

# Chair's Report



**In a world filled with tragedy and suffering humanity seeks comfort in hope. Hope resides in all of us. It gives us courage to seek change for something better. Hope offers us a sense of what is possible and when linked with action, allows us to realise it.**

This past 12 months seems to be one filled with stories of violence, death and destruction. Rarely does a day go by without yet another image of a mother holding the lifeless body of her child, villagers wading through the remnants of their local community devastated by a flood, landslide or hurricane. These events have become far too common and are now an unwanted staple of our collective consciousness.

For the victims of these tragedies resilience and hope is all they have. For those watching on, these events evoke a sense of helplessness and anger against those with the power to address or respond to these issues but who appear unwilling or incapable of doing so. The travesty is that we have the means to address the many global economic, social and climatic issues facing us today, but there seems to be a lack of courage and conviction from our governments to do so.

We should demand more from our governments. The latest report on the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, shows that we are falling well short in achieving the agreed targets, and in fact going backwards in many. While we can sit idle and complain that our governments should do more to address poverty, climate impacts and peace, that doesn't address the immediate needs of those currently affected by these issues.

**Mercy Works is a vehicle for change.** We offer hope with action and with our partners we make a positive difference to the lives of thousands of people here in Australia and the Asia/Pacific region. Our programs reach some of the most disadvantaged people and communities in our region, providing practical assistance to those in need, so their hope for a better life can be realised.

The tireless work of Mercy Works' staff, led by Sr. Sally Bradley rsm, my fellow Board members and our many partners is delivering meaningful change to the lives of those we serve. **While we might be too small to change the world, we can change the world for those we support.**

As we move into our 25th year of operations, we proudly recognise what we have achieved over that time but acknowledge at the same time that we have more to do. The Board has set out a plan to grow our programs to reach even more people in need, capitalising on our established areas of expertise and presence to develop more projects and empower local partners to deliver improved outcomes for the communities they serve.

Fortunately, we are not alone in this quest to do more. We are blessed to be part of a broader Mercy family, a family steeped in the tradition of Catherine McAuley. Schools of the Mercy tradition offer us an opportunity to engage and create a genuine connection between our work and young people, many of whom will become future leaders. This connection will cement a future for Mercy Works and allow us to continue to address need, when and where it occurs.

Despite economic conditions and cost of living pressures we remained buoyed by the generosity of our supporters and donors, who make what we do possible. On behalf of Mercy Works and those we support we say thank you.

In truth poverty, conflict and disasters will continue to be a part of this very uncertain world. If we can continue to offer hope to those in need, hope which is supported by action, then we will make the world a better place, at least for those we support.

*"We have ever confided largely in Divine Providence and shall continue to do so."*

Catherine McAuley – September 24, 1841.

**Joe Zabar / Board Chair**

# Key Project *Outcomes*

**Mercy Works partnered with local community leaders on ten projects across four countries in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-2024. From providing education and skills training to health, nutrition and advocacy, here is a snapshot of what our programs have achieved.**

## Overseas Projects

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

#### Daru-Kiunga Livelihoods Program

Approx. 1,980 people living in the refugee resettlement areas of Iowara and Border Villages have benefited from the program to improve their living standards. This was despite the devastating impact of extreme wet weather, resulting in the flooding of the Fly River. (See p.11-12)

- Income generation training included: sewing, duck and chicken husbandry.
- Food security. Seeds distributed and horticultural training provided.
- Community leadership and mobilization. Two training events with 110 participants from 16 villages.
- Improved access to clean water. Two villages received water tanks and infrastructure.
- Early childhood education. Nine volunteer teachers engaged and training provided in four schools.

#### Mercy Works Simbu Program

Worked with approximately 2,024 people in the Simbu area to improve the quality of their daily lives. Key achievements include:

- Updated agricultural practices resulting in increased vegetable production and duck husbandry output (increased threefold).
- Strengthened community self help cooperatives. Improved income generating enterprises: casava flour (production doubled) and soap production.
- Micro enterprises. Individuals provided with small financial grants to start/grow their small businesses.
- Recorded radio programs were played in remote villages

### TIMOR LESTE

#### Maucatar Health and Women Empowerment

Project reached approx. 11,788 people in 22 villages in Maucatar to improve health and quality of life.

- Mobile clinics visited 18 remote villages providing testing, treatment and health education.

- School health program. 13 schools visited. Students educated on sexual health, nutrition, dental care and safe water.
- Safe water. Two schools (392 students) received new rainwater tanks.
- Livelihoods activities. Some 692 villagers trained in improved farming methods.
- Distributed chickens and eggs to increase nutrition.

### PHILIPPINES

#### Creating Change for Women Through Advocacy, Cebu City

Raised awareness and response to human trafficking and safeguarding the rights of women and children to live and enjoy a peaceful and secure environment.

In FY2023-24, 1,148 people reached. Highlights includes: strengthened network of like-minded organizations to conduct unified activities such as community advocacy and to provide support services. One remarkable achievement was when youth advocates convinced a person at a talk to report cases of trafficking to the authorities and victims were successfully rescued. The project has empowered a group of women survivors to advocate for victims as well as provide support for those in crisis.

#### Healing and Empowerment of Women and Children, Legazpi City

Addressing barriers to development including Gender Based Violence (GBV), limited education and income earning opportunities.

- 39 local girls/women, survivors of GBV were provided access to rehabilitation services. 17 provided with residential care. 10 returned to independent living.
- 21 families provided with small grants to invest in income generating businesses.
- New Skills Training. 17 people were trained in fish processing.
- GBV awareness training provided to 141 school representatives and five victim advocates trained.

## Australian Projects

### INDIGENOUS

#### Baabayn Aboriginal Corp. Mt Druitt, NSW

Supporting Baabayn's Mums and Bubs Group to enhance the parenting life skills of Indigenous mums. In FY2023-04, 21 adults (19 female) and 28 children participated.

- Launched a children's book *Why are Our Children Proud to be Aboriginal?* (See p. 14)
- Collaborated with Western Sydney University to determine how health care services can be more culturally appropriate. The mothers were acknowledged in the final report.
- Mothers have increased understanding about preparing nutritious meals for their families.
- Supported five mothers to find accommodation more suitable to their needs.

#### Jtunga Wattyjarra (Family Together), Adelaide, SA

Two programs, Nunga Babies Watch and Salt n Pepper combined and share the goal of Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In FY2023-24, 41 adults (36 females) and 33 children were supported through their engagement with the Department of Child Protection to keep Aboriginal children connected with kin and to prevent another stolen generation. 107 adults (82 women) and 117 children were supported through an outreach program for Indigenous women in Adelaide Women's Prison, supporting their rehabilitation and transition back into society.

#### Nallei Jerring (Join and Unite) Youth Leadership, VIC

Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 12 to 15 living in the West of Victoria (Ballarat and inner west Melton). Run by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation in partnership with Mercy Works, aims to educate, engage, and empower young Indigenous participants. The program includes increasing understanding and connection to community, culture, positive self-identity, and leadership. In FY2023-24, 147 teenagers (72 males and 75 females) participated. Activities included leadership workshops, a 2-day camp, Aboriginal Elders as guest speakers, careers' days and art therapy.

#### Yaanyji Ngalan (Walking Together), Bowraville, NSW

The goal is to enhance cultural and wellbeing opportunities and experiences for St. Mary's Primary School Bowraville. The school educates 51 children of which 65% are Indigenous. Some families are from very low socio-economic homes. In the past FY, Aboriginal

Education Workers were developing student resources that support their learning journey with culture in the local Gumbaynggiirr community. Teachers have undergone professional learning in trauma informed education. Built a fire pit and yarning circle area. Held an Indigenous family camp.

### REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER

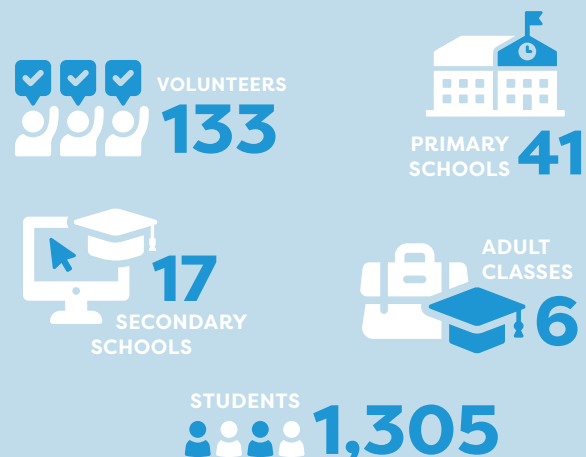
#### Romero Centre Gateways to Employment, Brisbane, QLD

Establishes employment partnerships for people seeking asylum, offers free English classes, and provides peer mentoring through bicultural facilitators. Links participants to employers, enhances skills and empowerment, and raises awareness on legal, health, and employment matters. (See p. 8)

- In FY2023-24, conducted 194 employment clinics, providing one-on-one support. 71 people (49 women, 22 men) registered for Gateways to Employment Program (GEP) resulting in 45 people securing employment.
- Ten meetings held with employers to strengthen collaboration with Romero Centre.
- Additional bi-cultural case workers were employed to support clients to develop confidence, skills, and knowledge.

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

Pairs trained volunteers with students and adults from a refugee and asylum seeker background to provide mentorship and educational support.



In NSW our MPower program (see p. 6) matched 11 volunteer mentors with 12 students from a Sudanese refugee background as they negotiate their first year of tertiary education.

# Financial Statements

## INCOME STATEMENT

For year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue	\$	\$
Monetary Donations and Gifts		
- From Members	469,602	445,422
- From Other Parties	1,115,371	706,430
Grants - Other Australian	105,863	118,308
Grants - Other International	27,987	26,687
Bequests	-	49,706
Other Income		
- Interest Received	114,713	103,744
- Distribution Received from Investments	126,218	108,782
- Gain on Revaluation of Investments	36,848	57,400
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,996,602</b>	<b>1,616,479</b>

Expenditure	\$	\$
International Aid & Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
- Funds to International Programs	360,758	322,263
- Program Support Costs	111,163	109,180
Community Education	42,996	33,828
Public Fundraising Costs	92,136	66,552
Accountability and Administration	192,122	164,700
Other Expenditure	-	-
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>799,175</b>	<b>696,523</b>
Domestic Program Expenditure (incl Monetary and Non Monetary)	610,534	524,219
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,409,709</b>	<b>1,220,743</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure</b>	<b>586,893</b>	<b>395,736</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Assets	\$	\$
Current Assets		
- Cash and Cash Equivalent	703,077	288,386
- Trade and Other Receivables	3,855	15,031
- Financial Assets	2,704,515	2,598,642
- Other Assets	20,391	15,955
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,431,838</b>	<b>2,918,014</b>
Non Current Assets		
- Financial Assets	1,559,795	1,396,729
- Property, Plant and Equipment	9,218	11,817
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>1,569,013</b>	<b>1,408,545</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,000,851</b>	<b>4,326,560</b>

Liabilities	\$	\$
Current Liabilities		
- Trade and Other Payables	35,568	26,652
- Other Liabilities	48,094	39,813
- Employee Benefits	135,532	76,629
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>219,194</b>	<b>143,094</b>
Non Current Liabilities		
- Employee Benefits	20,816	9,518
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>20,816</b>	<b>9,518</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>240,010</b>	<b>152,612</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>4,760,841</b>	<b>4,173,948</b>

Equity	\$	\$
Retained Surplus	4,760,841	4,173,948
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>4,760,841</b>	<b>4,173,948</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For year ended 30 June 2024

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other
Balance as 1 July 2023	4,173,948	-	-
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	586,893	-	-
<b>Balance as 30 June 2024</b>	<b>4,760,841</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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 FY25 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 2024, 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 2024. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that special purpose financial report in our report dated 8 November 2024. 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 2024 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report.

### NOT FOR PROFIT ACCOUNTING SPECIALISTS

KESWICK SA 5035

*[Signature]*

Ian Mostert CPA  
Registered Company Auditor No 539768

Dated: 8 November 2024



Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



# Our People

## OUR BOARD



**Joseph Zabar**  
Board Chair /  
Finance, Risk and Audit  
Committee Member



**Michael Cuzic**  
Board Member /  
Finance, Risk and Audit  
Committee Chair



**Francis Elvey**  
Board Member /  
Program Committee  
Chair



**Sr Catherine Ryan rsm**  
Board Member



**Catherine Glenister**  
Board Member



**Kerrie Walshaw**  
Board Member /  
Program Committee  
Member



**Steven Collins**  
Board Member /  
Program Committee  
Member



**Andrew Burke**  
Board Member /  
Finance, Risk and Audit  
Committee Member



**Berneice Loch rsm**  
Board Member



**Margaret Scroope rsm**  
Board Member

## OUR MEMBERS

**Karon Donnellon rsm**  
Leader, ISMAPNG

**Elizabeth Moloney rsm**  
Institute Vicar, ISMAPNG

**Duyen Thi My Nguyen rsm**  
Institute Councillor,  
ISMAPNG

**Theresia 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 Goldburg rsm**  
Leader, Sisters of Mercy  
Brisbane

## OUR STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chris Bissett**  
Finance, Risk and  
Audit Committee

**Fiona McKenzie**  
Finance, Risk and  
Audit Committee

**Lorraine Asmann**  
Program Committee  
(Resigned Apr. 2024)

**Renae Lowry**  
Program Committee

**Patricia Monemvasitis**  
Finance, Risk and  
Audit Committee

**Jenny Howard**  
Finance, Risk and  
Audit Committee

**Bernard Dobson**  
Program Committee

## OUR STAFF

### MERCY WORKS AUSTRALIA

**Sally Bradley rsm**  
Executive Director

**Martin Binoj**  
Finance Manager

**Cassandra Gibbs**  
Indigenous Project  
Coordinator

**Farid Ghalib**  
Refugee Project  
Senior Coordinator

**Andrew Lowry**  
Overseas Project  
Coordinator

**Justine McMahon**  
Head of Programs

**Sandra Marreiros**  
Finance and  
Administration Officer

**Danielle Hayes**  
Fundraising and  
Marketing Manager

**Katrina Richardson**  
Grants Coordinator

**Paul Taylor**  
Mercy Works Connect  
Coordinator - NSW

**Katherine Cooney**  
Mercy Works Connect  
Coordinator - VIC

**Kristen Tong**  
Mercy Works Connect  
Coordinator - WA

### MERCY WORKS SIMBU PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Maryanne Kolkia rsm**  
Simbu Project Coordinator

**Theresia 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 Kupo**  
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

**Brigitha Maima**  
Finance Officer



# 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 Australia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines and Timor-Leste. 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 2023 to October 2024.

*Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy  
All Hallows School, Brisbane  
Aquinas College, Ashmore  
Aranmore Catholic College, Leederville  
Bunbury Catholic College  
Cathedral Catholic Primary School, Bathurst  
The Cathedral College, Rockhampton  
Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo  
Catherine McAuley College, Mackay  
Emmanuel College, Warrnambool  
Holy Cross College, Ellenbrook  
Holy Family Primary School, Kelso  
James Sheahan Catholic High School, Orange  
John Paul College, Kalgoorlie  
Marymede Catholic College, South Morang  
Mater Dei College, Edgewater  
McAuley Catholic College, Grafton  
Mercedes College, Perth  
Mercedes College, Springfield  
Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood  
Mercy College, Koondoola  
Merici College, Canberra  
Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale  
Our Lady of Lourdes School, Nollamara  
Our Lady of Mercy College, Australind  
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College, Burraneer  
Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg  
Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta  
Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, Kellyville  
Padbury Catholic School, Padbury  
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes  
Sacred Heart College, Geelong  
Sacred Heart College, Kyneton  
Santa Maria College, Attadale  
St. Aloysius College, Adelaide  
St. Brigid's College, Lesmurdie  
St. Denis School, Joondanna  
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Mackay  
St. Gerard's Primary School, Westminster  
St. John Fisher College, Bracken Ridge  
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay  
St. Joseph's Primary School, Kangaroo Point  
St. Kieran's Catholic Primary School, Tuart Hill  
St. Luke's Catholic Primary School, Woodvale  
St. Mary's Catholic School, Wellington  
St. Mary's School, Mackay  
St. Michael's School, Gordonvale  
St. Patrick's College, Mackay  
St. Thomas School and Preschool, Goodwood  
Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone  
Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Victoria Park*

