


MARY MACKILLOP
today
**STRATEGIC PLAN
2023 – 2028**





Linda, a First Nations Tertiary
Scholarship recipient in Australia

MARY MACKILLOP *today*

Mary MacKillop Today acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia.

Let us reflect on the millions of footprints that have travelled the Dreaming pathway and pay our respects to Elders, past and present, recognising their continuing connection to lands and waterways. May we walk hand in hand gently upon our Earth.

WHO WE ARE

Mary MacKillop Today is an international development organisation working in Australia and overseas. We build partnerships that create opportunities for self-determination through education and the teaching of practical life skills to women, men and children.

Established in 2018, we continue the legacy of a 150-year-old ministry founded by Saint Mary MacKillop. We are proudly continuing the works of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, transforming lives through learning for life so that all may flourish.

We directly manage and implement programs with a range of local partners in Australia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, and Peru in the areas of education, health, financial inclusion and livelihoods. We stand with the marginalised poor in rural and remote communities, so they can realise their potential.

Our work is funded through the generosity of individuals, schools and parishes, trusts and foundations and government grants.

Mary MacKillop Today is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development and is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing the Australian Government's development program. Mary MacKillop Today receives support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Segundo, a student from our guinea pig breeding project in Peru

**"WE MUST TEACH MORE BY
EXAMPLE THAN BY WORD"**

Saint Mary MacKillop 1867

"NEVER SEE A NEED WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT"

Saint Mary MacKillop 1871

Participants of our Women's leadership Project in Rural Fiji with Tessa Henwood-Mitchell, Mary MacKillop Today's International Programs Director.





A Timorese family learning together after participating in our Parent Training Project in Timor-Leste

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PURPOSE

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

**“HAVE COURAGE AND
THINK OF THE NOBLE
WORK TO WHICH THE
WILL OF GOD HAS
CALLED US ALL”**

Saint Mary MacKillop 1870

OUR VALUES



COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY:

- We embrace our inspiration and story
- 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 orientated
- 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

Gilberto, a proud member of our BEHAFU Cooperative in Timor-Leste

“LET US TRY TO KEEP GOD WITH US BY CHARITY OF THOUGHT, WORD AND ACT”

Saint Mary MacKillop 1890



Mereoni, a participant of Talitha Project, a Women's Leadership Group in Fiji

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

WOMEN AT THE HEART:

Inspired by a woman and led by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, women are central to our story and the communities we serve. We promote the voice and participation of women and girls.

REACHING THE MARGINS:

We choose, like Saint Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, to reach those who are most excluded, working with communities that others may overlook.

DIGNITY THROUGH SELF DETERMINATION:

We recognise the inherent dignity of all people. We are committed to the principles of grassroots decision making, locally led participation and working for the common good.

PARTNERSHIP:

We are committed to deep, genuine and accountable partnerships that promote sustainable and impactful change.

PIONEERING SPIRIT:

Like Saint Mary MacKillop, we champion courage, innovation and mutual learning to respond to the injustice we encounter.

"SEEK FIRST THE POOREST AND MOST NEGLECTED PARTS OF GOD'S VINEYARD"

Saint Mary MacKillop 1900

OUR IMPACT PILLARS



EQUITY IN EDUCATION:

We work to ensure equitable access to quality education in communities so that every child and young person can realise their full potential.



ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE:

We work to equip children, women, men and whole communities through the power of education, so they are financially independent to flourish and sustain their quality of life. Our programs strengthen livelihoods through improving financial literacy, increasing knowledge and expanding access to savings and loans.



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP:

We work to empower people and communities through education, so they have more choice and agency over the decisions that affect their lives. Our approach in working with local partners is central to enabling active citizenship. We pursue solidarity and mutual transformation in the way we think and act as we deepen knowledge, understanding and relationships between ourselves and people experiencing marginalisation.



AMPLIFYING VOICES:

We walk with the people we serve to listen, identify and understand issues, empower and amplify their voices and to mobilise our community and network to take action.

Judy, Financial Inclusion Officer with Peta, NILS recipient in Australia



OUR FOUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

GOAL 1: GROWING AND ACTIVATING OUR SUPPORTER COMMUNITY

Action: we will generate increasing levels of support, awareness and revenue, by communicating, engaging and catalysing action in support of Mary MacKillop Today.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHENING AND SCALING OUR IMPACT

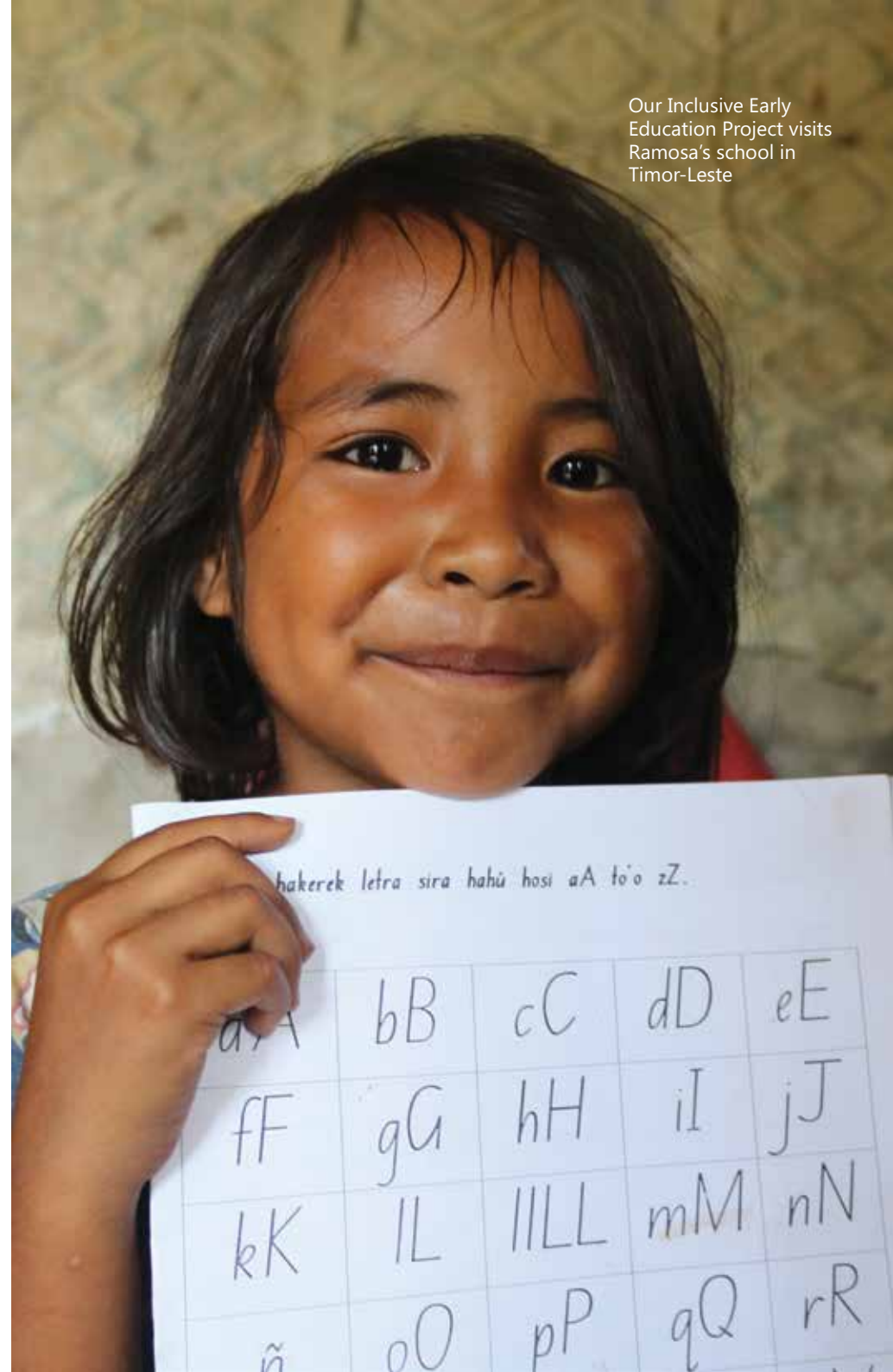
Action: we will strengthen our impact model and its measurable outcomes by building deeper 'allyship' with our partners and the communities we serve. Our programming will be enhanced through continued best practice and our pursuit of innovation.

GOAL 3: AMPLIFYING VOICE

Action: we will educate ourselves and our community on the systemic local and global barriers to education and learning for life. We will amplify the voices of the people, communities and partners we serve to address issues of systemic injustice.

GOAL 4: SUSTAIN A HEALTHY AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION

Action: we will build on our strong team culture and engagement to improve our decision-making, the efficiency in our systems and processes and to attract and retain the best people for Mary MacKillop Today.





Mary MacKillop Today is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

For more information, or to lodge a complaint, please contact ACFID on main@acfid.asn.au.



Mary MacKillop Today is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas development program.

MARY MACKILLOP

today

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

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



“LET US SHOW LOVE IN OUR ACTS”

Saint Mary MacKillop 1890