
Program Committee
Chair



Sr Catherine Ryan RSM
Board Member



Catherine Glenister
Board Member



Kerrie Walshaw
Board Member,
Program Committee



Steven Collins
Board Member,
Program Committee



Mark Sleight
Board Member,
Finance, Risk and Audit
Committee; and
Program Committee
(Resigned Oct. 2023)

Everyone involved in delivering Mercy Works' programs shares an enduring commitment to strengthening communities and delivering positive change for people in need.

OUR MEMBERS

We give thanks to the Sisters who have now finished their term in leadership and as members of Mercy Works. We welcome our current members.

Karon Donnellon RSM
Leader, ISMAPNG

Elizabeth Moloney RSM
Institute Vicar, ISMAPNG

Duyen Thi My Nguyen, RSM
Institute Councillor,
ISMAPNG

Theresa Tina RSM
Institute Councillor,
ISMAPNG

Margaret Madden RSM
Institute Councillor,
ISMAPNG

Margaret Jones RSM
Leader, Sisters of Mercy
Parramatta

Jennifer Ryan RSM
Leader, Sisters of Mercy
North Sydney

Peta Goldberg RSM
Leader, Sisters of Mercy
Brisbane

Sandra Marreiros
Finance and
Administration Officer

Danielle Hayes
Fundraising and
Marketing Manager

Katrina Richardson
Grants Coordinator

Paul Taylor
Mercy Connect
Coordinator - NSW

Katherine Cooney
Mercy Connect
Coordinator - VIC

Kristen Tong
Mercy Connect
Coordinator - WA

Clare Bennett
Program Manager -
Indigenous and
Refugee Projects

Maria Prescilla
Program Manager -
Overseas

MERCY WORKS PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Maryanne Kolkia RSM
Simbu Project Coordinator

Theresa Boyek RSM
Administration and
Finance Support

Andrew Waike
Officer in Charge of
Agricultural Activities

Joseph John
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

Gabriella Kawage
Life Skills Trainer and
Publicity Officer

Salume Kup
Office Administration
and Trainer

Merawo Mauglia
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

John Rubi
Life Skills Trainer and
Publicity Officer

Saki Yepa
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

Ekine Koimb
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

OUR STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andrew Burke
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Chris Bissett
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Fiona McKenzie
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Michael Cusic
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Bernard Dobson
Program Committee

Katherine Burton
Program Committee

Lorraine Asmann
Program Committee

OUR STAFF

MERCY WORKS AUSTRALIA

Sally Bradley RSM
Executive Director

Martin Binoj
Finance Manager

Thank You

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...

Right across Australia, our school communities are partnering with us to help the vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Asia Pacific region. To these school students, staff, parents and friends – THANK YOU for your compassion and generosity. You are improving the lives of countless individuals and communities. You are giving them hope.

The following schools generously raised funds between November 2022 to November 2023.

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy
All Hallows' School, Brisbane
Aranmore Catholic College, Leederville
Cathedral Catholic Primary School, Bathurst
The Cathedral College, Rockhampton
Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo
Catherine McAuley College, Mackay
Catherine McAuley Westmead
Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
Holy Cross College, Ellenbrook
Holy Family Primary School, Kelso
McAuley Catholic College, Grafton
Mercedes College, Perth
Mercedes College, Springfield
Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood
Mercy College, Koondoola
Mercy Regional College, Camperdown
Merici College, Canberra
Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale
Notre Dame Catholic Primary School, Cloverdale
Notre Dame College, Shepparton
Our Lady of Lourdes School, Nollamara
Our Lady of Mercy College, Australind
Our Lady of Mercy College, Burraneer
Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg
Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
Padbury Catholic School, Padbury
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
Sacred Heart College, Kyneton
Sacred Heart College, Geelong
Santa Maria College, Attadale
St Aloysius College, Adelaide
St Aloysius College, North Melbourne
St Anthony's Primary School, Girraween
St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie
St Columba's Catholic School, Bayswater
St Columba's Primary School, Adamstown
St Columba's School, Soldiers Hill
St Gerard's Primary School, Westminster
St John Fisher College, Bracken Ridge
St Joseph's College, Mildura
St Joseph's Primary School, Kangaroo Point
St Luke's Catholic Primary School, Woodvale
St Mary's Catholic School, Wellington
St Mary's College, Gunnedah
St Mary's School, Mackay
St Michael's Primary School, Baulkham Hills
St Michael's School, Gordonvale
St Monica's Primary School, Wodonga
St Patrick's College, Mackay
St Patrick's College, Townsville
St Patrick's Primary School, Blacktown
St Thomas School and Preschool, Goodwood
Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Victoria Park

