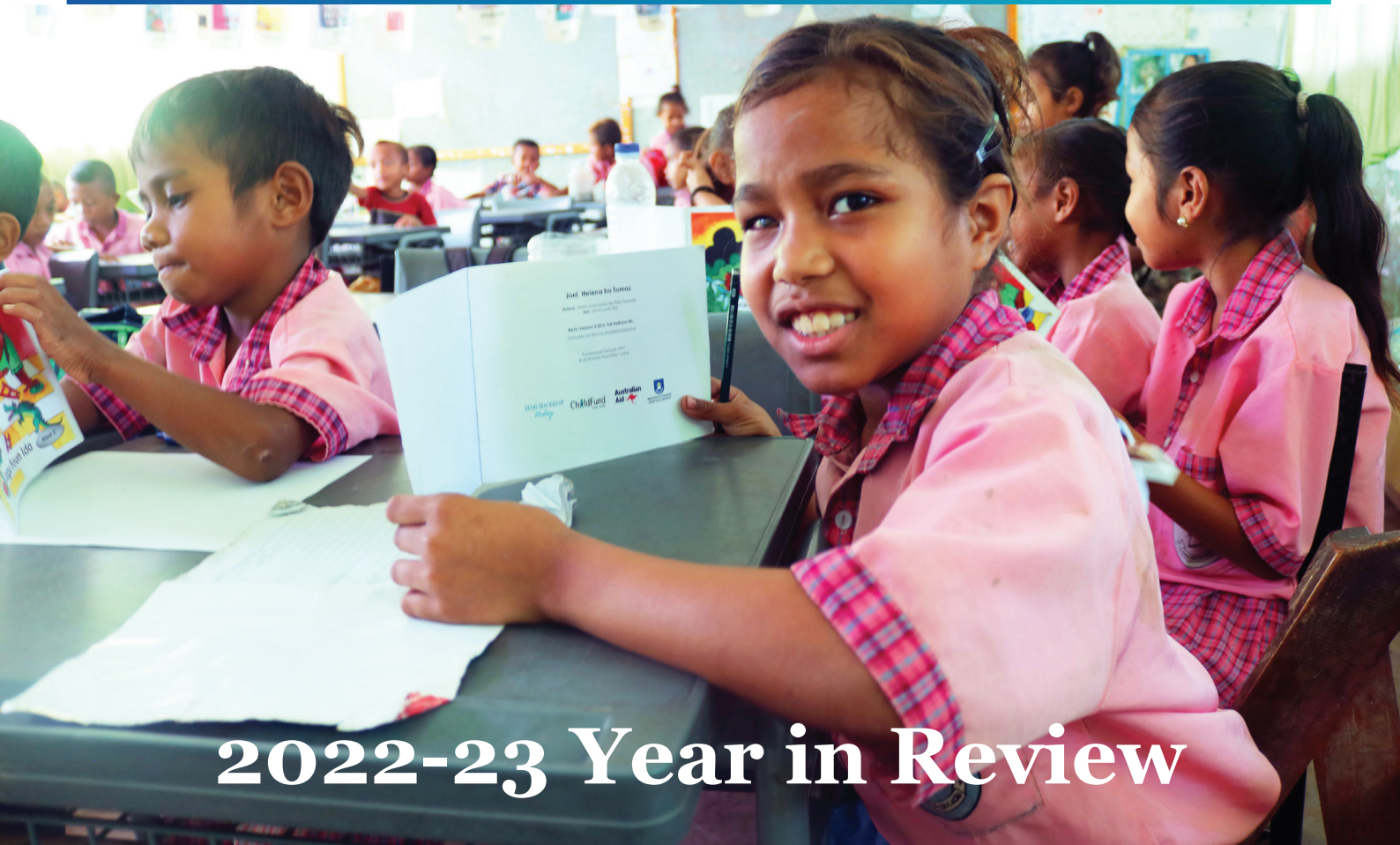


# MARY MACKILLOP *today*



## 2022-23 Year in Review

Dear friends,

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 we 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 connect with our dedicated supporters. 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.

On behalf of our Chair, Kieran Gleeson, and Board, I wish to acknowledge the Sisters of Saint Joseph whose ongoing support, guidance, and generosity has been instrumental to our journey. What a privilege it is to continue the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph together by reaching communities with the opportunities they need to flourish.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who make our work possible.

Jane Woolford

# Australia

**M**ary 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 (with Good Shepherd Microfinance) to support adults experiencing financial hardship, by providing:

- 694 **No Interest Loans (NILS)**.
- 411 **NILS 4 Vehicles** loans.
- 269 Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) vouchers.
- 238 hours of **Financial Literacy** training sessions delivered to 64 participants across Central West NSW.



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

In February 2023, we began offering 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, we provided:

- 44 Financial Counselling interactions with clients ranging from short-term assistance to regular sessions.



Tegan, First Nations Scholarship Recipient

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

This year, our **Community Grants** program supported projects offering opportunities for people experiencing marginalisation to build self-sustaining communities, by providing:

- 21 Community Grants awarded (\$193,647).

Our **First Nations Scholarships**, through tertiary partnerships with Deakin University, James Cook University and North Regional TAFE (WA), supported:

- 48 students with ongoing tertiary studies.
- 7 students who completed their studies this year.



**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



# Timor-Leste



Tomasina, teaching Health Literacy

**I**n 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\* (with the Ministry of Education) provided:

- 111 teachers from 36 schools with the knowledge, skills, and resources to deliver quality education.
- 5 small grants for schools to build mini libraries.
- High quality Tetun books and other educational resources.

The **Volunteer Teacher Support** project provided:

- 24 volunteer teachers with mentoring and stipend support.
- 355 children with improved education and meals from the feeding program.



Elegita reading with her son

Mary MacKillop Today

The **Health Literacy** project\* (with the Ministry of Health) provided:

- 172 teachers with training to deliver health education in the classroom and create healthy school environments for 8,035 students.
- 19 schools with small grants for the construction of toilets, water tanks and waste disposal units.

The **Parent Training** project provided:

- 562 parents with the skills and resources to support their children's education at home, which benefited the learning of 1,443 children.



Students reading Tetun books

The **Mobile Learning Centre** project provided:

- 7,569 children in remote preschools and primary schools with fun educational activities.
- 24,934 story books and other educational resources to schools.
- 132 teachers with professional development training.

The **Women's Livelihoods (Cooperative BEHAFU)** project provided:

- 87 cooperative members with income generation activities and vital training in areas such as saving, loans, and small business management.

The **Vanilla 'Beans of Hope'** project (with Edmund Rice Foundation Australia) provided:

- 436 local vanilla farmers with skills, resources and credit to build a sustainable livelihood.



\*Mary MacKillop Today is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing Australia's development program. These projects are supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



# Fiji

**I**n 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 (with Child Benefit Fiji) saw several Mobile Kindy sites achieve self-sustainability, leading to 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.

**Women's Leadership 'Project Talitha'**\* (with Ola Fou Fiji) provided:

- 48 young women from 4 communities with leadership and skills training.

Mary MacKillop Today hosted our annual Partner Learning Forum in Suva, Fiji where representatives from partner organisations in Fiji and Peru came together with our staff from Timor-Leste and Australia.



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

# Peru



Vocational Training in Peru

**I**n Peru, Mary MacKillop Today aims to improve access to education and employment, especially in rural areas.

The **Women's Political Leadership** project\* (with CCAIJO) supported:

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

The **Vocational Training** project\*, with CCAIJO and the Quispicanchi Centre for Technical Productive Education (CETPRO), supported:

- 620 students to study programs such as agriculture and hotel services, to address the skills gap in rural communities.

The **Youth Entrepreneurship** project\* (with CEOP Ilo) supported:

- 233 students enrolled in the Entrepreneurship training program.

The **Student Citizenship** project (with Fe y Alegria) provided:

- 75 teachers and 11 school management members with leadership and citizenship training through the newly developed programs.

Our Fair Trade social enterprise, **ethica**, continued to support women artisans in Peru to receive fair income for their work, so they can create better lives for themselves. Even with challenges like COVID-19 and uncertain retail trends, ethica has achieved sales and margin growth year after year.



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

# 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.

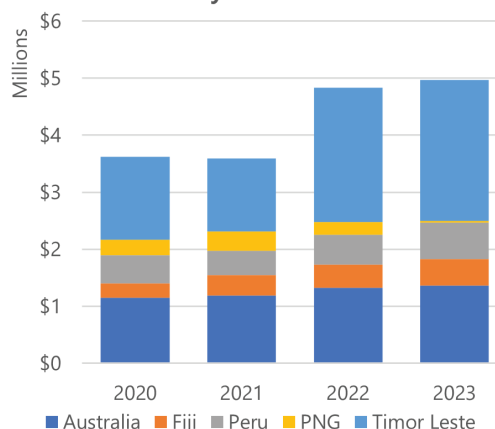
## Where the money goes

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.

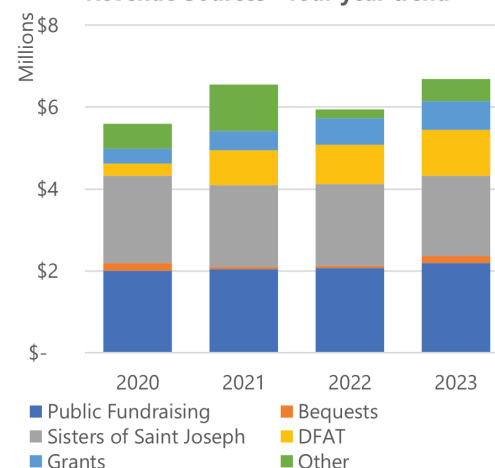
Program expenditure, including program support costs, increased by 11% to \$4.97 million (compared to \$4.421 million in 2022). We successfully implemented education and livelihood-based development programs in Australia, Fiji, Peru, and Timor-Leste.

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.

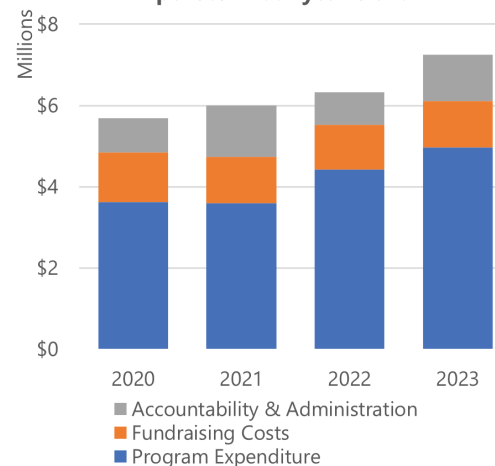
Program Funding by Country  
four year trend



Revenue Sources - four year trend



Expenses - four year trend





# Learning for Life

**T**hrough 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 🇫🇯



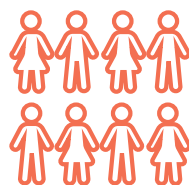
**3,169** people  
participated  
in sessions on prevention,  
reduction and response  
to violence, abuse and  
exploitation of children  
3121 🇹🇱 48 🇫🇯



**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 🇫🇯

MARY MACKILLOP  
*today*



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Annual Report or visit  
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