

MARY MACKILLOP *today*



2020/21 Year in Review

Dear friends,

In what has been another challenging 12 months for Mary MacKillop Today and our partners, I am pleased to report that we have continued to deliver on our mission to support people living on the margins through life-changing programs.

The 2020-21 Financial Year has seen us change the way we work – both in Australia and abroad. Our teams have had to use all their resilience and creativity to overcome the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In some areas, our partners on the ground in already vulnerable communities have also faced floods and tropical cyclones.

Despite all this, with our partners we have been able to continue important capacity-building programs that deliver practical, life skills and education for children and adults most in need in Australia and overseas. We have also been able to make an impact through much-needed humanitarian initiatives – as you will read in this snapshot report.

On behalf of our Chair, Kieran Gleeson and Board, I wish to acknowledge the Sisters of Saint Joseph for their tireless work in continuing the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop. It is a great privilege to be entrusted to carry on the work of Mary MacKillop.

We could not do this work without the heartfelt support of our community of donors. At a time of great uncertainty, we have been so overwhelmed by the generosity of supporters. Thank you all for your kindness, compassion and contributions.

Guided by the spirit of Mary MacKillop, together with our partners and supporters, we continue to empower people experiencing poverty and marginalisation across the world to live with dignity and participate fully in their communities.

Jane
Jane Woolford

Australia

In Australia, we aim to support people living on the margins to improve their quality of life through overcoming education, health and poverty-related challenges.

This year, we awarded 19 **Community Grants** (\$165,000) to “grass-roots” projects throughout Australia, supporting initiatives that provide life-long learning and life-changing skills for people experiencing marginalisation.

Through our **Financial Inclusion Program** in Central Western NSW, we continued to provide No Interest Loans (NILS) and StepUP Loans (in partnership with Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand) to assist people on low incomes to access credit without paying interest or fees. We also supported people to access Energy Account Payments Assistance (EAPA) vouchers and hosted ten group Financial Literacy Workshops.

We established partnerships with Deakin University (Vic), North Regional TAFE (WA) and James Cook University (Qld) to provide a much greater level of culturally appropriate and holistic support to our 27 **First Nations Scholarship** recipients at these institutions. Another 79 students were supported to continue their studies, with nine students completing their degrees in this period.

In the Kimberley, the **Yawardani Jan-ga Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) Program** (run in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute) supported the social and emotional wellbeing of 68 young Aboriginal people through an experimental learning program with horses. Additionally, eight community members were trained as practitioners and 57 information sessions were held to promote the program and its benefits.



Hayden, scholarship recipient

Fiji

Communities in Fiji endured ongoing hardships due to the pandemic and two tropical cyclones. We were pleased we could re-distribute some funds to much-needed humanitarian efforts in communities affected by the cyclones.



Students at the Mobile Kindy

We continued to support Child Benefit-Fiji's **Mobile Kindy** project which provides early childhood education programs, training for parents and caregivers and workshops for teachers, volunteers and local community educators.

Thirty young women completed our **Women's Leadership Program**, Project Talitha, with 23 participants (76.6%) receiving start-up support for their own business. Delivered in partnership with Ola Fou Fiji, the program offers coaching, training and mentoring opportunities to grow the skills and capabilities of young women.

Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, our goal is to improve education and health outcomes and give people the skills they need to support themselves.



Ivana learnt valuable skills in the Parents Training program



Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy Project

While some programs and communities we support were impacted by COVID-19 and floods, we were able to continue our work by adapting our program delivery. We were also able re-direct some funds to vital humanitarian initiatives.

Our **Teacher Training and Tetun Literacy Program** ♦ (with the Ministry of Education) trained more than 220 teachers from schools in Dili, Ermera and Manufahi. We also distributed Tetun story books, printed training modules and distributed COVID-19 prevention posters.

In these communities we also ran **Parent Training** to upskill 585 parents in home-learning. The training covered literacy, numeracy, storytelling, child protection and child development.

Through our **Volunteer Teacher Support Project**, we provided a monthly allowance, literacy teacher training, support and resources for 24 volunteer teachers in nine Railaco pre-schools. We also distributed disability story books, COVID-19 materials, volunteer teacher uniforms and education resources for the pre-schools.

Our **Mobile Learning Centre** travelled to remote communities in Liquiçá and Dili to provide creative learning activities to 4,901 pre-school and primary school students. For the first time, the centre also provided training to 144 teachers - with support from the Ministry of Education and National Training Institute for Teachers and Education Professionals (INFORDEPE).

Through our **Health Literacy Project** ♦, we worked with the Ministry of Health to provide basic health training and resources to 100 teachers from 23 schools. Additionally, 11 grants were given to schools to build toilet blocks and waste disposal units.

We ran two projects to empower Timorese to support themselves and their families by earning an income. The **Women's Livelihoods Project** enabled 52 women and eight men to sell vegetables, run kiosks and sell fuel, while the **Vanilla Beans of Hope project** (with Edmund Rice Foundation Australia) supported 665 vanilla farmers to learn vital skills to produce and sell vanilla.

Peru

Our focus in Peru is to improve access to education and employment, particularly in rural areas. With ongoing COVID-19 impacts, we modified projects to reach people in their homes and also provided COVID-19 hygiene kits and resources.

The **Enhancing Women's Civil Participation Project** ♦ (with CCAIJO) provided skills training, workshops and mentoring initiatives for 59 female government officials, councillors and youth leaders.

To address the rural skills gap, working with local partners we introduced a **Vocational Training for Women & Young People Project** ♦. Five courses were delivered to 298 students in trades, such as sustainable agriculture, tourism and IT.

38 students, 112 teachers and 298 parents participated in the **Enhancing the Educational Environment for School Students Project**, implemented by our partner CEOP Ilo, to give parents the skills and confidence to support their child's education.

School closures disrupted our **School Agriculture Project**, delivered with Fe y Alegria and with support from the Sisters of St Joseph. However, we worked with households and more than 600 children and families and 51 teachers accessed agricultural lessons, technical training and resources.

Our Fair Trade social enterprise, **ethica**, continued to provide women in Peru with a fair and much-needed source of income. Despite the challenges, we reached our target budget and saw a 7% increase in sales through our website and pop-up shops.



Practical Class feeding guinea pigs

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.

Our **Inclusive Communities Project** (with Callan Vanimo Inclusive Education Resource Centre) reached 72 people with disability, 102 parents, 31 Community Based Rehabilitation Volunteers and over 1,000 community members through training and radio programs.

The **Komuniti Early Learning Program** (with Buk Bilong Pikinini) continued to provide training and capacity building to community educators.

We commenced work on the **Inclusive Education in Remote Communities Project** ♦ with Callan Services National Unit. This aims to address the gap in educational support and services for children with disability.



Pre-school children learning in Waramo Village

Financial snapshot

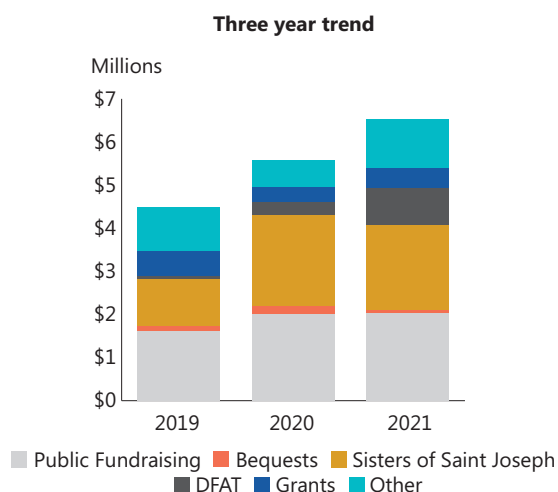
In 2020-21, Mary MacKillop Today recorded total revenue of \$6.550M. \$6M was invested in funding and support for domestic, international and community development programs aimed at transforming the lives of people living on the margins.

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

Where the money comes from

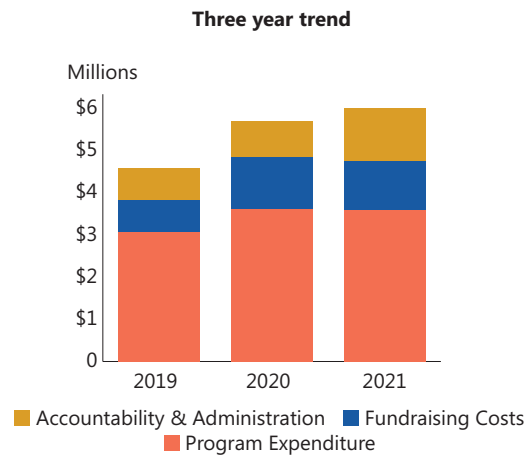


Total year-on-year revenue grew by 17%, mostly due to increased funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

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 was slightly lower, totalling \$4.094M (2020: \$4.320M). We were also honoured to receive several bequests.

Where the money goes



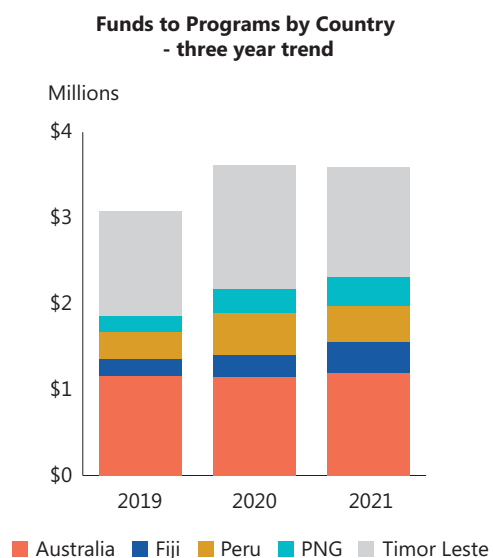
Total expenses increased by 5% to \$6M (2020: \$5.682M), mainly to cover accountability and administration initiatives.

We delivered 19 education and livelihoods-based development programs and five 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 program spending 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.



Learning for Life

We are grateful for all the support we receive from individual donors, school communities, community groups, parishes and trusts and foundations. Your generous support ensures we can continue the vital work of providing life-changing opportunities to people living in marginalised communities across the world.

These are some of the key program achievements that you helped to make possible in 2020-21:



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
- 42 participants attended Financial Literacy Workshops



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
- 79 First Nations students were supported to continue their studies



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



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
- We established partnerships with three tertiary institutions (Deakin University, North Regional TAFE and James Cook University) with 27 First Nations scholarship recipients receiving support



People achieve positive learning outcomes

- 80% of participants reported improved knowledge in preventative health
- 92.5% of participants gained new financial literacy skills
- 9 First Nations students completed their degrees



Scan the QR code to access our 2020-21 Annual Report or visit marymackilloptoday.org.au/our-reports