

MARY MACKILLOP *today*



*“Never see
a need without
doing something
about it”*

- Mary MacKillop 1871

Annual Report 2020-21

About us

Mary MacKillop Today is a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph. 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:

Students in Timor-Leste learning the importance of hand washing through the Health Literacy program.



The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak body for Australian non-government organisations involved in international development and humanitarian action. 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/content/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

View our policy 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 at school



Hotel reception training in Peru

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Message from our Chair



Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Board, I wish to acknowledge the Sisters of Saint Joseph for their tireless work in continuing the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop. Under the leadership of Sr Monica Cavanagh, the Congregational Leadership Team have entrusted our Board to further the work of the Sisters of St Joseph now and into the future so that those in greatest need in Australia and overseas may have dignity and the skills and self-determination to participate fully in their communities. Our Board and staff take this responsibility very seriously.

As with many organisations, the last financial year has required our people to call on all their resilience and creativity to overcome the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I and the Board are extremely grateful to all staff and our partners for the determination and way they have continued their commitment to people living on the margins and their communities. Our teams have been very flexible and innovative in ensuring that the practical and life-changing support provided on the ground has continued for the vulnerable, despite the challenges.

There are many facets to ensuring Mary MacKillop Today can continue its important work here and abroad. We are particularly proud of our accreditation by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), who are responsible for managing Australia's aid program. This ensures Mary MacKillop Today is eligible for funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Without this funding framework many of our programs would not reach communities in need or achieve the positive outcomes of sustainable, long-term, evidence-based projects.

Our work would also not be possible without the wonderful support of the many individuals and organisations who choose to stand with us to empower the marginalised and poor in our society. Despite the impact of the pandemic, we have seen continuing generosity. Thank you all for your support.

Best regards,

Kieran Gleeson



Peru

Projects - 4

Our

Message from our CEO



While it has been another challenging year for our organisation and partners in the field, Mary MacKillop Today has continued to deliver on its mission to support people living on the margins. We have also used this time to plan for the future and strengthen our organisation internally in preparation for the aftermath of COVID-19.

This year, with international travel still suspended, we have had to adapt the way we work, particularly to support our programs in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. These countries continue to be heavily impacted by COVID-19. Country visits for face-to-face meetings and training have moved online, and skilled people on the ground have stepped up to do the important program evaluation and monitoring normally undertaken by our staff. Providing locals

with much-needed jobs while also advancing our long-term goal to enable partners to move towards self-sufficiency has been a silver lining of the pandemic.

In Australia, our loans and financial literacy programs have never been more important. With increased demand for this support we have been exploring ways to expand the reach of our financial literacy training program to give more people in financial stress the skills and knowledge they need to improve their financial situation.

I am also proud of the humanitarian support provided to communities we serve. This has only been possible thanks to the generosity of supporters and our trusted program partners whose knowledge has ensured resources, health kits and other support reached those most in need. In Australia, with this support we have provided education scholarships to First Nations students facing financial hardship, enabling these promising young people to continue their studies.

At a time of great uncertainty, we have been so overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters. The needs of the communities we support have and will only become greater as the pandemic unfolds. Our supporters have remained committed to our cause. Thank you all for your kindness, generosity and ongoing concern for others.

In the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop, your generous support is enabling positive and practical life-changing outcomes for the communities and people we serve in Australia and further afield.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Woolford'.

Jane Woolford

Timor Leste
Projects - 7

Papua New Guinea
Projects - 3

Australia
Projects - 4

Fiji
Projects - 2

focus

Learning for Life

We are committed to empowering marginalised people across the world to have access to education, life skills and dignity to participate fully in their communities.

This year, with your support, we were able to continue our vital work providing life-changing opportunities in marginalised communities. These are some of the key achievements from our International Programs that you helped to make possible:



Learning is valued and aspired to

- 91 women accessed training and other support to help them to better participate in political and other community leadership roles
- 585 parents and family members participated in training on the value of learning



Learning enables the realisation of rights and freedoms

- 64 women were supported to assume leadership roles at the community, regional and national level
- 1,250 people were supported to build their skills to earn an income
- 318 people enrolled in further formal education/learning programs
- 71 people in rural areas were supported to set up a business



People achieve positive learning outcomes

- 80% of participants reported improved knowledge in preventative health
- 92.5% of participants gained new financial literacy skills



Learning is high quality and learner-centred

- 509 teachers and educators were trained in skills to improve learning outcomes
- 83% of educators from our teacher training programs were trained in high quality teaching skills
- 585 parents and caregivers were trained to support their child's learning
- 45,283 learning resources were distributed
- 6,223 people accessed learning resources that meet quality standards



Learning is accessible

- 43 people were provided with improved access to sufficient food
- 244 people participated in training on prevention, reduction and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children
- 100 people received disability support services
- 83.4% of educators from our teacher training programs were trained in high quality inclusive education strategies
- 1,437 people gained skills to be able to build a livelihood and earn an income

COVID-19

Like most organisations across the world, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created significant challenges for Mary MacKillop Today and our partners. While some programs experienced higher demand and others slowed down, we were pleased to have been able to find a way to adapt to the changing context and maintain positive collaborations with our partners and the communities we serve.

Our Australian staff have been unable to travel to support our international programs and partnerships since March 2020. This has meant adapting to online workshops, training and meetings to upskill those working in the field and make sure they feel supported to continue delivering their programs.

Our staff working on the ground in communities have also had to develop innovative remote alternatives to face-to-face workshops, training and consultations to ensure we could continue to reach participants in our project communities and achieve our project outcomes.

Our responses in each country differed as the impact of COVID-19 evolved. These included:

- In Australia, our Financial Inclusion Team in NSW offered support via phone, email and internet to those impacted by job loss, reduced working hours or the end of government support.
- In the Kimberley, where we work with the Aboriginal community, we implemented a COVID-19 mitigation strategy to increase hand hygiene and social distancing practices and ensure zero active cases were maintained.
- In Timor-Leste, we moved some training and programs online and supported the Ministry of Health in developing a national response to the crisis. Content for some programs was modified to include COVID-19 prevention training and, where possible, we supplied masks and hand sanitiser to communities. We also diverted unused project funds to humanitarian initiatives supporting communities, schools and families impacted by the floods in March/April.

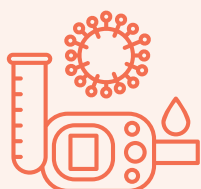


Hand washing station in Timor-Leste



Displaying a banner on COVID-19 prevention

- In Peru, our project partners delivered personal protective equipment to community leaders, provided psycho-social support and broadcast radio programs about COVID-19 prevention practices. Computers were also loaned to students participating in our vocational training program to ensure they could continue their studies.
- In Fiji, the Mobile Kindy team sent resource packs to communities they were unable to visit, and delivered remote training to teachers, parents and children. Community members also received hygiene kits and educational materials promoting COVID-19 prevention.



865

Number of people trained in COVID-19 prevention/management



10,271

Number of COVID-19 hygiene kits distributed (including personal protective equipment)

AUSTRALIA

In Australia, our goal is to support the marginalised, including First Nations Australians and people on low incomes, to improve their quality of life through overcoming education, health and poverty-related challenges.

Our long-running **Community Grants** program aims to create generational change by supporting initiatives that provide life-long learning and life-changing skills for children and adults living in communities affected by marginalisation.

This year, after receiving 101 applications, we awarded 19 grants (\$165,000) to projects in NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

Supported initiatives included:

- At *St Joseph's House* (SOSJ) in Batehaven, NSW, three community gatherings were facilitated to increase community resilience and wellbeing following the Black Summer bushfires.
- In Dandenong, Victoria, our grant enabled *Wellsprings for Women* to deliver their face-to-face programs online to ensure they could continue supporting mothers throughout the pandemic. Workshops included a COVID-19 Vaccination Program, and a Homework Club Support Program for refugee and migrant students who are struggling with their learning.
- Our grant funding also enabled The Marmalade Foundation to run First Aid Training for 16 vulnerable women at Lou's Place, a daytime women's refuge in Sydney, NSW.

Through several initiatives, our **Financial Inclusion Program** supports adults living in Central West NSW who are experiencing financial hardship. When Government financial support to mitigate the impact of the pandemic ended, demand

for our services increased as the challenges faced by those on low incomes worsened. Lockdowns saw staff assist community members remotely via email, phone and the internet.

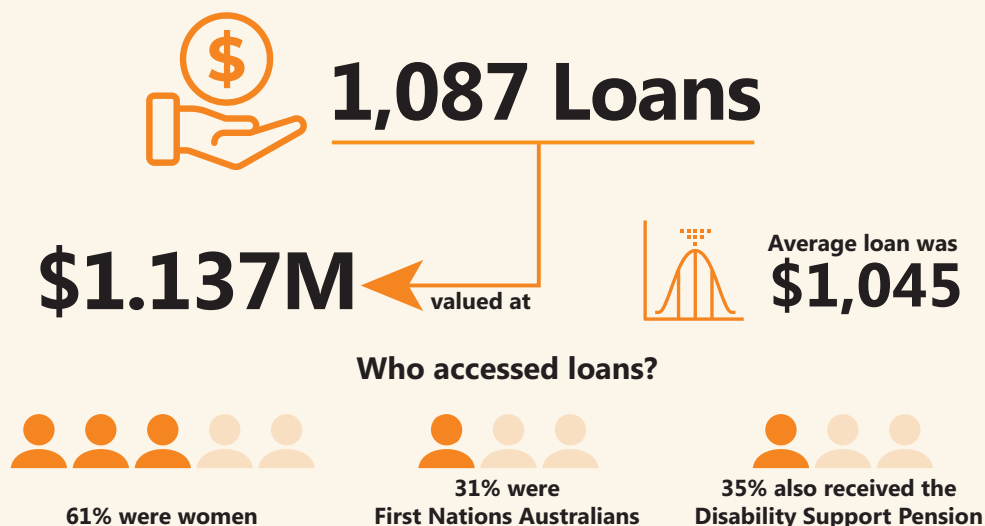
In partnership with Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, we continued to provide **No Interest Loans (NILS)** and **StepUP Loans** to assist people on low incomes to cover the costs of essential goods and services such as vehicle repairs and registration and household appliances. Both initiatives administer loans that provide people in financial hardship with safe and affordable access to credit without interest or fees.

Our team also acquired skills to process Work Development Orders (WDO) for people who are unable to pay their fines. A WDO lets a person clear a fine by participating in activities such as unpaid work, counselling, courses or treatment programs. We offer financial education as a WDO activity, enabling participants to learn financial life skills while reducing their fines.

Our Financial Inclusion Team also helps people experiencing difficulties paying household energy bills by supporting them to access Energy Account Payments Assistance (EAPA) vouchers. This year, EAPA vouchers totalling \$3,350 were administered.

To help increase financial wellbeing and give individuals skills so they can break the cycle of debt, we ran 10 group **Financial Literacy Workshops** for 42 participants. The team also provided one-on-one sessions for seven individuals identified as needing a higher level of support.

Financial Inclusion Program



First Nations Scholarships



88% said the scholarship significantly impacted their studies



85% intend to continue with further study



62% have greater aspirations because of the scholarship

*Online survey of scholarship recipients, 2021

Our **First Nations Scholarships** provide Indigenous students with the financial support they need to overcome significant barriers to higher education and complete tertiary studies. For the first time, we established partnerships with three tertiary institutions – Deakin University (Victoria), North Regional TAFE (Western Australia) and James Cook University (Queensland) – to provide a much greater level of culturally appropriate and holistic support to the 27 scholarship recipients studying at these institutions.

“The support of the scholarship helped me keep the necessities covered, like buying groceries, so I could focus on being there for my family when my son was in hospital.”

Hayden, scholarship recipient.

In response to additional hardships faced by students as a result of the pandemic such as social isolation and challenges with online study, we adopted a more flexible approach for the program to ensure we could support students who chose to defer their studies, change degrees or institutions or explore a new academic pathway. We were able to support 79 students to continue their studies, with nine students completing their degrees in this period.

Run in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute, the unique **Yawardani Jan-ga Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) Program** supports at-risk Aboriginal youth in the Kimberley region who are disengaged after experiencing trauma or facing significant pressure. Meaning ‘horses helping’ in the local language, the Yawardani Jan-ga project supports young Aboriginal people aged 6-25 years to develop their social and emotional wellbeing and

confidence through interacting with horses so they can re-engage in their learning.

The project is owned, developed and facilitated by Aboriginal community members. With support from Mary Mackillop Today, the program reached 68 young people referred from schools and the juvenile justice system this year through weekly and fortnightly group sessions. Additionally, eight community members were trained as EAL practitioners and 57 information sessions were offered to partners and the wider community to help them better understand how the program works and its benefits for young people at risk.



Hayden, scholarship recipient

TIMOR-LESTE

After experiencing decades of occupation and violence, we are committed to seeing Timor-Leste rebuild and achieve long-term sustainable development. Our focus is to improve education and health outcomes for all.

Although several of our programs and the communities we support across Timor-Leste were impacted by COVID-19 and the floods in March and April, we made the necessary changes to continue reaching people safely and deliver education and health supports. We also re-directed funds to COVID-19 and flood-related humanitarian efforts. This included providing health promotion posters to schools and households, as well as supplying face masks and hand sanitiser.



Learning the importance of hand washing

Our **Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy** project, run in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, was delivered in the municipalities of Dili, Ermera and Manufahi. We trained teachers to engage children in learning in a positive and safe environment. More than 220 teachers from 58 schools took part in the training which covered topics aligned to the Timor-Leste national curriculum. We also donated 7,079 Tetun story books to 55 schools, printed 666 training modules and distributed 950 COVID-19 prevention posters.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

“Before the training, I always taught firmly and fiercely. After attending the teaching ethics training, now I teach in a friendly manner to my students.”

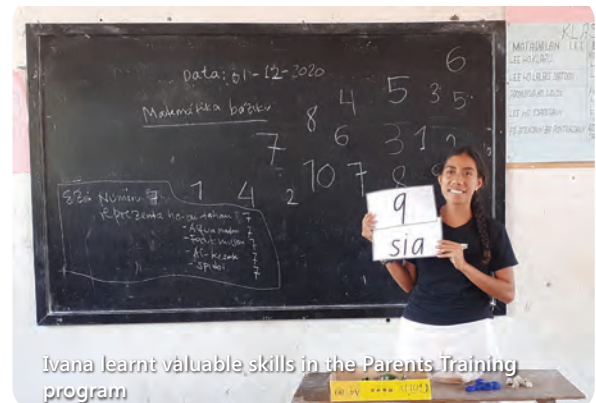
Mateus, Teacher

In the same three municipalities, we also delivered our **Parent Training** program to 585 parents. Recognising the important role parents and carers play in a child's education, this program upskills parents to better support learning in the home. Topics included literacy, numeracy, storytelling, child protection and child development. Indirectly, this program reached 917 children.

After attending the training, 98.9% of participants reported reading story books to their children at home at least once a week. 95.2% of parents reported helping their children with their homework, compared to 67.2% prior to attending the training. Through this program, we also distributed more than 5,000 books, more than 16,800 education resources and stationery packs and 3,878 COVID-19 preventative kits with hand sanitiser, liquid soap and face masks.

“I used the skills I learnt with Mary MacKillop Today and now teach my child at home every day. Now he wants to follow what I am saying and he is able to do what I tell him. I can also help other parents to learn as well.”

Ivana, Parent



Ivana learnt valuable skills in the Parents Training program



Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy Project

Through our **Volunteer Teacher Support** project we provided training, support and resources for 24 volunteer teachers in 9 pre-schools in Railaco, Ermera municipality. 336 children indirectly benefitted from the training and received food from the feeding program. The volunteer teachers received a monthly allowance and literacy teacher training.

We also distributed 18 disability story books, COVID-19 materials, uniforms for the 24 volunteer teachers and stationery and other useful resources for the pre-schools.

“As a teacher in Pre-school Manuponihei, I faced many obstacles such as the lack of training on the Tetun dialect alphabet, teaching methods and professional ethics in teaching. After attending training with Mary MacKillop Today, now I can teach according to manuals or teaching methods and it is easier for my students to understand them.”

Matilda, Volunteer Teacher



Working in Liquiçá and Dili, we reached 4,901 students and 144 teachers from 18 remote pre-schools and primary schools with our **Mobile Learning Centre**. This unique project, which includes a mobile library, travels to communities to run creative and fun learning activities in schools.

The lessons cover literacy, numeracy, music, drama, arts and crafts and group reading with the aim of developing a passion for education in children. This year, with support from the Ministry of Education and the National Training Institute for Teachers and Education Professionals (INFORDEPE), we also provided teacher training via the Mobile Learning Centre. To ensure communities had resources to enhance children's learning, we distributed almost 7,000 Tetun language story books.

“I am so enthusiastic to learn many different skills throughout this program. I used the books from the Mobile Learning Centre to read to and teach my siblings at home.”

Nelson, Year 3, 11 years old.

Our **Health Literacy Program**, delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Health, aims to increase awareness of basic preventative health and hygiene practices among teachers, students and the wider community. Through the program, 100 teachers from 23 schools received five days of health

training as well as 6,378 resources including books, manuals, brochures, face masks and sanitisation equipment. 11 grants were provided to schools to build toilet blocks and waste disposal units.

Our team also provided valuable input to assist the Ministry of Health in developing a coordinated national response to the pandemic and helped to run targeted health campaigns. We also supported a project raising awareness about the AstraZeneca vaccine.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



“With the help of Mary MacKillop Today, we have trash cans, hand washing facilities and soap in our school.”

Domingos, Teacher

This year, we ran two projects to empower Timorese to support themselves and their families by earning an income. The **Women's Livelihoods Project** helped establish a registered cooperative enabling 52 women and 8 men to sell vegetables, run kiosks and sell fuel. Participants received training in essential business skills, leadership and empowerment, as well as access to small loans for their businesses.

Our **Vanilla Beans of Hope** project, run in partnership with Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, supported 665 vanilla farmers (men and women) in five villages to acquire skills, knowledge, resources and credit to grow vanilla and set up their own businesses. We helped the farmers to form Cooperatives and are delighted to report 50 have already produced and sold vanilla.

“I have participated in three workshops organised by Mary MacKillop Today. As a result, now my vanilla is very fresh, healthy and produces lots of fruit.”

Gabriel, vanilla farmer

FIJI

With the COVID-19 pandemic and two Tropical Cyclones impacting Fiji during the 2020-21 year, our support was more crucial than ever. In addition to delivering projects aimed at giving young women skills and opportunities, and education support for young children and their families, we re-distributed funds to much-needed humanitarian efforts in the communities where we work.



Students at the Mobile Kindy

We continued to support Child Benefit-Fiji's **Mobile Kindy** project in and around Suva. This multi-faceted initiative provides early childhood education programs for young children, training for parents and caregivers on how to support their child's development in the home, and early childhood workshops for teachers, volunteers and local community educators.

This year, 91 children across four sites participated in Mobile Kindy activities and 77 parents received training related to early childhood education, including child safeguarding in the community and identifying the needs of children during lockdown. Several community volunteers were also supported to undertake a Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education, setting them on a path to becoming qualified teachers for their local communities.

In response to Tropical Cyclones Ana and Yasa, we also provided Child Benefit-Fiji with food, stationery and uniforms to distribute to children and families impacted by the disasters.

"The Mobile Kindy Program was really interesting. I love children and want to serve them in their early learning years and young life."

Ruaua, Teacher

Delivered in partnership with Ola Fou Fiji, our **Women's Leadership** program (Project Talitha) targets young women in rural communities in the North, West and Central provinces of Fiji who have ambitions to become change agents in their local communities. Through a combination of training,

coaching and mentoring opportunities, young female participants gain the skills, capabilities and confidence they need to be active members in their communities.

This year, 30 women were supported to complete the program, with 23 participants (76.6%) receiving start-up support for their own business. A training module covering Disaster Risk Reduction was particularly useful in providing participants with knowledge and skills to assist in coordinating an immediate response to Tropical Cyclone Yasa for their communities.

The program's fortnightly women's clubs were also a popular way for the participants to meet informally to talk about issues, concerns or views, while also participating in activities such as sewing or art. Vital wellbeing support in response to COVID-19 was also provided when needed.

"One of my highlights of Project Talitha was attending trainings but especially the empowerment training, skills training together with the financial training, Money Minded and Business Basics Training."

Losalini, participant



Kini joined the Women's Leadership training

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In PNG, we work with local organisations to promote inclusion and equal access to education, particularly for children and adults with disability living in rural and remote areas. Our aim is to build the skills of these communities to support inclusive practices and provide access to education for all. Despite facing delays and hurdles across all our projects this year as a result of the pandemic, with the generosity of supporters we have achieved many positive outcomes.

Due to the pandemic, we extended our **Inclusive Communities** project with the Callan Vanimo Inclusive Education Resource Centre by six months. This ensured we could complete our planned activities.

This project aims to promote inclusive practices in communities while also raising awareness about disability rights and the services and support available to parents of children with disability. Through training, the project builds the skills of parents and the wider community to support the education of children with disability, who face significant barriers in accessing mainstream education.

This year, we trained 31 Community Based Rehabilitation Volunteers with skills to conduct ear and eye screenings, develop individual and community management plans and run early intervention classes for children with disability. We were also able to reach 72 children and adults with disability, 102 parents and more than 1,000 community members through our training and radio programs.

The **Komuniti Early Learning** program, delivered in partnership with Buk Bilong Pikinini, was also extended by six months. This program provides training and capacity building to community educators so they can gain skills to run early education programs. The extension allowed us to run two in-library training sessions in Vanimo. We were also pleased to host a launch of the disability reader, “Our Special Stories” for this community.

We are in the early stages of the **Inclusive Education in Remote Communities** project, with several key milestones achieved this financial year, despite significant challenges and delays as a result of COVID-19.

Across PNG, children with disability face significant barriers to accessing high quality inclusive education. Working with our partner, Callan Services National Unit, this project aims to address the gap in educational support and disability services for these children. Following evaluation work and a series of workshops that explored the barriers faced by volunteers, people with disability and organisations, we completed the initial design of the project.

We also worked towards finalising the Inclusive Education Model to be used by remote schools and provided training including child safeguarding, community-based rehabilitation and inclusive education to parents, local organisations and community members.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Pre-school children learning in Waramo Village

PERU

Our focus in Peru is on improving access to education and employment, particularly in rural areas. With the pandemic continuing to impact communities, we modified our projects to reach people in their homes, while also providing COVID-19 hygiene kits and resources to help reduce the spread of the virus.



Now in its second year, the **Enhancing Women's Civil Participation Project**, implemented in partnership with CCAIJO in the province of Quispicanchi, reached 59 female government officials, councillors and youth leaders, as well as hundreds more family and community members.

This project promotes equal opportunities for women through online skills training, workshops and mentoring initiatives on topics related to gender equality, women in leadership and equal participation of women in politics and society. The project, which is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), also includes a broadcast radio component.

"I always share with my husband what I learned in the project. He sees the changes in me with the training, exchanges, meetings, and internships. Now, with the support of the project, I am the leader I want to be."

Gabi, Leader in Andahuaylillas District

To address the skills gap in rural communities, we introduced a **Vocational Training for Women & Young People Project** for women and young people. Working alongside CCAIJO and the Quispicanchi Centre for Technical Productive Education (CETPRO), we designed and delivered five courses to upskill 298 students in trades, such as sustainable agriculture, tourism and IT. We also trained 19 teachers in using digital platforms, supplied IT equipment for classrooms and broadcast 24 informative radio programs.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Sherly



Yolana



Jeaneth

"I am sure that at the end of my training I will be able to improve my livestock and have more income to educate my children."

Vilma, student of Cattle Management course

Thanks to donor support, the **Enhancing the Educational Environment for School Students** project continued to make a significant impact across the seven schools where it is implemented by our partner CEOP Ilo. This year, 38 students, 112 teachers and 298 parents participated in activities to give parents the skills and confidence to support their child's education. Identifying and supporting students at risk of dropping out of school was a special focus of this year's training.

Our **School Agriculture Project**, delivered in partnership with Fe y Alegria and with support from the Sisters of St Joseph, was heavily impacted by school closures as a result of the pandemic. This meant we shifted our focus to working directly with households. Online training was provided to volunteers, and families were supported to establish vegetable gardens, guinea pig enclosures and chicken coops at their homes. More than 600 children and families and 51 teachers accessed our agricultural lessons, technical training and resources.

Working with partner organisations, we contributed four small grants to mitigate the impact COVID-19 has had on access to education. Three projects provided IT equipment and internet access so students could participate in online learning. The fourth project provided food and biosecurity kits to vulnerable families impacted by loss of income.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, we also continued to support **non-development projects** delivered by the Sisters of St Joseph in Peru, including the Mary MacKillop Hausi centre for children with disability and several other humanitarian and community projects.



Despite the challenges faced over the last year, we are proud to report that our Fair Trade social enterprise, ethica, continued to provide marginalised and vulnerable women in Peru with a fair and much-needed source of income.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an important opportunity for us to rethink our strategies and embrace change – and the results have been positive.

We were also able to continue to support over 100 women in Peru with a much-needed income as they were able to work from home.

Like many retailers, we had to respond quickly to sudden changes in consumer behaviour caused by lockdowns and the closure of bricks and mortar stores. To continue reaching our consumer base, we:

- Opened two pop-up stores in partnership with other Fair Traders (representing 35% of our sales).
- Increased our online presence, boosting Facebook followers by 8%, Instagram by 47% and overall sales by a third.
- Organised several Facebook marketplace events where we reached 1,000 potential new buyers.
- Promoted our ethica newsletter through an increased number of campaigns resulting in a 9% increase in subscribers.
- Developed resources for house parties.

In 2021 we also took advantage of a new trade agreement with Peru which makes it possible to send bigger quantities of merchandise to Australia via cargo. In addition to this we attended a virtual trade fair in Peru, where we connected with several new suppliers.

“I have purchased items ranging from baby blankets, wraps, homewares to jewellery. I LOVE ethica products, they are beautifully made and are a pleasure to use, wear and gift to friends and family. I especially like that each purchase goes towards supporting women artisans in Peru.”

Lucy

Reconciliation Action Plan

Work has progressed on our first Reconciliation Action Plan, with the support of Reconciliation Australia. Consideration was given to adopting the Reconciliation Action Plan already in place for Sisters of St Joseph's, however a decision was made to develop an independent RAP for Mary MacKillop Today. The next stage is to scope and form relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders in order to develop our vision for reconciliation and inform our strategy. Following that, a set of actions and initiatives will be developed.

In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, we also made the switch to compostable 'Hero packaging' for orders.

Overall, 2020-21 was a successful year for ethica. We reached our target budget and saw a 7% increase in sales on the year before. This is a significant achievement given the enormous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It means we can continue to support poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Peru, while maintaining the dignity of women.



Safeguarding Commitment

We take the safety of children and vulnerable adults who access our programs and services very seriously. We promote and demonstrate our commitment to Safeguarding with our staff and representatives both in Australia and overseas in our partner organisations and programs. Our policy is compliant with ACFID, DFAT and Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (formerly Catholic Professional Standards Limited). Our Safeguarding Committee continues to meet prior to every Board meeting to ensure that Safeguarding remains an organisational priority.

Financial Snapshot

In 2020-21, Mary MacKillop Today recorded total revenue of \$6.550M, with \$6M invested in funding and support for domestic, international and community development programs aimed at transforming the lives of people living on the margins.

We ended the financial year with an accounting surplus of \$549,909, which reflects savings made due to better than forecast USD exchange rates and unplanned program underspending as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and extreme weather events in some locations.

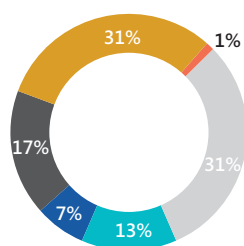
This is the third year of our five-year strategic plan to establish and build the new ministry of Mary MacKillop Today. Over five years, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart have committed to a significant annual philanthropic contribution to ensure long-term sustainability for the organisation.

We are incredibly grateful for this contribution and the generosity of individual donors, schools, community groups, parish communities and trusts and foundations. This support enables Mary MacKillop Today to provide quality education and learning for life opportunities for vulnerable people and communities.

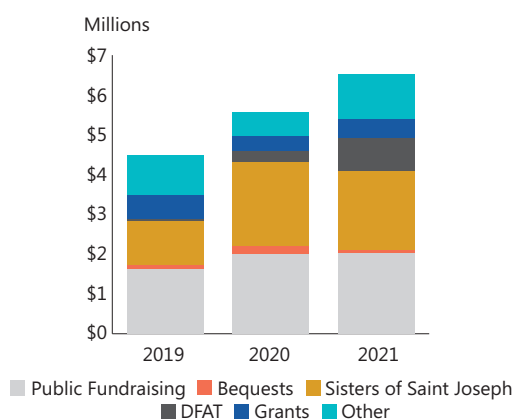
Where the money comes from

Total year-on-year revenue grew by 17%, mostly due to increased funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Year ended 30 June 2021



Three year trend



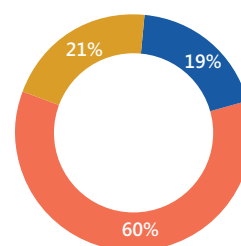
From July 2019, we started receiving funding under the Australian NGO Corporation Program. This contributed to an increase in government and grant funding to \$1.324M (2020: \$663,407), including \$851,847 from DFAT.

Total fundraising income, which includes Public Fundraising and a \$2M contribution from the Sisters of Saint Joseph for staff, systems and fundraising activities, was slightly lower, totalling \$4.094M (2020: \$4.320M). We were also honoured to receive several bequests.

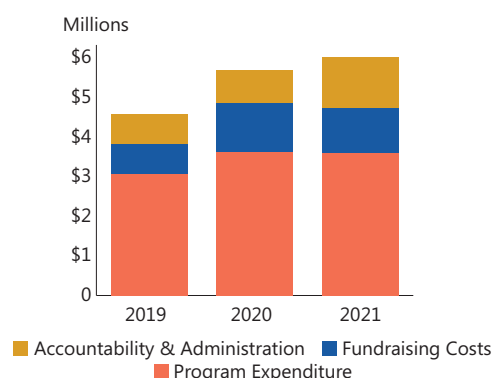
Where the money goes

Total expenses increased by 5% to \$6M (2020: \$5.682M), mainly to cover accountability and administration initiatives.

Year end 30 June 2021



Three year trend



We delivered 19 education and livelihoods-based development programs and 5 non-development programs in Australia, Fiji, Peru, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

Program expenditure, including program support costs, was \$3.593M (2020: \$3.619). Our plan to increase spending in this area was impacted by unforeseen global challenges resulting in a small budget underspend.

Fundraising costs decreased by 7% as a result of revising our new donor acquisition strategy.

Administration costs increased to \$1.267M due to investment in governance, staff, management, financial and IT systems.

Accountability Measures

Program Expenditure ratio is the total amount spent on international programs, including program support costs and community education campaigns, expressed as a percentage of total expenditure.

Program Expenditure ratio was slightly lower in 2021FY at 60%, compared with the three-year average of 64%. We have been investing more in fundraising, accountability and administration activities to support the new ministry. Increasing the Program Expenditure ratio will be a key focus over coming years.

Cost of Fundraising ratio is the total amount spent on Public Fundraising expressed as a percentage of total revenue from the Australian public, rather than total revenue. It excludes funding and associated costs related to grant funding from DFAT and other organisations.

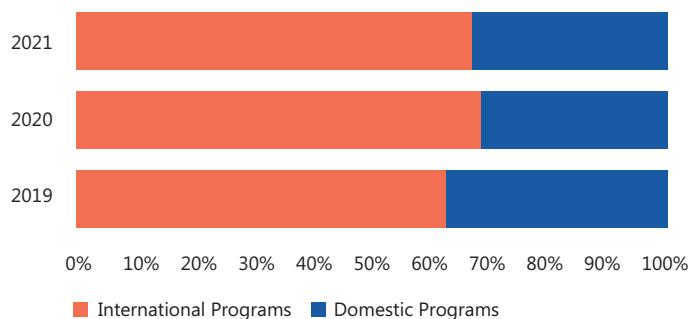
Net surplus from fundraising is the balance of revenue from the Australian public after deducting the amount spent on Public Fundraising, expressed as a percentage of this revenue.

For the five years from 2018, we plan to invest in fundraising programs, staff and systems to diversify sources of revenue and secure a sustainable financial future.

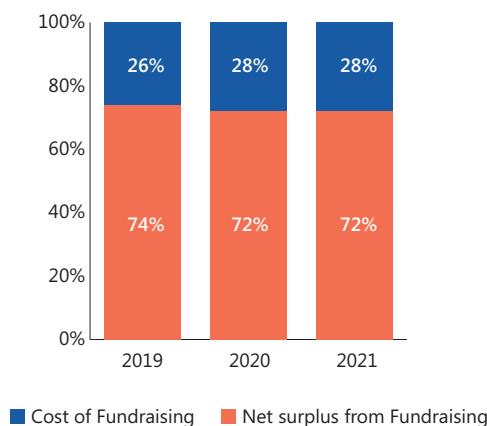
Administration ratio is the total amount spent on administration and accountability, expressed as a percentage of total expenditure. The average Administration ratio over three years is 17%. In 2021FY, the Administration ratio increased to 21% due to planned investment in our governance, management and financial systems, as well as essential IT upgrades.

Our **Financial reserves**, valued at \$12.863M as of 30 June 2021, are the total of combined funds from the three merged organisations which formed Mary MacKillop Today. Strategic planning is underway to determine the best way to invest and apply these reserves to achieve maximum benefit in the communities we work.

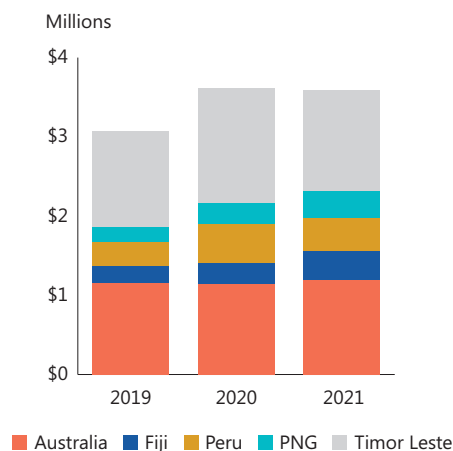
Funds to Programs by International or Domestic



Fundraising Ratio



Funds to Programs by Country - three year trend



Read the full report at:
marymackilloptoday.org.au/our-reports

Our People



Read more about the Board at:
[marymackilloptoday.org.au/
 our-board-of-directors](http://marymackilloptoday.org.au/our-board-of-directors)

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.
 GradDipCommM UTS



Anthony Abraham

Chairperson of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee
 BEc, LLB



Bernadette Wrafter

BA LLB Grad Dip
 Teaching MTS



Grahame Petersen

Member of the Audit,
 Finance and Risk
 Committee
 BA F Fin FAICD



John Collins

Member of the Audit,
 Finance and Risk
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 BCom (Hons), CA, CFP



Hilary Johnston-Croke

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Tessa Henwood-Mitchell
 International
 Programs Group
 Leader



Maria Attard
 Australian Programs
 Group Leader



Elizabeth Phegan
 Supporter Relations
 Group Leader



Joanne Lee
 Finance Manager



Belinda Pratten
 Quality and Compliance
 Advisor; Company
 Secretary



Gina Bradley
 National Manager, ethica



Alipio Baltazar
 Timor-Leste Country
 Director



Anita van Dartel
 Financial Inclusions Team
 Leader

Our Staff

Mary MacKillop Today has a workforce of talented and committed staff located in Australia and overseas. This diverse group of people are motivated to serve those in need and ensure fairness and dignity for all.

At 30th June 2021, there were 30 staff in Australia. This included 22 in North Sydney, and 8 staff based remotely in Bathurst, Cowra, Young and Lithgow. In Timor-Leste, we had a total of 40 staff members.

This year, we were proud to receive a Voice Project Best Workplace Award for 2021. This award is given to organisations that have achieved exceptional levels of employee engagement and satisfaction.



BEST WORKPLACE 2021



Mary MacKillop Today staff attending Unsettled exhibition at the Australian Museum

Environmental Sustainability

At Mary MacKillop Today we are committed to reducing the impact our organisation has on the environment. This year we have continued to find ways to reduce our waste through recycling initiatives and making smarter buying choices. To promote greener practices, we reviewed our list of suppliers to ensure partners align with our policies and procedures for sustainable procurement. We also renewed our Fair Trade Workplace Certification, in recognition of our commitment to work towards an environmentally sustainable and equitable future for all.



How You Can Help

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

Make a monthly donation

A regular monthly gift will enable you to transform lives and make a real difference to those in need. To become an Independent Spirit please visit our website today.

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

To help some of the most vulnerable people in the world get access to education, you can make a regular pre-tax contribution from your pay through employer.

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

Website: marymackilloptoday.org.au

MARY MACKILLOP *today*

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Please visit our website to read about Mary MacKillop Today:
www.marymackilloptoday.org.au