

MARY MACKILLOP  
*today*



“Find  
happiness in  
making others  
happy”

- Mary MacKillop 1899

**Annual Report 2019-20**

## About us

Mary MacKillop Today is a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we are working to transform lives with dignity for self-determination.

Mary MacKillop Today is a public company limited by guarantee and we are governed by a Board of Directors. In Australia, our head office is in North Sydney, and we also have offices in Bathurst, Orange, Young, Cowra and Lithgow. Overseas, we have an office in Dili, Timor-Leste.

On 1st July 2018, Mary MacKillop International, the Mary MacKillop Foundation and the Josephite Foundation formed a single ministry, Mary MacKillop Today. Proudly continuing the works of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

## Our vision

Our vision is a world without poverty, where the rights and dignity of every person are respected and where people are free to engage fully in society.

## Our mission

Guided by the Gospel, we stand with the marginalised poor, rural and remote peoples, in Australia and internationally, so they can realise their potential and participate fully in their communities. We seek to empower and transform lives through self-determination, access to education and the learning of practical life skills.

Front cover image – “In partnership with local organisation Ola Fou Fiji, the Talitha Women’s Leadership program aims to empower young women to be agents of change within their community.”



The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak Council for Australian non-for-profit aid and development organisations. As an ACFID member, Mary MacKillop Today is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulating sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via [www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints](http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints)



Mary MacKillop Today is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing Australia’s aid program. To maintain accreditation, Mary MacKillop Today’s systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Australian Government. Mary MacKillop Today receives support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Mary MacKillop Today welcomes feedback about our organisation. To provide feedback, or lodge a complaint or compliment, call 02 8912 2777, write to Mary MacKillop Today, PO Box 1646 North Sydney 2060 or send an email to [complaints@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:complaints@marymackilloptoday.org.au)

View our policy [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/who-we-are/publications-and-reports/our-policies/feedback-and-complaints-policy/](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/who-we-are/publications-and-reports/our-policies/feedback-and-complaints-policy/)

# MARY MACKILLOP *today*

## Our values

### FAITH

Guided by the charism and spirituality of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart we are full of faith and hope in the Gospel teachings and in God's Providence, each other and humanity.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

We take our responsibilities and partnerships seriously. Our decisions, actions, governance, transparency, integrity and trust can be relied on.

### RESPECT

We respect the dignity of all, we bring light to the darkest corners of society, we are motivated by the needs of others.

### EXCELLENCE

With our commitment to quality, we do what we do very well so those we serve can expect the best. We are committed to programs that demonstrably enact our mission, to evidence-based programming, sustainability and achievable outcomes.

## Our focus

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, our focus is on building dignity through learning for life. By partnering with local communities, organisations and groups, we bring dignity to thousands of children, women and families in Australia and throughout the world.

## Our purpose

### LEARNING FOR LIFE

Enabling access to learning opportunities; traditional literacy and numeracy; broad skills for living; across the various stages of life. Through our education and life skills programs we develop essential skills for self-sufficiency.



Children in Timor-Leste enjoying their schoolwork



April is the first in her family to go to university

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# Message from our Chair



Dear Friends,

The past year has been uniquely confronting for the communities we serve. We have faced unprecedented challenges as an organisation to which we have taken decisive action to overcome.

As the new Chair for Mary MacKillop Today, I am grateful for the generous contributions of the many individuals and organisations making our work possible. The impacts of the pandemic have affected many of us, so it is remarkable to witness people going to great lengths to show their support during this critical time.

Thanks to supporters, our organisation is in a strong position despite the setbacks we have faced this year. We have taken the necessary steps to adjust our approaches in many areas of our work to continue reaching vulnerable communities. This has taken a significant amount of creativity and innovation by our team and local partners.

We can celebrate our accreditation by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), who are responsible for managing Australia's aid program. This makes Mary MacKillop Today eligible for funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). It will provide our programs with a funding framework for sustainability and long-term impact.

I would also like to acknowledge the Sisters of Saint Joseph. They work tirelessly to continue the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop to ensure people can receive support in the areas of greatest need.

The resilience of all those involved in our mission has been thoroughly impressive.

Thank you for your support. I am optimistic about the opportunities ahead as we navigate through new environments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Gleeson'.

Kieran Gleeson

A map of South America where the country of Peru is highlighted in a darker shade of blue, while the rest of the continent is a lighter blue. The word 'Peru' is written in bold black text to the left of the highlighted area.

Peru

# Our

# Message from our CEO



Dear Friends,

During my first year as CEO for Mary MacKillop Today, it has become increasingly apparent to me that this organisation is anchored in a shared motivation by all stakeholders to provide real and lasting impact. It is a privilege to be part of such a life-changing mission.

Generous supporters have continued their commitment during an incredibly difficult year, and I am immensely thankful. It is a testament to the dedication of our passionate network of people.

This year, we have faced devastating bushfires and a worldwide pandemic. We simply could not have known these challenges were on the agenda when we made plans for the year. During such uncertain times, resilience is critical. Our staff, local partners and particularly the local communities who participate in our programs, continue to exercise this every day. I believe we can look to the life of Saint Mary MacKillop for inspiration. During her most difficult trials, Mary persevered to provide practical support for children and families, regardless of their background.

As we close this financial year, it is evident there has been a clear trend across all of our programs. Both in Australia and overseas, we have put measures in place to pivot and adapt to the new environment, so we can continue providing impact for people living on the margins.

Looking forward, while the outlook remains uncertain, I have full confidence that Mary MacKillop Today will continue to go from strength to strength.

Thank you for entrusting us with your support for the communities with whom we work.

With my sincere gratitude,



Jane Woolford



# 'Learning for Life'

## Key achievements you have made possible across our programs and partnerships

**In the face of unprecedented challenges, we have adapted our work to continue providing marginalised communities with access to high quality learning opportunities.**

### Emergency response to COVID-19

Over **28,500** people reached by COVID-19 prevention and awareness campaigns

**17,969** COVID-19 hygiene kits distributed

**1,989** households provided with emergency food relief

**59** households were given starter kits for household food production

**871** people accessed alternative/online training

**1,362** parents and caregivers accessed learning materials to support remote education

**200** households accessed improved internet connectivity for remote learning

**168** women accessed psychosocial support and information around gender-based violence during lockdown\*

### Access to quality education

**582** teachers and community educators trained to provide high quality early learning and literacy education

**5,662** children reached in schools

**291** children reached through alternative education pathways

**550** adults accessed high quality informal skills training

**95** adults supported to work towards a recognised post-secondary qualification

**1,332** parents and caregivers participated in sessions to improve their awareness of access to education and develop skills to support learning at home

**75** First Nations students supported in their tertiary studies

### Providing opportunities for financial freedom

**1,186** loans provided to relieve financial hardship

Over **600** referrals made to appropriate services for additional support

### Increasing awareness of important issues

**3** new book titles published

**40,877** books distributed

### Supporting community initiatives

**15** grants awarded to Australian community organisations

### Protecting vulnerable people

**1,109** people participated in sessions on the prevention, reduction and response to violence, abuse, and exploitation of children

(\*Note: this figure does not include audience data from the radio programs in Peru)

# PERFORMANCE

## Partner Learning Forum

Mary MacKillop Today hosted our first Partner Learning Forum in February 2020. Representatives from our six Pacific Partner Organisations travelled to Timor-Leste with the Partnerships & Performance Group Leader and the Programs Group Leader for a five-day forum on the topic of 'Child & Youth-Led Programming: Participation & Protection.' The theme reflects our aim to promote equitable and high quality learning environments for children and young people - so it is vital that we commit to a deep understanding of their participation in program decision making. In addition to presentations from each partner organisation, participants undertook a project site visit to observe child-led monitoring approaches.

A statement of commitment was prepared at the Forum:



## Partner Learning Forum Statement of Commitment

### **Collaboration: Strengthen our network and collaborate with other organisations with common values**

- 1 Identify and engage/share learnings with new partners (NGOs, DPOs, Governments etc)
- 2 Establish web-based resources (including a Facebook page) for ongoing sharing and collaboration
- 3 Host next Partner Learning Forum in Fiji or PNG
- 4 Explore options for exchange programs
- 5 Write a newsletter

### **Child Safeguarding: Promote and demonstrate Child Safeguarding practices**

- 1 Report any abuse or concerns using the reporting mechanisms in our organization
- 2 Create and use child friendly and accessible tools to communicate our policy, code of conduct, and reporting procedures
- 3 Provide ongoing training to make sure we understand roles and responsibilities. Each organization will determine how often, but at least on recruitment
- 4 Share good practice Child Safeguarding approaches in Mary MacKillop Today and external networks

### **Child Participation: Ensure meaningful and accountable participation of children and involve their voice in decision-making**

- 1 Create, use, and share participatory and inclusive tools for design, planning, M&E, and information sharing
- 2 Create, use, and share accessible systems/tools for providing feedback or making a complaint
- 3 Explore the feasibility of running a child forum with project participants and celebrate child rights and advocacy events

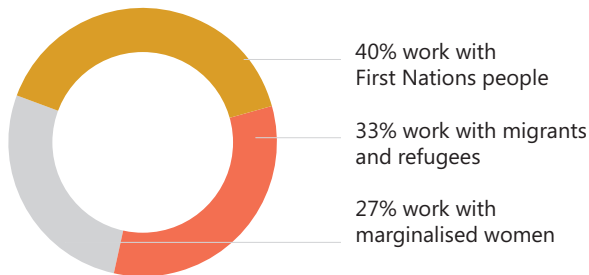
## Safeguarding Commitment

Mary MacKillop Today's commitment to Safeguarding was not only in evidence at the Partner Learning Forum. We ensured our compliance with the Catholic Professional Standards by revising the Safeguarding and Feedback & Complaints policies, providing training for Mary MacKillop Today staff on Safeguarding related issues, and updating our programming and supporter relations templates. To demonstrate our commitment to Safeguarding in governance, we have also formed a Safeguarding Committee comprising of two board members, the Mary MacKillop Today safeguarding focal points, and the CEO. This Committee meets prior to every board meeting and reports back to the board on any Safeguarding issues.



# AUSTRALIA

Breakdown of Community Grants program areas of focus



The **Community Grants program** continues to provide vulnerable Australian communities with opportunities for lifelong learning. We awarded 15 Community Grants to organisations in NSW, WA, VIC, QLD, and SA totalling \$144,365 to support a diverse range of people.

The Grants supported initiatives such as *Latrobe Literacy Project*, *Reading Out of Poverty* - providing 600 literacy starter kits for vulnerable families, pop up libraries in laundromats and medical centres, mentoring support and provision of parent booklets for 520 new parents. Another grant recipient was *Tjitjiku Tjukurpa (Children's Dreaming) Project, Carclew*. The Pukatja residency took place with stop-motion animation artist Jonathan Daw working with Ernabella Anangu School students to animate elements of the Seven Sisters (APY version). We also provided a grant for Computer Classes, *The Freedom Hub*, offering online computer literacy training and data packs for 62 survivors of modern slavery.

We are committed to reaching those in the community who are most in need, recognising the number of barriers people face to meaningful economic participation. Our **Financial Inclusion program** continued to work in partnership with Good Shepherd Microfinance to provide No Interest Loans (NILS) and Step-Up Loans for adults experiencing financial



Young mothers in Australia are supported by the Community Grants program



House of Welcome is supported by the Community Grants program

hardship in rural NSW. This opens up access to fair and equitable credit, so people can pay for things like vehicles, household repairs, and vocational study.

We administered 1,186 loans to the value of \$1,121,005. Our reach in First Nations communities included 398 loans issued to Indigenous Australian clients. A total of 738 loans were issued to women and 408 loans were for clients who were receiving a disability pension. We also made over 600 referrals for clients to gain further assistance, including financial capability training, energy assistance, family support, and insurance support. These referral pathways assist clients in building their financial capabilities and work to address some of the issues leading them into financial hardship.



The Financial Inclusion Program works with adults experiencing financial hardship in rural NSW - Photo: Clare Seibel-Barnes



Our **First Nations Tertiary Scholarships program** continues to provide aspiring students with the support they need to complete their tertiary studies. 75 students received scholarships last financial year. We were also thrilled to see 12 new graduates completing their studies in a wide range of areas.

We remain determined to provide opportunities for education through a geographically specific Stream in the Kimberley region. In July 2019, the new student intake for Semester 1 2020 increased to 21 from 16 the previous year. 11 of these are new students from the Australia wide Stream, while 10 are students from the Kimberley region.

The pandemic brought about additional hardships for students, so we have adapted to their increased need to defer, change degrees, or move to part-time study. Despite this, the majority of students continued to study and showed excellent progress in their reports. 90% of students receiving the scholarship reported an increased desire to undertake further study.

*“My ancestors now have a voice through me – after no one listened to what they had to say. Mary MacKillop stuck up for those who did not have a voice and she always believed in people. I strive to have this attitude.”*

- Hayden Walker, Scholarship Recipient and Graduate of Bachelor of Law in 2020



Hayden graduated with a Bachelor of Law in 2020



#### The **Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program**

Yawardani Jan-ga (which means “horses helping”), in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute, provides culturally secure social and emotional well-being support to Aboriginal children and young people in the Kimberley Region. COVID-19 restrictions postponed the leadership group program however one-on-one services continued, providing vital support to young people managing the isolation and uncertainty of the lockdown period. 53 children and young people were referred to the program.

Eight local community members from Broome and Derby completed the EAL Practitioner program. A further nine individuals were selected to commence training as EAL Practitioner Trainees in FY2021, trialing the newly developed draft Curriculum.

Approximately 70 local service providers—schools, Aboriginal Medical Services, and Youth services—received insights into EAL strategies to encourage them to use these concepts, where safe and possible, in their own services. A partnership MoU was signed between Yawardani Jan-ga and Hope Community Services, who facilitate the Broome Youth Bail House together with West Kimberley Youth Justice Services. The collective partnership offers uniquely tailored trauma informed service models for Aboriginal young people in the West Kimberley to increase well-being and meaningful engagement in training and employment.

*“I have learnt that feelings are important and it's ok to feel angry, sad or happy - and the best thing to do is to express them in a way that is safe and healthy. Horses are really good at teaching us to express our feelings and then let them go...it's amazing how they can pick up on our thoughts.”*

- Keegan, Project Participant, Broome.

# TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste enforced a COVID-19 lockdown during March - June 2020, which included school closures. Thanks to supporters, we could adapt our projects to continue reaching people safely. We also strengthened our relationship with the Timor-Leste Government, signing an additional MoU with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

Our **Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy Project** enhances education in remote schools. We trained 206 teachers from Dili, Manufahi, Ermera and Viqueque municipalities, ensuring over 4,120 children received quality education. Teachers also learnt about positive discipline, child protection, and disability inclusion. During lockdown, we assisted teachers through online training while delivering 635 health education resources and 254 hygiene kits. We distributed 17,614 Tetun literacy resources and developed two new Tetun storybooks on children living with disabilities.

The Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy project was supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and by Edmund Rice Foundation Australia.



Aida has learnt valuable skills in the Teacher Training Program

*“Our school is right in the rural area, so we have struggled to get information and equipment from government. But it does not stop us from teaching our children and we still have enthusiasm. I really appreciated my trainers because I have learned a lot about child development, motor skills and how to teach children with songs.”*

- Aida, teacher from Viqueque

We offered **Volunteer Teacher Support** to 43 volunteer teachers with monthly stipends and training, ensuring 861 children receive quality education in the classroom. During lockdown, 300 health posters and 270 hygiene kits were delivered to the Volunteer Teachers' schools.

*“The Teacher Training has enhanced my skills as a teacher, which is a necessity in a remote area like Railaco...I promise to apply those skills to animate and encourage children. I enjoyed creating a library corner and telling stories to my students.”*

- Mr Adelino, TEKA (pre-school) teacher in Samaleten

The **Parents Program** delivered training to 510 parents (126 men and 384 women) from Dili, Ermera and Manufahi municipality to equip them with the skills and confidence to support their children's education. This helped over 823 children engage with their parents through activities such as reading, writing, and music. During lockdown, 190 parents accessed online content so they could support their children's learning at home. We delivered 11,937 education resources and 2,312 boxes of learning materials for children to use for home study.

Mary MacKillop Today partnered with the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia in the delivery of the Parents Program, which received support from the Australian Government through an Australian Aid: Friendship Grant.



Julio at the Parents Training workshop



*“I now understand how to read a book to my children at home every night. I understand the importance of my involvement in my children's education, even outside of the classroom.”*

- Agostinho, parent from Railaco Leten

The **Mobile Learning Centre (MLC)** bus visited 22 schools in Dili and Liquisa, with 8,237 children and 230 teachers participating in learning activities. 80 teachers also attended training workshops on providing fun and interactive education. We provided over 10,246 story books for classrooms. When bus visits were cancelled during lockdown, we developed two short films about reading, writing, nutrition, and disease prevention, so children could learn at home.

Mary MacKillop Today also partnered with the Government and ChildFund Australia to pivot activities and deliver a COVID-19 prevention awareness campaign and health education resources in the Liquica Municipality.



Children learn the importance of handwashing through the Health Literacy program

*“When I heard the Mobile Library was coming to my school, I was very excited! It made me diligent and active, wanting to go to school every day. I participate in the activities such as playing, reading books, dancing, and play music with music instruments.”*

- Celestino, 12-year-old student from Liquisa

Through our **Health Literacy Program**, we worked with 21 schools to deliver training to 100 primary school teachers on basic preventative health in the classroom. 100 sets of Tetun health education resources were distributed to 4,454 children. We appointed school health champions, ran competitions, distributed hygiene kits, and provided grants to support school health and hygiene practices.

We were invited by the Ministry of Health to assist with the nation-wide pandemic response. Activities included delivering disease prevention resources and public health campaigns.



*“Mary MacKillop Today helped me engage my children in school, especially with basic health and hand washing practices. I was so happy to get training and also materials like health guidance books to use for teaching in the classroom.”*

- Asatu, a Grade 2 teacher in Timor-Leste

Our **Livelihoods Program** continues to empower vulnerable people through financial independence. The Vanilla Beans of Hope Project supported 365 farmers from five villages in Ermera with education, mentoring and resources to grow vanilla. We will hand this project over to a local cooperative by June 2021, so farmers can conduct business independently.

The Women's Livelihoods project empowered 48 women to generate income through self-managed activities. Women attended training on numeracy and literacy, savings and loans, business, finance, human rights, leadership, sewing, and agriculture. The Women's Group gross cash savings grew to USD9,655.00, 44 members accessed credit, and 41% of women now have products to sell.

*“I have been able to start a small kiosk selling vegetables and other things to support our family. I am really happy because now I can start saving and I no longer have to access credit money. I believe that in the next 2 or 3 years coming, my kiosk will grow with the capital money I could borrow from the group.”*

- Silvia, Women's Group Member



Silvia can now support her family



# PERU

Due to COVID-19, children in Peru have been learning from home since March 2020. Together with the local municipality and our partner, CCAIJO, we installed internet in three rural communities - enabling 360 students to continue their studies. We also partnered with Jesuitas ODP and community organisations to provide emergency relief to an estimated 9,370 people impacted by the pandemic.



The **School Agriculture Project** supports rural schools to deliver sustainable agriculture and nutrition education to students. 18 teachers have been trained in small animal breeding and vegetable gardening. During lockdown, we virtually trained school community households in Macari in small animal husbandry and installing vegetable gardens. Households received seeds and Cuys (guinea pigs) bred through the school farm, and COVID-19 prevention kits.

*“I am grateful for the vegetable garden and breeding box for guinea pigs...Our family benefits by cultivating our own food.”*

- Regina, Parent and Training Participant

The **Parent Engagement in Education Project** aims to improve collaboration between parents, teachers, and the school community. 130 parents were mentored to support student learning and 85 teachers were trained to help students develop resilience. This supported 681 students to adjust to remote learning. During school closures we conducted online training and meetings. We promoted awareness in COVID-19 prevention, distance education, and resilience to seven school communities, and distributed 550 hygiene and remote learning kits to Fe y Alegria schools.



The **Women's Empowerment Project** builds the skills and confidence of women leaders to participate fully in community decision making. 20 female government representatives and 25 female civil society leaders attended workshops on human rights, ethical leadership, the functions of Municipal Governments, and influencing public policy. The project empowered leaders to submit proposals to government and for Councillors to gain approval for gender equity initiatives. During lockdown, we provided virtual training, and participants ran 70 radio programs on women and their political, social, economic, and cultural power.

Liliana's family have lost their income so she cooks up to one week's worth of food rations using PEBAL's community kitchen



*“In the District Council, I am the only woman...Thanks to the training I am learning about my role as a Councillor. I especially know my rights as a woman and mother. Now my fellow Councillors are starting to respect me...I can have an opinion and ask about projects.”*

- Augustina, Councillor and President of the Committee on Infrastructure and Works of the Municipality



Enhancing women's participation in rural Peru

This project was supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Through our **Livelihoods Project**, 60 artisans (88% women) attended workshops to improve their skills in production, design and marketing of their knitted and sewn goods. Of those trained, 100% increased their income through selling their handicrafts. A catalogue of handicraft products for Ocongate was produced collaboratively with project participants as a vital marketing tool and way to document cultural designs for future generations.

We supported **non-development projects** run by the Sisters of St Joseph. The largest project is the Mary MacKillop Huasi centre for children with disability, which provided 93 children with physiotherapy, linguistic therapy, and psychological therapy.



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

We are continuing our efforts to build **Inclusive Communities** in Papua New Guinea. 31 volunteers (9% people with disability) attended training workshops delivered by Callan Vanimo and the Callan Services National Unit. This has given volunteers the knowledge and confidence they need to deliver screenings and assessments with increased understanding of referral procedures. These volunteers have supported Callan Vanimo IERC staff in screening 1,920 community members across the 10 project sites. 26 children were identified and referred for formal medical assessment. A further 34 adults with disability were identified and are now visited more than twice per month by volunteers. 144 people with disability or treatable/temporary impairments were also identified and referred to alternative services.

In addition, 102 parents and caregivers of children with disability have participated in disability inclusion and development awareness sessions, while 11 Ward Recorders and other key government stakeholders have participated in disability inclusion training.

A number of community activities were suspended because of pandemic restrictions. However, Callan Vanimo was appointed to the Sandaun Province COVID-19 Response Unit and were able to pivot their work towards COVID-19 prevention education, ensuring public health messaging was accessible for people with disability. These efforts provided access to COVID-19 prevention education for 168 children and 121 people with disability.



Volunteers play a vital role in the Inclusive Communities Project

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, our **Komuniti Early Learning Project** continues to provide important education opportunities in Papua New Guinea. 23 community educators were trained by our partners, Buk Bilong Pikinini, with 100% demonstrating a high standard in their delivery of the learning program during in-class assessments. With the local support of the Callan Vanimo Inclusive Education Resource Centre, in the period from July - December 2019, 415 children were enrolled in the community early learning program. From February 2020, this number dropped to 168 children due to COVID-19 restrictions. A key focus of the FY2021 will be to re-engage children and parents in learning and promoting safe environments.

The program has also engaged parents in regular awareness activities - promoting the value of high quality inclusive early childhood education and distributing 10,000 copies of the disability reader 'Our Special Stories'. This beautiful book was launched in Port Moresby in collaboration with Inclusive Education Resource Centres.

*“Teaching and helping my community makes me feel so happy!”*

- Darushilla, Community Educator

*“I now know that people with disability have the same rights as anyone else in my community. I know that our community needs to be inclusive.”*

- John, Ward Recorder (Local Government Representative)



Jenny volunteers for the Inclusive Communities program





# FIJI

The **Women's Leadership Project (Project Talitha)** builds the confidence, and capabilities of young women in Fiji to become agents of change. 32 young women participated in training workshops on human rights, financial literacy, women's health, and leadership. 75% of young women reported increased confidence after the training.

Participants meet fortnightly, together with five mentors, as part of a Women's Club in each of the three communities. Six male champions have also been trained, to facilitate gender equity discussions at the community level.

COVID-19 lockdowns in Fiji, combined with Cyclone Harold in the Western region, meant some project activities could not be completed. After feedback from participants, funds were pivoted to focus on psychosocial support. 38 women accessed this support through trauma counselling. In addition, 15 households were provided with emergency food relief.

*"I usually find it a challenge to address people in a large audience with the fear of not knowing the right words to use but now I feel that I have grown in this. When I keep challenging myself to do it, to speak, now the words just come out naturally".*

- Community-based Project Implementer



*"I am now looking forward to develop my small business in the village. The project has allowed me to dream bigger."*

- Project Participant



The **Mobile Kindy Project** supports community-based volunteers and parents to provide high quality early childhood education and care to children in informal settlements in Suva. 70 children aged 3-5 years were enrolled in community play groups. 12 community volunteers participated in training workshops. The Early Childhood Education course was successfully accredited, enabling community volunteers to work towards a Diploma of Early Childhood Education. 30 parents attended quarterly information sessions on child development, nutrition and preventative health, and child safeguarding. During lockdown in Fiji between March and May 2020, Mary MacKillop Today and Child Benefit equipped 70 parents with the resources needed to educate their children at home.

*"I have learned to respect children as they are. The Child Safeguarding policy is important for me to be able to know my role in looking after children...Our children have been attending early childhood education and care sessions in their own community in a safe environment. Mary MacKillop Today has made this possible for us...We are so grateful that during the crisis of COVID-19 our children are still able to have useful educational engagement and learning!"*

- Takayawa, Parent





# ethica

ethica continues to generate employment for women artisans in Peru to increase their future potential and opportunities in life. We continue to promote Fair Trade and its importance in supporting people and planet. Australians are becoming more aware of where and how products are made, the impact on people and hence are prepared to pay for better quality.

Despite an increase in sales in the first half of this year compared to the previous year, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected our operations both in Peru and in Australia.

ethica honoured all orders placed before the pandemic. The women were able to work from home during lockdown and we ensured they received a fair and timely payment for their work. The groups have shown their resilience - with one diversifying by producing face masks and another producing medicinal creams and oils.

The ethica Manager had a successful trip to Peru to visit suppliers, review products in production, and collaborate to develop better prices and margins. Agreements on reducing the use of plastic for

packaging and sending boxes to Australia were established. Recycled and fabric remnants are now used. Potential new suppliers were also explored.

We strengthened our online presence and increased sales by 80%.

Pro bono support from NSW Department of Industry produced a Health Check of ethica. We scored above the industry benchmarks on market research, branding and positioning; pricing, promotion and advertising; innovation; development and customer engagement. A social media strategy was developed by Practera and university students as a pro bono contribution.

We will continue to support women in Peru with opportunities to earn a fair income.



## Environmental Sustainability

Our focus has been on waste reduction and recycling. We continued to raise awareness on recycling practices in the office – encouraging staff to extend this action into their own households. Clear signs were set up to ensure safe disposal of waste. We had a calendar with key dates and suggested activities helping us to become more conscious of our impact to the planet. We have strived to make better choices with our purchases. We have put in place policies and procedures for sustainable procurement and updated our list of suppliers to reflect greener practices. We also renewed our Fair Trade workplace accreditation.

# Financial Snapshot

During the 2019-20 financial year, Mary MacKillop Today invested \$5.682M in funding and supporting our overseas, domestic and community development programs.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of supporters who made this possible.

## Financial Results

Our total income for the year ended at \$5.592M and expenditure at \$5.682M.

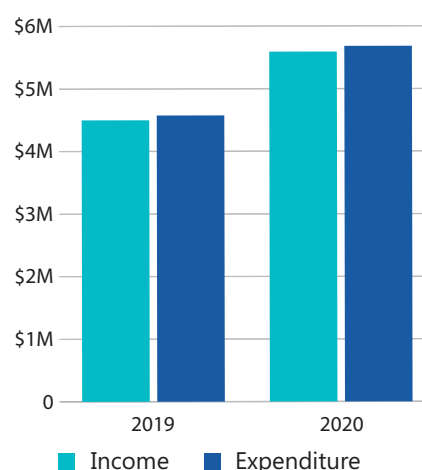
Despite the many challenges faced by our supporters this financial year, general fundraising income grew strongly, totalling \$2.008M. The generosity of our many individual donors, schools, community groups, parishes communities, trusts and foundations have provided quality education and learning for life opportunities to vulnerable individuals and communities to create generational change.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart continued their significant support of the newly amalgamated ministry of Mary MacKillop Today with an increased contribution of \$2.124M towards the ongoing development of staff, systems and fundraising programs to build financial sustainability for the future.

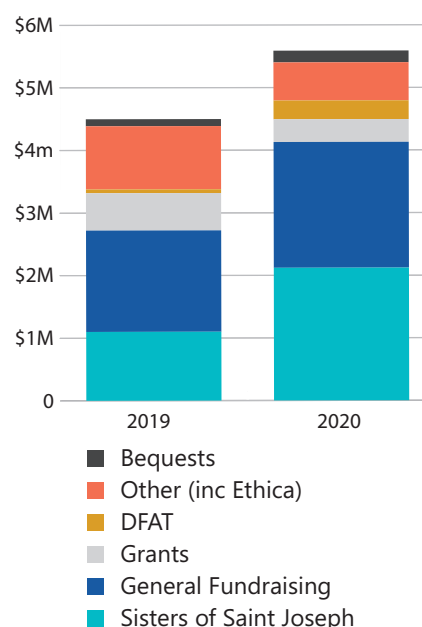
Grant revenue totalled \$663,407 including a contribution of \$300,000 from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Mary MacKillop Today achieved full DFAT accreditation last financial year with the funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program commenced in July 2020.

Income from Bequests are an important part in planning for the future and Mary MacKillop Today was very honoured to receive generous Bequest gifts totalling \$187,727.

## Income vs Expenditure



## Income Stream



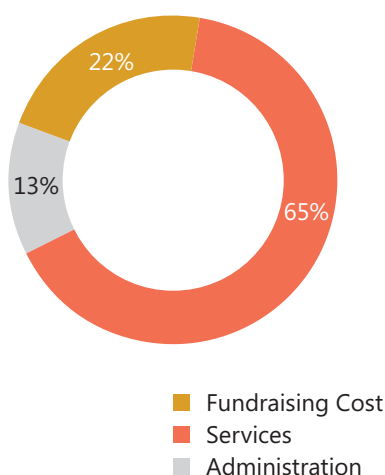
## Organisational Strength

The Board and Management of Mary MacKillop Today continue to closely monitor the organisation's financial situation, ensuring both a healthy bottom line while maximising our effectiveness and the impact in the lives of those who need it most.

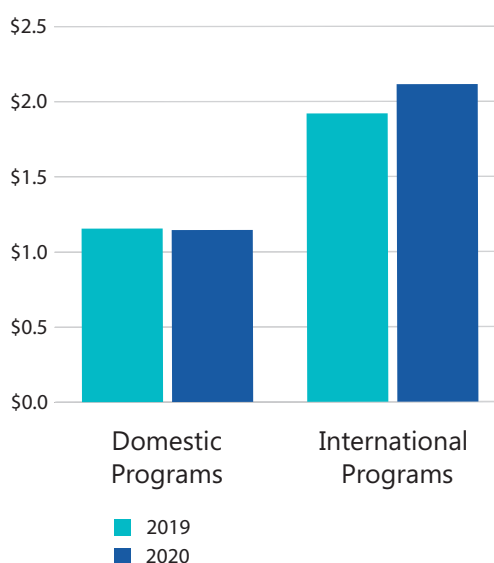
Mary MacKillop Today had total expenditure of \$5.682M over this financial year, of which \$3.619M

was invested in funding and supporting our overseas, domestic and community development programs. In Australia, \$1.145M was spent on domestic and community programs, and international programs cost \$2.114M, including \$56,000 on non-development projects.

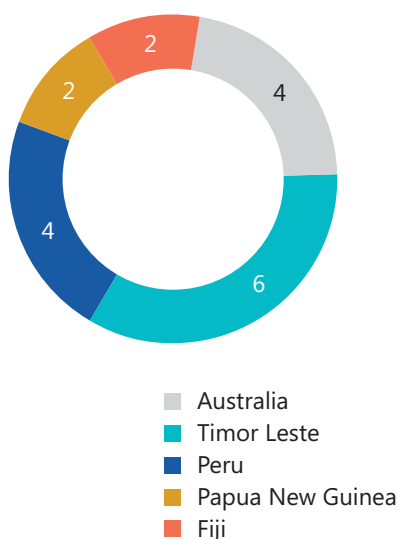
### Allocation of Income



### International/Domestic aid and Development Programs



### Number of Programs by Country



#### Australia

- Community Grants program
- Financial Inclusion program
- First Nations Tertiary Scholarships program
- Equine Assisted Learning program

#### Timor-Leste

- Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy Project
- Parents Program
- Volunteer Teacher Support
- Mobile Learning Centre
- Livelihoods Program
- Health Literacy Program

#### Peru

- School Agriculture Project
- Parent Engagement in Education Project
- Livelihoods Project
- Women's Empowerment Project

#### Papua New Guinea

- Inclusive Communities
- Komuniti Early Learning Project

#### Fiji

- Women's Leadership Project
- Mobile Kindy Project

Our full Financial Report 2019-20 is available to read at [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au)



# Our People

We are thankful to have an incredibly talented team of people working at Mary MacKillop Today. Despite being spread out across various locations in Australia and overseas, our diverse team share a motivation to serve those in need and a commitment to justice. At 30th June 2020, there were 28 staff in Australia. This included 21 in North Sydney, and 7 staff based remotely in Bathurst, Cowra, Young and Lithgow. In Timor-Leste, we had a total of 43 staff members.

## Our Board of Directors



**Kieran Gleeson** – Chairperson  
Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants; Associate Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Executives



**Kate Barnett** – Deputy Chairperson  
BA LLB (Hons) Dip.Mod.Lang (Chinese)  
Melb. GradDipComm UTS



**Anthony Abraham** – Chairperson of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee  
BEd, LLB



**Sr Sheila McCreanor**  
Dip T, Grad Dip Ed Admin, M Ed, PhD,  
GAICD, JP



**Grahame Petersen**  
– Member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee  
BA F Fin FAICD



**John Collins** –  
Member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee  
BCom (Hons), CA, CFP



**Hilary Johnston-Croke**  
B. Sc (Hons), PGCE Education, M.Ed, Grad Dip (Theology), GAICD

## Senior Management



**Jane Woolford**  
CEO



**Alipio Baltazar**  
Timor-Leste Country Director



**Emma Dawson**  
Programs Group Leader



**Sophie Jenkins**  
Partnerships & Performance Group Leader



**Gina Bradley**  
National Manager, ethica



**Elizabeth Phegan**  
Supporter Relations Group Leader



**Joanne Lee**  
Finance Manager



**Anita van Dartel**  
Financial Inclusions Team Leader

# Our Dedicated Supporters

It is only through the generosity of our wonderful supporters that we can reach people in need here in Australia and overseas.

We are so thankful for the kind support of individuals, community groups, parishes, schools, trusts and foundations, volunteers, Committees, and the Australian Government.

With you by our side, we can follow in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop to provide life-changing opportunities and break down cycles of disadvantage.

Know that you are empowering communities with the practical support they need through education, health, financial inclusion, and livelihoods.

**Thank you!**



Staff member Margaret and her sister Angela who is one of our dedicated volunteers



Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph Sr Monica Cavanagh with dedicated supporters Alan and Cecilia



## How You Can Help

Our work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters!  
There are many ways to get involved with Mary MacKillop Today.

### Make a monthly donation

An ongoing commitment is one of the most effective ways to reach people in need. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### Leave a gift in your Will

You can support future generations by remembering Mary MacKillop Today in your Will.

### Organise or attend an event

Consider engaging your local parish, school or community with fundraising initiatives.

### Collect stamps

Collect and send in postage stamps to support our mission.

### Workplace giving

One of the most cost effective and simple ways of making a donation.

### Join the conversation

Follow our social media pages featured on our website.

### Stay informed

Get all the latest news in the Mary MacKillop Today Newsletter and blog.

### To find out more please contact:

**Phone:** +61 2 8912 2777

**Email:** [hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au)

**Website:** [marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://marymackilloptoday.org.au)

# MARY MACKILLOP *today*

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ACN 159 091 737 | ABN 88 808 531 480

Please visit our website to read about Mary MacKillop Today:  
[www.marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au)