

Chair's Report



This year, we proudly celebrated 25 years of Mercy Works—a milestone that deserves recognition and gratitude. We honour the wisdom and foresight of the Sisters of Mercy, whose vision a quarter of a century ago laid the foundation for an organisation dedicated to compassion and justice.

Over these 25 years, we have much to be proud of. Mercy Works has helped thousands of people find pathways out of poverty, or at the very least, live with dignity as they strive for a better life in challenging circumstances. Yet, the truth remains: more needs to be done.

Global uncertainty continues to weigh most heavily on those with the least. Today, we witness the heartbreaking plight of people whose lives have been upended by war, natural disasters, and the tyranny of political and economic power wielded by those who prioritise self-interest over the common good.

It is often easier to look away than to confront these realities. As individuals, we may feel powerless to address the injustices we see around us. But that does not mean we should give up.

Despite the challenges we face here in Australia, rising costs of living, housing pressures, and more, we can still be a beacon of hope. Together, we can be a force for good, working to make the world a better place. One person, one community at a time.

At our 25th anniversary celebration, we heard powerful first-hand accounts from courageous changemakers who are bringing hope and opportunity to their communities. These stories remind us of what is possible when hope is matched with action and when communities unite for the common good.

I am proud to chair an organisation that inspires action and serves as a practical vehicle for change. A conduit between those in our broader Mercy family who have resources and those communities, here and overseas, who need them most.

Every project we fund makes a positive difference. Not only to those who receive support but also to those who provide it. Together, we bring hope to life through meaningful action.

This year's 25th anniversary was not only a celebration of our past, but also a foundation for our future. A future that calls upon the entire Mercy family—students, educators, healthcare professionals, community workers, staff, volunteers, and all who share our vision—to walk with us in continuing the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy who founded Mercy Works all those years ago.

Finally, to our generous supporters: thank you for your ongoing commitment to Mercy Works and the people we serve. To Sister Sally, our dedicated staff, and my fellow board and committee members: thank you for your tireless efforts. Without you, none of this would be possible.

As I reflect on the year past, I am comforted by the knowledge that together, we can create a more just and compassionate world. In doing so, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable, both here and overseas.

Joe Zabar / Board Chair

Key Project *Outcomes*

In Fiscal Year 2025, Mercy Works partnered with local leaders in four countries to deliver programs that strengthened communities and improved access to education, health, water, income, and emergency relief. Despite challenges, thousands benefited, building resilience and supporting long-term development.

Overseas Projects

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Daru-Kiunga Livelihoods Program, Western Province

Reached 1,980 beneficiaries despite serious flooding. Resources were redirected to help those impacted.

- **Income Generation Projects:** Sewing, duck and chicken husbandry training.
- **Food Security:** Seed distribution and horticultural training.
- **Community Leadership:** Two training events, reaching 16 villages, 110 participants.
- **Clean Water Access:** Two villages received water tanks and infrastructure.
- **School Management:** Nine volunteer teachers engaged, training in four schools.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Training for 60 villagers from nine villages.

Mercy Works Livelihoods Program, Simbu Province

Positively impacted 2,024 beneficiaries in FY25.

- **Life and Technical Skills Training:** Delivered locally, providing individuals and families with life-changing new skills.
- **Updating Agricultural Practices:** Farmers improved vegetable production and duck husbandry; duck production tripled.
- **Strengthening Community Self-Help Groups/ Cooperatives:** Significant progress in livelihood enterprises, including cassava flour (production doubled) and soap making.
- **Micro Enterprises:** Small financial grants enabled individuals to invest in income-generating activities.

PHILIPPINES

Emergency Response – Tropical Cyclone Trami/Kristine

An appeal was launched and funds raised to assist families whose homes were damaged in the Catanduanes project area. (More on p. 8)

- **Support Provided:** 41 families, comprising 258 individuals in remote areas, received emergency assistance to recover from the cyclone's impact.

Healing and Empowerment of Women and Children, Legazpi City

- **Rehabilitating Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** 39 girls and women assisted, with 17 receiving residential care; 10 successfully transitioned to independent living.
- **Household Income Generation:** 21 families received small grants to invest in income-generating activities.
- **New Skills Training:** 17 individuals trained in fish processing to develop alternative livelihoods.
- **Gender Advocates:** GBV awareness training delivered to 141 school representatives; five victim advocates trained to strengthen community support.

TIMOR LESTE

Health, Livelihoods, Training and Women Empowerment, Maucatar

The program reached 11,788 recipients during the reporting period.

- **Remote Clinics:** Mobile clinics visited 18 remote villages, delivering testing, treatment, and health education.
- **Training of Village Health Workers:** Built local capacity by equipping health advocates with enduring skills.
- **School Health Program:** Thirteen schools received visits from trainers providing education on sexual health, nutrition, dental care, and safe water.
- **Safe Water:** Two schools, serving 392 children, received new rainwater tanks.
- **Livelihood Activities:** 692 villagers trained in improved farming methods to enhance food security and income. (More on p. 12)

Australian Projects

INDIGENOUS

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation, Mt Druitt, NSW

Mums and Bubs program nurtures strong families through culture, learning, and practical support. 25 mothers and 31 children participated.

- Created cultural skirts, woven belts, and clapsticks through TAFE-led classes and weaving workshops.
- Held "Mum and Me" photoshoot celebrating heritage.

- Guest speakers on domestic violence awareness and community services.
- Connected children to culture through art and play.
- One-to-one support restored children to three families and secured housing for four mothers.

Nallei Jerring Leadership Program, Western Victoria

Empowers young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to strengthen identity, leadership, and community connection. In FY25, 117 students from 24 schools participated.

- Six culturally rich workshops delivered across Ballarat, Melbourne's Inner West, and Melton.
- Speakers: Indigenous artists, health leaders, and AFL players.
- Career expos linked students with universities and employers.
- 95% reported stronger cultural knowledge; 90% increased confidence and leadership skills.
- Specialist schools engaged for disability inclusion.

Jtundu Wattyjarra – Family Together, Adelaide, SA

Supports Aboriginal women and families with advocacy, cultural connection, and practical help. 72 adults and 56 children were supported.

- Advocated for kinship care and ATSICPP with Child Protection.
- Assisted families responding to child protection concerns.
- Strengthened community voice through Aboriginal Justice Agreement consultations.
- Delivered yarning circles, mentoring, and workshops for women leaving prison.
- Provided emergency food, accommodation, and essentials post-release.

Yaanyji Ngalan – Walking Together

St Mary's Primary School, Bowraville, NSW

Supports Gumbaynggirr students' cultural identity and wellbeing through education, healing, and connection. 51 students (62% Aboriginal) participated. Staff began trauma-informed training; Aboriginal Education Workers created sustainable resources. Partnerships with Elders strengthened cultural belonging. Teachers embedded culturally safe practices.

REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER

Know Your Rights Pilot Program, Sydney, NSW

Four workshops (May 2025) on legal rights, starting a business, tenancy, and human rights.

- **Participation:** 38 attendees (22 female) from seven cultural backgrounds.
- **Impact:** Evaluation results showed a significant shift in understanding—from minimal prior knowledge to the majority expressing confidence in the subject matter.

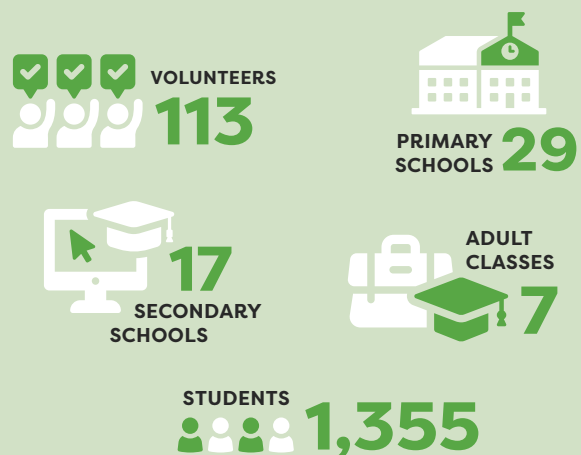
Romero Centre – Gateways to Employment, Brisbane, QLD

Job training and confidence-building for people seeking asylum. In FY25, the program exceeded its KPIs, supporting **108 participants**, with **51 securing employment**.

- **Workshops:** Fifteen sessions delivered on financial literacy, health, and digital skills.
- **Employer Partnerships:** Strong collaborations established with Deloitte, RSM, L'Oréal, and HOBAN Recruitment.
- **Impact Story:** A young asylum seeker gained their first Australian work experience through the program and transitioned to permanent employment.

Mercy Works Connect – NSW, VIC and WA

Provides tailored learning and mentoring support for school students and adults from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds.



MPower Program

Based in Western Sydney, this initiative mentors Sudanese youth transitioning from high school to tertiary education and employment, fostering confidence and long-term success.

- **Expansion in FY25:** Matched 17 volunteer mentors with 18 post-secondary Sudanese students.
- **Reading Angels Program:** Launched in early 2025, training 27 student volunteers as peer tutors to strengthen literacy support.

Financial Statements

INCOME STATEMENT

For year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Revenue	\$	\$
Monetary Donations and Gifts		
- From Members	463,647	469,602
- From Other Parties	1,251,827	1,087,384
Grants - Other Australian	110,490	133,850
Grants - Other International	26,787	27,987
Bequests	7,995	-
Other Income		
- Interest Received	143,505	114,713
- Distribution Received from Investments	106,446	126,218
- Gain on Revaluation of Investments	33,501	36,848
Total Revenue	2,144,198	1,996,602

Expenditure	\$	\$
International Aid & Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
- Funds to International Programs	516,103	360,758
- Program Support Costs	91,211	111,163
Community Education	55,368	42,996
Public Fundraising Costs	80,316	92,136
Accountability and Administration	255,436	192,122
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	998,434	799,175
Domestic Program Expenditure (incl Monetary and Non Monetary)	749,220	610,534
Loss on Revaluation of Investments	-	-
Total Expenditure	1,747,654	1,409,709
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure	396,544	586,893

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Assets	\$	\$
Current Assets		
- Cash and Cash Equivalent	523,714	703,077
- Trade and Other Receivables	5,919	3,855
- Financial Assets	3,114,701	2,704,515
- Other Assets	19,592	20,391
Total Current Assets	3,663,926	3,431,838
Non Current Assets		
- Financial Assets	1,699,743	1,559,795
- Property, Plant and Equipment	14,327	9,218
Total Non Current Assets	1,714,069	1,569,013
Total Assets	5,377,995	5,000,851

Liabilities	\$	\$
Current Liabilities		
- Trade and Other Payables	61,242	35,568
- Other Liabilities	74,010	48,094
- Employee Benefits	59,301	135,532
- Lease Liability	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	194,553	219,194
Non Current Liabilities		
- Employee Benefits	26,057	20,816
Total Non Current Liabilities	26,057	20,816
Total Liabilities	220,610	240,010
Net Assets	5,157,385	4,760,841

Equity	\$	\$
Retained Surplus	5,157,385	4,760,841
Total Equity	5,157,385	4,760,841

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For year ended 30 June 2025

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other
Balance as 1 July 2024	4,760,841	-	-
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	396,544	-	-
Balance as 30 June 2025	5,157,385	-	-

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 Works Connect and other domestic projects.

Obligations for projects carried forward to FY26 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/>



1300 123 637 • enquiries@nfpas.com.au • www.nfpas.com.au

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 2025, 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 2025.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that special purpose financial report in our report dated 6 November 2025. 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 2025 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: 6 November 2025



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
(Resigned Nov. 2024)



Catherine Glenister
Board Member/
Program Committee
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 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Bissett
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Bernard Dobson
Program Committee

Jim Hanna
Program Committee

Jenny Howard
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Rena Lowry
Program Committee

Fiona McKenzie
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Patricia Monemvasitis
Finance, Risk and
Audit Committee

Katrina Richardson
Grants Coordinator

Paul Taylor
Mercy Works Connect
Coordinator - NSW

Katherine Cooney
Mercy Works Connect
Coordinator - VIC

Lisa Farrell
Mercy Works Connect
Coordinator - WA

MERCY WORKS SIMBU PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Theresa Boyek rsm
Acting Simbu
Project Coordinator

Joseph John
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

Gabriella Kawage
Life Skills Trainer and
Publicity Officer

Salume Kupo
Office Administration
and Trainer

Brigitha Maima
Finance Officer

Merawo Mauglia
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

John Rubi
Life Skills Trainer
and Publicity Officer

Saki Yepa
Community Team Leader
and Advocacy Officer

OUR STAFF

MERCY WORKS AUSTRALIA

Sally Bradley rsm
Executive Director

Martin Binoj
Finance Manager

Farid Ghalib
Refugee Projects
Senior Coordinator

Cassandra Gibbs
Indigenous Project
Coordinator

Danielle Hayes
Fundraising and
Marketing Manager

Andrew Lowry
Head of Programs

Sandra Marreiros
Finance and
Administration Officer

OUR 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

Peta Goldberg rsm
Leader, Sisters of Mercy
Brisbane

Margaret Jones rsm
Leader, Sisters of Mercy
Parramatta

Thank You

UNITED IN COMPASSION, DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.

Across Australia, school communities are standing with Mercy Works to support vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

To the students, teachers, staff, parents, and friends who have contributed – **thank you** for your compassion and generosity. Your support is transforming lives and strengthening communities. You are giving hope where it's needed most.

Below is a list of schools that generously raised and donated funds between November 2024 and October 2025.

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy
All Hallows' School, Brisbane
Aranmore Catholic College, Leederville
Bunbury Catholic College
The Cathedral College, Rockhampton
Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School, Orange
Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo
Catherine McAuley College, Mackay
Catherine McAuley Westmead
Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
Holy Cross College, Ellenbrook
James Sheahan Catholic High School, Orange
Marymede Catholic College, South Morang
Mater Dei College, Edgewater
Mercedes College, Perth
Mercedes College, Springfield
Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood
Mercy College, Koondoola
Mercy Regional College, Camperdown
Merici College, Canberra
Our Lady Help of Christians School, Earlville
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College, Burraeher
Our Lady of Mercy College, Australind
Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg
Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, Kellyville
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra
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. Denis School, Joondanna
St. Francis Xavier School, Goodna
St. Gerard's Primary School, Westminster
St. John Fisher College, Bracken Ridge
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Mackay
St. Kieran's Catholic Primary School, Tuart Hill
St. Luke's Catholic Primary School, Woodvale
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton
St. Mary's School, Mackay
St. Michael's Primary School, Baulkham Hills
St. Monica's College, Cairns
St. Patrick's College, Mackay
St. Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta
St. Raphael's School, Parkside
Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Victoria Park

