

Guidelines

Mary MacKillop Today New Partnership Application - Fiji

April - June 2023

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1. About Mary MacKillop Today

Mary MacKillop Today was founded to carry on the legacy of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop, and seeks to transform lives through self-determination, access to education and the learning of practical life skills. We work with local communities in Australia and internationally through enabling access to learning opportunities in the areas of education, health, financial inclusion and livelihoods to share practical life skills for self-sufficiency. Internationally, we work across 4 countries: Fiji, Timor-Leste, PNG, and Peru. We aim to create long-term sustainable change in communities by working in partnership with local NGOs.

2. Our Approach to Working in Partnership

Mary MacKillop Today believes in the power of supporting locally led initiatives to create lasting change in communities. We know that the most effective development responses are those that emerge from within communities. Partners who are embedded in communities provide huge value to the effectiveness of Mary MacKillop Today's projects and often bring extensive technical and sectoral expertise that may not exist within Mary MacKillop Today. Therefore, building genuine, long-term partnerships underpins Mary MacKillop Today's commitment to:

- Recognising and respecting the capacity of local development actors to lead responses to the development challenges that arise within their own country, region or community.
- Ensuring projects are responsive to the priorities and goals of local communities and the organisations that represent them.
- Ensuring projects build on, and add to, the assets and resources that exist within the communities where we work.
- Promoting learning and knowledge-sharing between Mary MacKillop Today and our partners in a way that strengthens the development approach of all parties.

We are constantly looking for ways to create opportunities for innovative thinking, where we take a step back and enable our local partner organisations to lead the way in making effective decisions to better address the needs of the communities we work with. Following a recent review of development priorities in Fiji, Mary MacKillop Today has decided to open applications to establish new partnership/s in Fiji.

3. Mary MacKillop Today's Partnership Principles

One of Mary MacKillop Today's core values is Genuine and Accountable Partnerships. As such, we adopt a principles-based approach to partnership management. Mary MacKillop Today is committed to ensuring all partnerships uphold the following principles:

1. Transparency & Accountability
2. Respect & Equity
3. Mutual Benefit
4. Shared Learning

4. Partnership Application Overview

Mary MacKillop Today is seeking new local partners in Fiji to work together to implement either already existing or new projects and programs aligned with Mary MacKillop Today's values. Mary MacKillop Today stands to support the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, and we believe that aspiration and access to high quality learning opportunities within a supportive environment will enable the development of capabilities for the realisation of rights and freedoms. Applications should be submitted in line with Mary MacKillop Today's principles, strategic goals, and priorities. Applications can include project initiatives and activities within any of the following focus areas:

1. Equity in Education (ensuring equitable access to quality education in communities so that every child and young person is empowered to have the best start)
2. Economic Independence (working to equip children, people and communities through the power of education to resource and sustain their quality of life)
3. Active Citizenship (empowering people and communities through education to have the agency, self-determination, ownership of choices and decisions that affect their lives at all levels)
4. Amplifying Voices (amplifying the voices of people and communities who are marginalised to address systemic injustice impacting a flourishing life)

Applications are encouraged from organisations also addressing the following cross-cutting themes, either as primary or secondary objectives:

- Disaster risk reduction/Environmental sustainability
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Gender Equity
- Disability Inclusion

5. Key Dates

<i>Applications open</i>	18 April 2023
<i>Applications close</i>	16 May 2023
<i>Shortlisted applicants notified</i>	19 May 2023
<i>In-person interviews (Suva, Fiji)</i>	23-26 May 2023
<i>Final notification of application outcome</i>	9 June 2023
<i>Project and partnership start date</i>	1 July 2023

6. Who can apply?

Community-based organisations, including local non-government and civil society organisations based in Fiji. Organisations ideally will have experience in implementing at least one donor funded project in Fiji and have a track record of implementing community development projects in Fiji. This application is not open to Mary MacKillop Today's existing partners in Fiji.

7. Eligibility criteria for partnership

- (i) Mary MacKillop Today supports initiatives and activities that present a clear and measurable development impact using the principles-based approach outlined in the Development Effectiveness and Learning framework (see Annex 1: DELf for guidance);
- (ii) Proposed projects and initiatives should be focused on achieving at least one of the following four thematic areas as detailed above:
 1. Equity in Education
 2. Economic Independence
 3. Active Citizenship
 4. Amplifying voices
- (iii) Applications are for a maximum of \$150,000 FJD for the first year of funding;
- (iv) The objectives of the proposed development activities and project or program should be clearly aligned with Mary MacKillop Today's principles, strategic goals and priorities. Therefore, Mary MacKillop Today will prioritise project proposals and activities that are clearly linked to, could complement, or support its existing operations and Country Strategy in the country concerned.
- (v) The proposed initiatives and activities should be delivered in a cost-effective manner; and
- (vi) Mary MacKillop Today will support successful organisations to develop a full multi-year project design following the first year of a pilot project.

8. Conditions of funding

- Partnership agreement conditions apply to this funding. This includes adherence to Mary MacKillop Today policies including (but not limited to) Safeguarding, Financial Wrongdoing, and Feedback and Complaints.
- Adherence to a signed partnership and project agreement upon approval of funding, with reporting requirements including narrative and financial reporting.
- We allow a portion of the budget (no more than 20% of the total budget) to be allocated to project support costs, such as administrative staff salaries and administrative expenses. The personnel who work directly implementing the project are not included in this percentage; they are considered as a direct expense of the project.
- Mary MacKillop Today prefers not to contribute more than 80% of a total project budget and encourages partner organisations to contribute at least 20% of the project budget. However, this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Mary MacKillop Today's funding calendar operates on the Australian Financial Year, which runs from July 1 – June 30 each year, so our funding and reporting cycles are aligned with these dates. This year of project funding will be from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

9. Application process

Each organisation is required to submit an application using the editable PDF template provided, including the following information:

- Information about your organisation
- Project locations and site/community names
- Clear description of project rationale, goal and scope.
- Main expected outcomes and outputs/deliverables.

- A detailed activity plan
- Sustainability plan.
- Detailed information on the proposed, monitoring and evaluation and learning approach.
- A detailed activity-based budget, including staffing costs

Once the application template has been completed, it can be emailed to Amita Jhoti, Programs Coordinator, Fiji and PNG, at amita.jhoti@marymackilloptoday.org.au by Tuesday the 16th of May 2023 (by 11:59pm AEST).

Please note:

As part of its internal review and due diligence process, Mary MacKillop Today may contact the applicant to request further information and clarifications, as required.

10. Get in touch

Please get in touch to discuss your application, we are happy to answer any questions or discuss the application process further. You can contact Amita, our Programs Coordinator for Fiji and PNG, to discuss your project or application via email at amita.jhoti@marymackilloptoday.org.au.

11. Annexes (please see separate documents)

Annex 1: Mary MacKillop Today Development Effectiveness and Learning framework (DELf)

Annex 2: Application Template