

# 2023-24 YEAR IN REVIEW

s we reflect on the many challenges and achievements of the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering commitment of our supporters.

We have been deeply moved by the spirit of collaboration, dedication, and compassion that has driven our work. This year has been one of strength and growth in our programs and people, as we continue to carry forward the mission of Saint Mary MacKillop: to empower communities and bring about lasting change through learning for life so that all may flourish.

While we have faced financial challenges that the cost-of-living crisis has presented, we have done so with resilience and the changes we have made to the organisation mean we can be confident about our future.

We have launched our Strategic Plan to help us pave the road ahead and we have made great progress with our Impact Strategy, helping us to understand our goals and deepen our impact.

Through your generosity and that of our supporters, and the incredible work of our partners on the ground in Australia and overseas, we have been able to reach thousands of individuals and communities this year, bringing the gift of hope.

We were also incredibly fortunate to receive an extraordinary bequest this year which has enabled us to reach further into marginalised communities that are often overlooked.

As you read through this report, you will come across stories that showcase the tangible difference that you are helping to make in the lives of those who need it most, just as Mary and the Sisters of Saint Joseph envisioned.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our community – our Board, our staff, our donors, our supporters in communities, schools and parishes, and our partners. It is your belief in our mission that fuels our passion and drives us forward.

With your continued support, we will keep striving to create a more just and compassionate world, one where everyone can thrive.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

Jane Woolford

Kieran Gleeson Chair

## **AUSTRALIA**

Thanks to your care and compassion, we walk alongside people in Australia who are experiencing hardship by providing educational opportunities and financial support to help them get back on their feet.

#### **Financial Inclusion**

We offer access to fair credit through our No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) & NILS4Vehicles loans – to pay for essential things like white goods and household repairs, or a vehicle, which may be the only way people can get to work.

### **Financial Literacy**

Our financial literacy workshops help people experiencing financial hardship to make more informed financial decisions.

### **Community Grants**

Our Community Grants Program provides uplifting opportunities for people at the margins so they can build strong, self-sustaining communities.

### **First Nations Tertiary Scholarships**

Our scholarships provide aspiring students with the financial assistance they need to access higher education, make it to Graduation Day, and build a fulfilling future for themselves and their communities

### Yawardani Jan-ga

Run in partnership with Murdoch University, this Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program provides a light at the end of the tunnel for young at risk Aboriginal people by providing support for social and emotional wellbeing.

### **Financial Counselling**

Our caring professionals offer free, confidential guidance and advocacy, helping people navigate financial challenges and turn their lives around.

#### **Brenda**

85-year-old Brenda approached us after struggling to manage her credit card debt due to the rising cost-of-living. Mary MacKillop Today's Financial Counsellor advocated on Brenda's behalf, successfully getting the debt waived. The credit card account was closed, and Brenda felt a huge relief. She happily declared she was "going home to cut up the card."

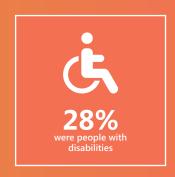


\*Name and image have been changed to protect privacy

















# **TIMOR-LESTE**

Thanks to you, we are supporting communities on their path to building a stronger nation by improving education, health and livelihoods outcomes.

### Vanilla 'Beans of Hope' Project\*



Supports local vanilla farmers to learn skills, acquire resources, and access credit to build a secure livelihood they can count on for the hope of a bright future.

#This project receives support from The Edmund Rice

### **Inclusive Early Education Project** (formerly Mobile Learning Centre)

Brings the joy of learning to children in remote schools through fun activities and resources.

### **Volunteer Teacher Support Project**

Supports and trains volunteer teachers, so they can create an inspiring learning experience for children.

### **Teacher Training Project\***

Training pre-school and primary school teachers to create a safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment for every child.



108
vanilla farmers applied
organic farming techniques on
their farms



small grants awarded to 34 schools for toilet construction and/or water tanks and waste disposal units

### C.U. BEHAFU – Women's Livelihoods Project

Provides cooperative members with practical activities and training so they can earn income.

### **EdTech for Early Learning Project**

Pilot project aimed at improving early childhood education through an interactive app for preschool teachers. Delivered in the local language, Tetun, the EdTech for Early Learning app uses animations and stories from Timorese culture.

### **Health Literacy Project\***

Helps train teachers to deliver quality health education in schools.

### **Parents Training Project**

For parents, grandparents, and carers who may never have had the chance to complete their own education, the project equips them to support their children's learning at home.



#### **Arlinda**

"I am happy to learn from the teachers. I first learned my name and then I learned the ABC and 123. I am happy that we can help our children at home. My grandchild was very happy and said, "Mama is now in school again, we are studying together!"











\*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).



Thanks to wonderful supporters like you, we provide skills and opportunities to young women and people with a disability.

### **Pathway to Economic Independence Project**

Run in partnership with the Psychiatric Survivors Association (PSA), this project helps people with disabilities gain financial independence through business training and financial literacy workshops.

### Women's Leadership: Project Talitha\*

In partnership with Ola Fou Fiji, young women receive training to increase their confidence, challenge traditional norms surrounding women, and achieve financial security.



#### Ranadi

"Now, I have the confidence to speak up. I dream of returning to university, finding a job, and one day running my own business to support my son."







## **PERU**

Through your wonderful generosity, we are improving access to education and employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

### Student Leadership & Citizenship Training Project

In partnership with Fe y Alegría, this project is helping to improve the social and political skills of students, teachers, and school administrators through collaborative learning and community action.

### Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural Peru\*

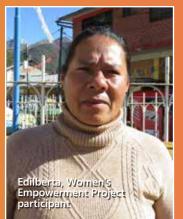
In partnership with CEOP Ilo, students are improving their lives through entrepreneurship skills.





## Enhancing Women's Civil Participation in rural Peru Project\*

In partnership with CCAIJO, the project provides training and support to incredible women seeking to grow in leadership and political participation.



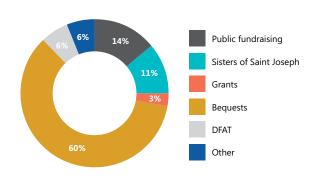
#### **Edilberta**

"There are still many women like me who did not finish school. I would like to learn how to help them. We still have a long way to go, but we are on the way to continue to strengthen ourselves as a women's organisation."

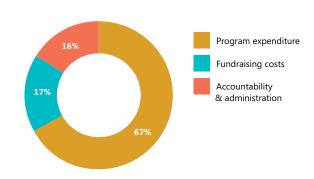
# **FINANCIALS**

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, Mary MacKillop Today reported a total revenue of \$18,188,589\*. We allocated \$8,204,639 to funding and support for domestic, international, and community development programs dedicated to transforming the lives of people living on the margins of society.

#### **Revenue Sources to 30 June 2024:**



### Expenses to 30 June 2024:



\*An extraordinary legacy gift of \$10 million was donated to Mary MacKillop Today by one of our wonderful supporters. This gift will enable us to maintain the sustainability of several core programs and to plan the careful development of new programs and initiatives in future years.

### Our overall financial position as at 30 June 2024

Total equity	21,762,465
Net assets	21,762,465
Total liabilities	579,335
Total non-current liabilities	67,803
Total current liabilities	511,532
Total assets	22,341,800
Total non-current assets	5,896,222
Total current assets	16,445,578

Our sources of funds and	d expenditure
as at 30 June 2024	

Fundraising revenue

Net income/deficit

Government and other grants

	, -,
Sisters of Saint Joseph and other revenue	1,980,245
Investments, interest and other revenue	1,000,329
Total revenue	18,188,589
Deduct expenditure	
International Programs	4,241,729
Domestic Programs	1,299,516
Fundraising	1,376,293
Administration costs & accountability	1,287,101
Total expenditure	8,204,639



Read the full report at: marymackilloptoday.org.au/ our-reports 13,434,428

1,773,587

9,983,950

# **YOUR IMPACT**

Together, we are bringing the transformative power of education to those in need.



11,697
direct participants in



indirect participants in development programs



21 partners



62% female participants



32% children/youth



1,254
participants
with a disability



# HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE SAINT MARY'S LEGACY

Thank you for partnering with Mary MacKillop Today in our mission to transform lives through education and practical life skills. You have such a compassionate, giving heart. Your generosity is truly the backbone of our work 'on the ground' with incredibly inspiring communities.

You can create life-changing opportunities by:

- Becoming an 'Independent Spirit': join our family of monthly supporters, helping to create a better world.
- Making a Donation: your generous donations help those in need access education and practical training to lift themselves out of poverty so they can thrive.
- Leaving a Bequest: consider leaving a gift to Mary MacKillop Today in your Will, to create lasting change for generations to come.

#### **Follow us**



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### MARY MACKILLOP



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