A photograph of three young children, likely of Indonesian descent, wearing pink school uniforms. They are smiling and holding up a white book. The child in the center is giving a thumbs up. The background shows a building with windows and a map on the wall.

“No duty is too little not to be done well”

- Mary MacKillop 1881

Loriku-Oan Ida

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MARY MACKILLOP
Today

ChildFund

Australian
Aid



Annual Report 2022-23

MARY MACKILLOP
today



ACFID
MEMBER

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 development 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/

Cover Image: Students in Timor-Leste

MARY MACKILLOP *today*

Our purpose

Walking alongside people and communities at the margins in Australia and internationally in the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop.

Our mission

Creating opportunities for self-determination through learning for life so that all may flourish.

Our values

Collaborative Community

- We embrace our inspiration, identity and story (individually and collectively).
- We listen and respect the dignity of all people.
- We are connected and support one another.
- We walk together to learn and grow.

Impactful Partner

- We respect and value local knowledge, expertise and partners.
- We are professional and accountable.
- We are trusted.
- We are efficient stewards.
- We are impact and change focused.

Responsive Pioneers

- We are action oriented.
- We seek to be creative and innovative.
- We speak up.
- We have the courage to do things differently.
- We persevere until we make things better.
- We respond to the signs of the times.



Students learning new skills through the Vocational Training Program



Education is building brighter futures for children in Timor-Leste

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Message from our Chair

Dear friends,

I am pleased to, once again, have the opportunity to report to our supporters on the work of Mary MacKillop Today.

Your generosity made it possible for our organisation to achieve the remarkable outcomes that are highlighted in this 2022-23 Annual Report. The ongoing financial support from the community has been greatly appreciated, especially knowing so many people are experiencing significant cost of living pressures.

The Board of Mary MacKillop Today are deeply honoured to be entrusted with the humbling responsibility of maintaining the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the vision of Saint Mary MacKillop in helping the marginalised to reach their full potential. I wish to acknowledge the tremendous support, guidance and passion of the Sisters of Saint Joseph under the leadership of Sister Monica Cavanagh. The Sisters are a constant inspiration to the Board and our staff.

Mary MacKillop Today continues to enjoy accreditation from 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.

The Board would also like to acknowledge the incredible dedication and commitment of our staff under the leadership of our CEO, Jane Woolford. The significant achievements in this report are a testament to the wonderful work of our staff and our many partners nationally and internationally.

Thank you for your support as we continue to strive to assist those in greatest need across Australia and overseas in a way that people may have dignity and the skills and self-determination to participate fully in their communities.



Kieran Gleeson



Kieran talking with vanilla farmers in Railaco.

Message from our CEO



This year we celebrate Mary MacKillop Today reaching the significant milestone of our fifth birthday.

Over these five years, we've worked tirelessly to establish a robust organisation, driven by a mission to make a positive difference in the lives of those facing poverty and marginalisation.

Our commitment to this mission is stronger than ever, as shown in the development of our new strategic plan. You'll find the essence of this plan woven into our mission, purpose and values statements in this 2022-23 Annual Report. We are thrilled to build upon the solid foundation we've created in these early years, focusing on the pillars of our programming work and setting new goals to amplify voices, advocating for change through education initiatives.

One of the most gratifying aspects of this year has been the opportunity to reconnect with our dedicated supporters. After the challenges posed by the pandemic, I had the privilege of meeting many of you face-to-face. These encounters have been so motivating and I am reminded of the profound solidarity that binds us together.

Undoubtedly, the past year brought its fair share of challenges. Economic uncertainties within Australia have presented hurdles in gaining new support, and I am immensely grateful to those who have continued to stand by us during these trying times. Your unwavering commitment allows us to continue the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph by reaching communities with the opportunities they need to flourish.

The ongoing support, guidance, and generosity of the Josephite Sisters has been instrumental in our journey. I feel privileged to take on the challenge of leading Mary MacKillop Today as we transition into a future requiring a sustained and innovative response to the challenges faced by those facing injustice.

As I look ahead, I am filled with excitement about the possibilities that lie before us. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who make our work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Woolford".

Jane Woolford



Jane visiting vanilla farmers in Timor-Leste

Learning for Life

Through the compassionate generosity of our supporters, Mary MacKillop Today continues to walk alongside people on their path to realising their full potential. Your incredible support is the key to providing vital educational opportunities and practical life skills for people seeking to build a better future for themselves. Thank you!

Here are some of the remarkable milestones you helped make possible through our International Programs over the past year:

Timor Leste 🇹🇱 Peru 🇵🇪 Fiji 🇫🇯



2,470 parents/
family
members participated in
training sessions
2422 🇹🇱 48 🇫🇯



119 women supported
to assume
leadership roles
9 🇹🇱 106 🇵🇪 4 🇫🇯



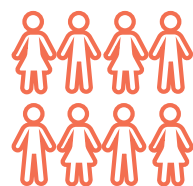
3,169 people
participated
in sessions on prevention,
reduction and response
to violence, abuse and
exploitation of children
3121 🇹🇱 48 🇫🇯



620 people
assisted to
gain recognised post-
secondary qualifications
🇵🇪



574 teachers/educators
trained in order to
improve learning outcomes
456 🇹🇱 118 🇵🇪



402 people attended
rights awareness/
training sessions
354 🇵🇪 48 🇫🇯



61,062 learning
resources
distributed 🇹🇱



1,079 people
reached
with livelihoods support
interventions (including life
skills, literacy, job
skills training or
leadership programs)
151 🇹🇱 880 🇵🇪 48 🇫🇯

2023 Partner Learning Forum

Mary MacKillop Today hosted our second ever Partner Learning Forum from 29th May – 2nd June in Suva, Fiji where representatives from partner organisations in Fiji and Peru came together with our staff from Timor-Leste and Australia.

The Forum had three primary objectives: to foster connections within Mary MacKillop Today's partnership network and explore ongoing collaboration opportunities, to strengthen knowledge sharing within the network for program enhancement, and to provide partners and staff with an immersive experience in Fiji as a chance to learn directly from each other.

This year's theme was 'Towards Best Practice in Sustainability.' Over five days, participants engaged in a series of inspiring discussions and workshops exploring topics such as financial sustainability, strategic planning, working with governments, and measuring impact.



Participants engaging in discussions and workshops at the Forum



Our Programs Team at the Partner Learning Forum



Partners at the Partner Learning Forum in Fiji

Key outcomes for the Partner Learning Forum include:

- Collaborative learning - The Forum provided an opportunity for partners and staff to share their knowledge in person. This cross-country and cross-project collaboration promoted learning, strengthened connections, and opened doors for potential joint initiatives.
- Learning through local insight - A field visit to our partner Ola Fou Fiji's site for Project Talitha allowed Forum participants to understand the local context and observe the project in action. The community shared the experiences of the young women participating in leadership training.
- Strengthening locally-led development - In line with Mary MacKillop Today's emphasis on locally-led development, each Forum session was led by a partner representative, offering insights into their organisation's project implementation.
- Peer learning - Forum participants shared their commitment to ongoing engagement beyond their time together in Fiji by connecting online. Each organisation developed a sustainability plan for how they would be implementing the learnings from the Forum within their projects.

After this meeting in person, Mary MacKillop Today will continue to hold quarterly online Peer Learning Webinars between forums to keep our partners engaged and connected.

This Forum was a wonderful opportunity to build stronger relationships with our extraordinary partners, learn from each other, and work together towards common goals.

"The Forum is an opportunity to learn about how we are working in our different countries. We appreciate taking that learning back and inputting it into the work that we do." - Tema Waqa, Project Talitha Manager – Ola Fou in Fiji

Australia

Mary MacKillop Today walks alongside people in Australia who are experiencing hardship by providing the educational opportunities and financial relief they need to reach their full potential.

In 2022-23, the **Financial Inclusion Program** continued in partnership with Good Shepherd Microfinance to provide **No Interest Loans (NILS) and NILS 4 Vehicles** for adults experiencing financial hardship across Australia to access fair credit.

- 694 loans provided for essential goods and services totalling \$836,215.
- 411 people received vehicle loans to purchase reliable transport right away.

As additional financial support services:

- 269 Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) vouchers totalling \$89,400 were provided to help people pay for gas and electricity bills during a time of crisis.
- 15 people received opportunities to reduce their fines, in total by \$3,587, through Work and Development Orders (WDO).

The **Financial Literacy Project** encourages and equips people to make informed financial decisions to better manage their finances, such as household budgeting and identifying the best deals for essential bills.

- 238 hours of Financial Literacy training sessions were delivered to 64 participants across Central West NSW.
- A further 12 people attended a one-off information session.



Judith Barker, Financial Inclusion officer with Naomi Peters at the Hilltops Community Hub in Young

A **Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis** was conducted during this period on the Financial Literacy Project. The analysis found that for every \$1 invested, there is \$2.33 of social value created.

In February 2023, the Financial Inclusion Program extended its portfolio to include **Financial Counselling** which looks holistically at a person's financial situation to identify and explore all options for diverse and complex client needs.

- From February to June 2023, Financial Counselling had 44 interactions with clients ranging from short-term assistance to regular sessions.
- 3 clients with low literacy were assisted to better understand financial matters and were supported with advocacy to engage with creditors to gain better outcomes.

"I now have a better understanding of managing bills and reading them. It's not just about week-to-week paying off bills. I have future projects in mind too, and that adds joy to my life." – Tony (name changed for privacy), who has been attending Financial Literacy training



694
loans for essentials



Valued at

\$836,215

Average loan was

\$1,205



64% were women



25% were First Nations Australians



34% also received the Disability Support Pension



Sharing singing and stories at the Pentecost gathering

The **Community Grants Program** provides opportunities for people experiencing marginalisation to build self-sustaining communities.

- 21 Community Grants were awarded during the year (16 through Mary MacKillop Today and 5 through the Sisters of Saint Joseph).
- Totalling \$193,647 (\$143,647 through Mary MacKillop Today and \$50,000 through the Sisters of Saint Joseph).
- Supporting projects across New South Wales, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia.

Community Grant initiatives supported include:

- The Josephite Risk and Dare Conference (RAD), facilitated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, where more than 100 young people across Australia and New Zealand attended sessions centred around what it means to live the gospel in the 21st century.
- Pacific Professionals Network in NSW, who provide mentoring as well as better employment and education pathways through the Pasifika Student Professional Mentoring program.

Our **First Nations Scholarships** provide students with the financial support they need to overcome barriers to higher education. We continued our tertiary partnerships to support students at Deakin University, James Cook University and North Regional TAFE (WA).

- 33 ongoing tertiary students have received scholarship support from our partners in the past year.
- 15 students continue to be supported directly by Mary MacKillop Today

Congratulations to the graduating students!

- 7 students completed their studies this year.
- The degrees achieved include Nursing, Midwifery, Primary Education, Business, Criminal Justice and a Doctor of Medicine.
- 5 of the graduating students were women.



Attendees at RAD Conference in North Sydney

Our partnership continued with **Highways and Byways**, a national charity established by the Missionary Sisters of Service to support communities experiencing disadvantage through annual small grants and longer-term partnership programs. Funds were given towards a Women's Cultural Project coordinated by the Seeds of Connection program. Aboriginal women were invited to a safe space to connect with each other and strengthen their knowledge of culture as it relates to "womens business". This was done through exploring country and sessions in story, art and mediation.



Tegan, First Nations Scholarship Recipient

"The Scholarship funding has enabled me the ability to work less hours, allowing me to dedicate more time to my studies. I have also been able to purchase textbooks, other learning resources and technology which I otherwise I would not have been able to afford." - Nandi, studying a Bachelor of Criminology/ Bachelor of Laws at Deakin University with the support of a Mary MacKillop Today Scholarship

Timor-Leste



Tomasina, teaching Health Literacy

In Timor-Leste, Mary MacKillop Today supports communities on their path to building a stronger nation by improving education, health and livelihood outcomes for all.

The **Tetun Literacy & Teacher Training*** project, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, continued to deliver quality teacher training, mentoring, and monitoring to preschool and primary school teachers across Ermera and Liquiça municipalities.

- 111 teachers from 36 schools were equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources to deliver quality education.
- 3,510 students received high quality Tetun books.
- 5 small grants were awarded to schools to develop mini libraries for students.
- 15,142 educational resources such as books were distributed.

"The advantages of this training are increasing teachers' knowledge about how to interact with students, and how to encourage children's participation in the learning process." - Miguel, School Coordinator participating in the Tetun Literacy & Teacher Training project

The **Volunteer Teacher Support** project provided mentoring, monitoring and stipend support to volunteer teachers in Railaco in the Ermera Municipality to improve the quality of education that children receive.

- 24 volunteer teachers in 9 preschools received a monthly stipend and literacy teacher training.
- 355 preschool students benefited from the education provided, as well as receiving meals from the feeding program.

"There is a great need to come to a village like this. If the teacher has been trained well, knowledge will be shared with the children." - Serafim, teacher participating in the Volunteer Teacher Support project

Through the **Health Literacy*** project, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, we continued providing preschool and primary school teachers the skills and resources to deliver health education in the classroom and create healthy school environments.

- 172 teachers and 8,035 students were involved in the project across preschool and primary schools in the municipalities of Ermera and Liquiça.
- 7,336 health resources were distributed to schools including books.
- 300 students received dental check-ups.
- 19 schools were awarded small grants for the construction of toilets, water tanks and waste disposal units.
- 8 schools received a clean water tank.



Students reading Tetun books



Jacinta, a Cooperative BEHAFU member with her daughter

"The new things that I learned from this training were how to take care of the eyes and teeth. Before training, it was difficult for us to teach children because there are no health books available." – Tomasina, teacher participating in Health Training

The **Parent Training** project equipped parents in Manufahi, Dili and Ermera municipalities with the skills and resources to support their children's education at home, giving their children the best start in life.

- 562 parents received training which benefited the learning of 1,443 children.
- 8,483 educational and stationery resources delivered to parents.

"Mary MacKillop Today taught me many things about living with children and taking them to school, taking care of them at home, and parental responsibilities. I feel this training is very important so we can help our children's future." - Florida, Parent Training participant

The **Mobile Learning Centre** delivered fun educational activities and resources to thousands of children in remote preschools and primary schools across the municipalities of Liquiça and Ermera and Manufahi, as well as providing support to parents and teachers.

- 7,569 students benefited from learning sessions.
- 132 teachers attended professional development training.
- 24,934 story books and other educational resources were distributed to schools.

"After attending training, it is not so difficult for me to teach children at home. This type of training is very important because we live far away from cities." - Elegita, parent participating in the Mobile Learning Centre project

"With this training, I can solve my problems because I understand how I should manage my money. One of the advantages of being a member of the Cooperative BEHAFU is that all members can save money and borrow money to do business." - Cooperative member in Railaco

The **Women's Livelihoods (Cooperative BEHAFU)** project supported cooperative members with income generation activities and vital training in areas such as saving, loans, and small business management.

- The cooperative group now has 87 members (71 women) making regular contributions.

The **Vanilla 'Beans of Hope'** project continues to support local vanilla farmers to acquire skills, resources and credit to build a sustainable livelihood.

- 436 vanilla farmers benefited from involvement in the project.
- 18 vanilla farmers are members of the Savings and Loan Group.

"I learned about how to grow vanilla, how to make organic fertilizer and pesticides, and training in saving and borrowing money. I can give to those in need. We must share what we have with others." - Vanilla Farmer in Railaco

Mary MacKillop Today continued implementing our non-development project, **Buka Matenek (Brother Dan) Scholarships**, providing scholarships to support university students to complete their studies.

- 1 student graduated with a degree in Public Health.
- 1 student submitted her thesis and passed her final exams.

** These projects were supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*

This project receives support from Edmund Rice Foundation Australia



Elegita reading with her son

Fiji



Taka with her children Timoci and Loata who attend the Mobile Learning Centre

"I really appreciate what Mary MacKillop Today has done for the children in our community by bringing Mobile Kindy right to our doorstep. My dreams are to see my granddaughter graduate from Mobile Kindy and move on to primary school and that she may be able to read and write." - Grandmother participating in Mobile Kindy project

In Fiji, Mary MacKillop Today works to provide skills and opportunities to young women, and education support for young children and their families.

The **Mobile Kindy** project, delivered through our partner Child Benefit Fiji, provides quality early childhood education to children in settlement communities. With several Mobile Kindy sites becoming self-sustaining over the project's duration, Mary MacKillop Today and Child Benefit Fiji made the joint decision to conclude our partnership in April 2023. The Mobile Kindy project will continue through volunteers and funding from other sources accessible to Child Benefit Fiji.

- 21 children graduated from the 6 Mobile Kindy sites after receiving a high-quality learning experience.

Women's Leadership 'Project Talitha'*, implemented by our partner Ola Fou Fiji, works to empower young women to make positive contributions to their communities. The young women attend training workshops to gain vital knowledge and skills around leadership, human rights, women's health, and financial literacy to manage their own resources.

- 48 participants from 4 communities benefited from leadership training.
- 43 participants attended skills training including baking, sewing, crocheting and handicraft.



Litia, a participant of our Fiji Women's Leadership project

"I am selling fish and will need more empowerment in managing business money, budgeting, and saving. My biggest accomplishment is finding the courage, will power and confidence with much sacrifice to save up for my deep freezer." - Pepe, Project Talitha participant

The **Innovative Small Grants** program provided our partners with opportunities for new initiatives alongside existing projects. With small grants support, Ola Fou Fiji successfully implemented two new projects — one focused on financial literacy for youth and another focused on youth development training.

As part of Mary MacKillop Today's collaborative approach to partnership, we continued to work closely with our Fiji partners to strengthen their capacity and increase project outcomes through skill-building within their teams. Following the conclusion of our partnership with Child Benefit Fiji, in May 2023, Mary MacKillop Today began the process scoping for new local partners in Fiji.

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



Loata wants to be a nurse when she grows up

Peru

In Peru, Mary MacKillop Today's aim is to improve access to education and employment, especially in rural areas.

The **Women's Political Leadership*** project, in partnership with CCAIJO, aims to strengthen not only female councilors and leaders, but also women's organisations formed by the project participants.

- 31 women leaders completed the newly developed Leadership and Political Participation training program.
- 3 women's organisations formed by the project participants have been supported to register in the municipal public records.



Participant of the Women's Empowerment Project in Peru with CCAIJO staff member

"This project helped me a lot. I feel like a leader. I have more confidence in myself. I met new people from whom I learned more about animal husbandry and other ventures. What I liked most about the project are the internships where I exchanged experiences with other women." - Women's Political Leadership participant

The **Vocational Training*** project completed its final year of operation to address the skills gap in rural communities, through CCAIJO and the Quispicanchi Centre for Technical Productive Education (CETPRO).

- 620 students studied programs such as breeding guinea pigs, agriculture, and hotel services.

"I already have income from the sale of vegetables. My dream is to generate income from selling vegetables and breeding guinea pigs." - Agriculture Course student

The **Youth Entrepreneurship*** project, in partnership with CEOP Ilo, aims to develop skills in students so they can come up with creative solutions for community-based problems.

- 233 students enrolled in the Entrepreneurship training program.

"The training for entrepreneurship taught me a lot... with these activities, we gain confidence and come up with many ideas." – Youth Entrepreneurship student

The **Student Citizenship** project, through our partner Fe y Alegria, aims to strengthen socio-political capacities through leadership and citizenship training for students and teachers.

- 75 teachers and 11 school management members enrolled in the newly developed training programs.

"We take this training as an opportunity to empower ourselves and start the transformation... addressing discrimination of race, gender, social class, and promoting an inclusive and intercultural environment." – Marina, staff member of school participating in the Student Citizenship project

Through our **COVID-19 Education Small Grants** program, Mary MacKillop Today supported four partner organisations in Peru to improve access to education following the impact of the pandemic.

A further three partner organisations were awarded **Innovative Small Grants** to pursue new initiatives alongside their existing projects.

The generosity of supporters also helped fund **non-development projects** delivered by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Peru, including Small Grants and supporting the Mary MacKillop Hausi Centre for children with disability.

** These projects were supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*



Vocational Training in Peru



Christmas decoration

At ethica, we maintain our commitment to supporting women artisans in Peru, ensuring they receive fair income for their work, so they can create better lives for themselves. We value handmade crafts, recognising the importance of sustainable consumption and the growth of small businesses.

This year, ethica continued to:

- Craft high-quality products that celebrate style, tradition, and culture.
- Prioritise the preservation of the natural environment and the advancement of the local social economy throughout every stage of production.
- Contribute to women's employment, income, and financial empowerment.
- Share with artisans the assurance that their contributions hold great value, fostering pride in each final product.
- With every ethica sale, we contributed to Tree-Nation to plant trees and offset over 30 tons of CO² emissions.
- Achieve sales and margin growth year after year, even in the face of challenges like COVID-19 and uncertain retail trends.

We are proud to maintain our endorsement from Fair Traders of Australia, and the principles of Fair Trade remain at the core of everything we do.

See what customers are saying about ethica and our products:

"A lovely person gave me these tiny little Alpaca wool mitts. They are from Pitumarca, Peru and were hand knitted by a lovely woman called Isabel. By training women and selling their products, ethica gives women the means to provide food, medicine and education for their families. So these tiny mitts - that fit me perfectly and are snugly soft - are providing more than one person the gift to make their lives a little more comfortable."

"To the extraordinarily talented artisan who created my gorgeous scarf, thank you for the love and care you put into making such a beautiful product - I love it!"

"We LOVE our ethica beanie! It was gifted to us for the birth of our first child. It is so soft and so beautifully crafted. We love that it is Fair Trade and that this product works to help to empower women in Peru to earn a fair wage. We can't wait to teach our little girl all about ethica and the work they do."



ethica stand during Feast Day

Let's continue to invest in a more just world.

Our Supporters

We are so thankful to have a community of compassionate supporters whose generosity makes the work of Mary MacKillop Today possible. Here are a few examples of our kind-hearted supporters in action over the past year...



Stomping for Scholarships

Bec and Sam from the Sisters of Saint Joseph office in Adelaide completed the Stadium Stomp, a 6,000 stair challenge, and raised an impressive \$10,000 from friends and family towards our First Nations Scholarship Program. Incredible!

There was also a team from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, North Sydney office who climbed over 4,000 stairs to complete the Stadium Stomp at the Sydney Cricket Ground, raising over \$15,000 for our First Nations Scholarship program. Congratulations!

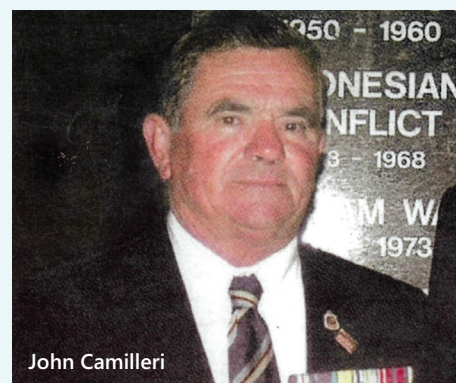
Bec and Sam take on the world's largest consecutive stair climb to raise funds for Mary MacKillop Today.

"I'd like to think I'm honouring my wife's wishes."

John and his wife Dorothy welcomed sixteen children into their family through foster care and adoption. When they wanted to show their children how to care for those in need, the family began donating the money they earned rearing and selling calves to Mary MacKillop Today. Sadly, after many wonderful years together, Dorothy passed away. John decided to remember Dorothy by including a gift to Mary MacKillop Today in his Will.

"I'd like to think I'm honouring my wife's wishes. Dorothy was a beautiful woman in every way and she felt a special connection with Mary MacKillop. There's joy in this for me too. It's so important to be part of Mary MacKillop Today's work and it can't happen without support."

Thank you, John, for your incredibly kind gesture!



John Camilleri



Turning stamps into opportunities

One of our kind supporters, Arist, recently visited the Mary MacKillop Today office with a wonderful gift — his mother's extensive stamp collection, carefully packed in two large suitcases. As part of our stamp collection initiative, we were able to sell Arist's mother's stamps to raise funds towards our vital work providing people in need with education opportunities.

Chris, our stamp volunteer, and Margaret, our Stamp Officer, with Arist (centre) and some of his mother's extraordinary stamp collection.



Read more about our supporters at:
marymackilloptoday.org.au/how-you-can-help/

Financial Snapshot

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, Mary MacKillop Today reported a total revenue of \$6.69 million. We allocated \$7.25 million to funding and support for domestic, international, and community development programs dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals living on the fringes of society.

At year's end, we registered an accounting loss of \$461,371, reflecting the fulfilment of all our program commitments over the past twelve months, despite philanthropic income targets not being achieved.

This year marked the conclusion of Mary MacKillop Today's initial five-year strategic plan. Over this five-year period, the Sisters of Saint Joseph have made a substantial annual philanthropic commitment to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

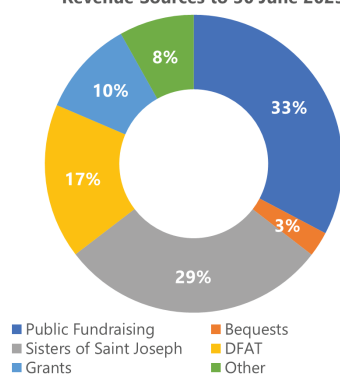
We extend our deepest gratitude to the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the generosity of individual donors, schools, community groups, parish communities, trusts, and foundations. Their support empowers Mary MacKillop Today to offer high-quality education and lifelong learning opportunities to vulnerable individuals and communities.

Where the money comes from

Our total year-on-year revenue saw an 11% increase, primarily driven by a rise in grants, including the Australian NGO Corporation Program (ANCP) and other sources. Government and grant funding rose to \$1.824 million (compared to \$1.601 million in 2022), with a significant contribution of \$1,126,409 from DFAT.

The total fundraising income, which encompasses Public Fundraising and a \$1.95 million contribution from the Sisters of Saint Joseph for staffing, systems, and fundraising activities, also slightly increased to \$4.139 million (compared to \$4.074 million in 2022). We also received increased income from bequests compared to last year.

Revenue Sources to 30 June 2023



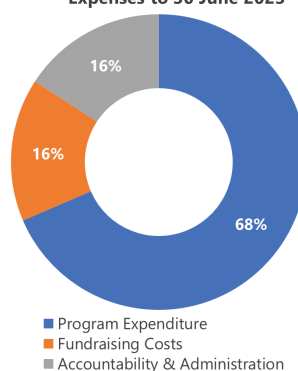
Where the money goes

Total expenses rose by 12% to \$7.252 million (compared to \$6.33 million in 2022), mainly due to a strategic increase in program expenditure.

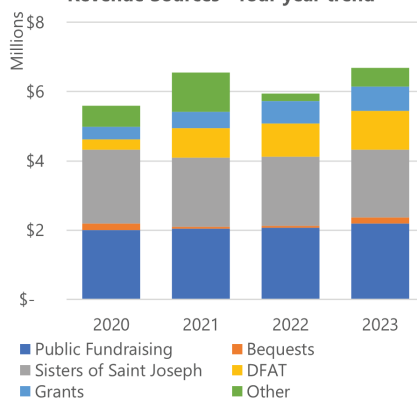
Program expenditure, including program support costs, increased by 11% to \$4.97 million (compared to \$4.421 million in 2022). We successfully implemented education and livelihood-based development programs in Australia, Fiji, Peru, and Timor-Leste.

Fundraising and marketing costs also experienced a 3% increase, attributable to our new donor acquisition strategy. Administration costs grew to \$1,145,619 from \$813,534 due to inflationary costs, increased investment in organisational development and staffing support.

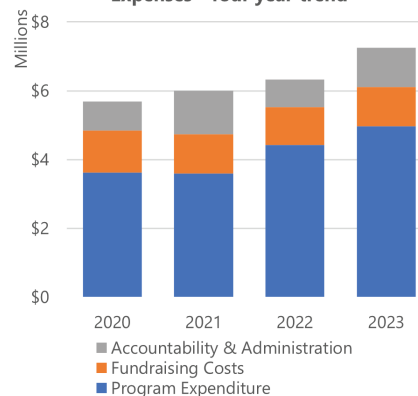
Expenses to 30 June 2023



Revenue Sources - four year trend



Expenses - four year trend



ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

Program Expenditure Ratio:

The Program Expenditure ratio reflects the total amount expended on both domestic and international programs, inclusive of program support costs, as a percentage of the overall expenditure. In the 2023 fiscal year, the Program Expenditure ratio saw a slight decrease to 69%, compared to 70% in 2022. Notably, this marks the highest value achieved in the past four years. Our primary objective is to maintain the Program Expenditure ratio at 70% in the upcoming years.

Cost of Fundraising Ratio:

The Cost of Fundraising ratio represents the total amount allocated to Public Fundraising as a percentage of the revenue received from the Australian public, excluding revenue from funding grants provided by entities such as DFAT and others. The Net surplus from fundraising is the balance of revenue generated from the Australian public after deducting the expenses incurred on Public Fundraising, expressed as a percentage of this revenue.

Over the next five years, we intend to make strategic investments in fundraising programs, personnel, and systems to diversify our revenue sources and ensure a sustainable financial future.

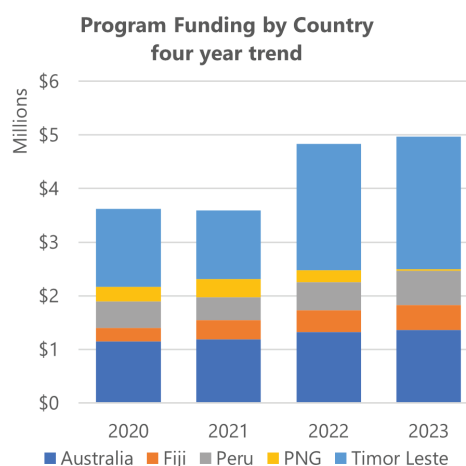
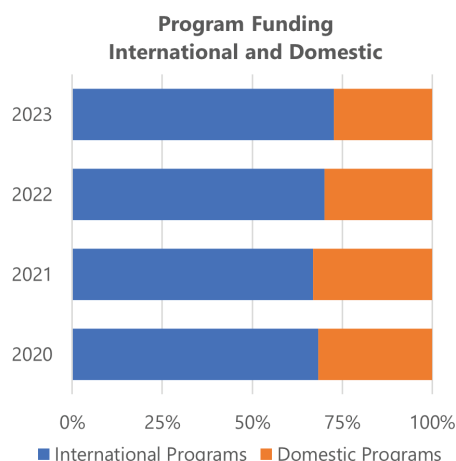
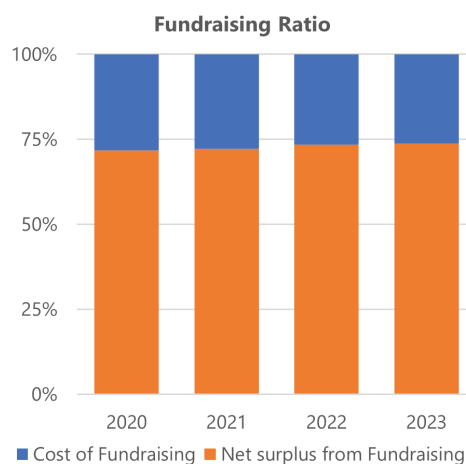
Administration Ratio:

The Administration ratio is a measure of the total expenses allocated to administration, accountability, and financial asset management, expressed as a percentage of the total expenditure.

For the past four years, the average Administration ratio has consistently stood at 16%. In the 2023 fiscal year, we maintained this ratio at 16%.

Financial Reserves:

Our financial reserves, amounting to \$11.682 million as of June 30, 2023, constitute a consolidation of funds from the three merged organisations that came together to form Mary MacKillop Today. We are actively engaged in strategic planning to determine the most effective way to invest and utilise these reserves to maximise their positive impact on the communities we serve.



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

Our People



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

Board of Directors



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Chairperson, Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants; Associate Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Executives



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CEO



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
Performance Manager; Company Secretary

Program Leaders



Gina Bradley
National Manager, ethica



Alipio Baltazar
Timor-Leste Country Director



Anita van Dartel
Financial Inclusions Team Leader

Our Staff

Mary MacKillop Today is powered by a dedicated and skilled workforce, both within Australia and in our neighbouring nation, Timor-Leste. Our team members come from various backgrounds, sharing our motivation and commitment to helping people in need to flourish.



Staff in the grounds of Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney

As of June 30, 2023, our Australian team consisted of 35 members. Among them, 24 are based in North Sydney, while the remaining 11 work from locations such as Bathurst, Orange, Cowra, Young, Lithgow, the Blue Mountains, and the Penrith Region. In Timor-Leste, we have a dedicated team of 48 staff members serving their local communities.



Timor-Leste staff at the Partner Learning Forum in Fiji

Environmental Sustainability

At Mary MacKillop Today, our dedication continues to lessen our organisation's environmental footprint. Throughout the past year, we have persistently pursued methods to reduce waste, embracing recycling initiatives and adopting more environmentally-conscious buying practices. To champion eco-friendliness, we routinely review our list of suppliers, ensuring their alignment with our sustainable procurement policies and procedures.

Furthermore, we proudly renewed our Fair Trade Workplace Certification as part of our commitment to fostering an environmentally sustainable and equitable future for all.

Each Mary MacKillop Today project is thoughtfully designed with an emphasis on care and sustainability for our surrounding environment.

Safeguarding Commitment

Ensuring the well-being and safety of children and adults who engage with our programs and services is our utmost priority. Our dedication to Safeguarding extends to Mary MacKillop Today team members and representatives, whether they are in Australia or collaborating with our partner organisations and programs abroad.

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.

MARY MACKILLOP *today*

Cammeraygal Country

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