



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Update

Opening and Blessing of MMC office at 1 Dawson, Street, Brunswick







On 30 May 2022, the Mercy Ministry Companions' inaugural office at 1 Dawson Street, Brunswick, was opened and blessed by most Reverend Dr Terry Curtin, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Mission.

In the presence of the MMC Trustee Directors, representatives of the ILT, neighbours in the Marist Centre, a number of Sisters of Mercy and ministry staff from the MMC office and the ISMAPNG office at Alphington, the office was officially opened and blessed. Many of those who attended had made significant contributions in establishing and supporting Mercy Ministry Companions.

Of particular note was the attendance of Joan Wilson RSM, the last Mercy sister Principal at Saint Ambrose's primary school which is the same site and building upon which MMC resides. Sr Joan was amused to note that her office was in the same space as the current MMC office.

The Trustee Directors participated in the opening ceremony and prayers. A welcoming speech by the MMC Chair, Margaret Bounader, included a brief history of the site and its connection to the Mercy Sisters. Following the blessing of the office and official cutting of the ribbon, an enjoyable morning tea was served.

We were also very pleased that so many of our friendly fellow Catholic ministries located at the Marist Centre, who have made us feel so welcome, could join us for the opening.

Margaret thanked all who attended the ceremony and finished her comments with the following words "You are our companions on this journey as we establish this new Ministerial Public Juridic Person – Mercy Ministry Companions, and to us all, in the words of Catherine: 'My heart rejoices at your very great progress.'" [Catherine McAuley, Letter to Teresa White, 1841]'

Visit to Mercy Connect at Albury

The Trustee Directors visited Mercy Connect in Albury for their May meeting. Matthew Clancy, Board Chair of Mercy Community Services Australia Limited (MCSAL) and Trent Dean, CEO of Mercy Connect, took the opportunity to deliver a presentation outlining Mercy Connect's period of revitalisation, and to acknowledge the caring and compassionate support delivered by their dedicated staff and volunteers as they support those in need.

The Trustee Director were pleased to attend the opening of Kambora Court. Mercy Connect will run supported living development at Kambora Court, Lavington, which has brand new one and two bedroom units. The new development will also feature a social hub with an administrative office space, communal kitchen, lounge, dining and patio area and an overnight accommodation room for staff.

Justin Clancy, local NSW member for Albury, and Kylie King, Mayor of Albury, attended the opening, along with several sisters of Mercy, Mercy Connect staff, and a number of other participants who were warmly welcomed to country by Daniel who also played his didgeridoo as part of the ceremony.



Trent Dean – CEO of Mercy Connect and Daniel.

MPs visit McAuley house

McAuley Community Services for Women welcomed Gabrielle Williams MP and Katie Hall MP to McAuley House as they announced funding for their new state-of-the-art crisis accommodation, expected to open in Sunshine, Melbourne, in August.

CEO Jocelyn Bignold OAM said the funding is 'giving us the confidence to build the full suite of wrap around support into this model.



This includes working closely with partners to provide legal, financial and health support and expanding the reach of McAuley's skill development, social inclusion, employment and child education support services, all underpinned by being in a safe place to rest and think.'

Farewell to Adjunct Professor Stephen Cornelissen of the Mercy Health group

A number of MMC Trustee Directors also attended the farewell of outgoing CEO of the Mercy Health group, Stephen Cornelissen, and took the opportunity of personally thanking Stephen who has worked with Mercy Health for 19 years, including 11 years in his role as Group Chief Executive Officer.

In Stephen's farewell comments he noted that Mercy Health's move into aged care, palliative care and mental health allowed the organisation to bring Mercy to people at every age and part of their lives.

"We are privileged to be in a position to push to the edges of society to bring care to those in need and to be a voice for the voiceless," he says. "That's what Catholic healthcare and Mercy Health can continue to offer our communities."

MMC wish Stephen every success as he commences his new role as the Chief Executive of Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

Welcome to new Mercy Health Group CEO

MMC welcomes the appointment of Angela Nolan as the next Group Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Health Australia. Mercy Health Chair, Virginia Bourke, welcomed the announcement in a letter to staff and friends of Mercy Health saying that Ms Nolan was the right leader, with the right gifts to successfully lead the organisation into the future.

Currently CEO of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Angela's leadership in finance, people and culture are complemented by her deep understanding of the public health system and the Catholic health sector and a commitment to reform in the aged care sector.

"Angela's broad multidisciplinary experience is balanced by her authentic leadership qualities," Ms Bourke said. "Together with the Board and executive of Mercy Health and in the great Mercy spirit of hospitality, I know you will join me and all of our teams in health and aged care across Australia in welcoming Angela."

Mercy Health presentations to MMC Trustee Directors

At a recent board meeting of the Trustee Directors, Dr Carol Ong RSM, ethicist at the Plunkett Centre for Ethics at Mercy Health, facilitated a formation session. The topics covered were ethics, ethical decision-making, and considerations when developing an ethical framework for Mercy Ministry Companions.

Also giving a presentation to the Mercy Ministry Companions Trustee Directors was Alicia Wright, Mercy Health Organisational Development and Diversity Manager, and Cathy Jenkins, Executive Director of Mission Leadership. The topic of the presentation was equity and inclusion at Mercy Health: building an inclusive thriving culture, creating strategic business values and catalysing broader positive societal change.

Foundation day at Sacred Heart College Geelong



Gabrielle McMullen AM, Trustee Director of MMC, was warmly welcomed at the Sacred Heart College Geelong Foundation Day which celebrated the school's Mercy heritage, acknowledging its past and embracing the future with a day of faith, family, food and fun. A smoking ceremony was facilitated before a Mass to commemorate the event.

Mercy Education AGM

The first Mercy Education Limited AGM at which MMC was the sole member was held on June 10. At the meeting MMC confirmed the appointment of Georgina Smith as Chair and Karen Jongebloed as Deputy Chair of Mercy Education Limited. Maria McGarvie was reappointed as a Director and Kelly-Ann McKinnis and John Ballard were appointed as Directors of Mercy Education Ltd. Margaret congratulated them all on their appointments and noted that Trustee Directors looked forward to working closely with them.

In addition to thanking the CEO, Christopher Houlihan, and his staff for their efforts during the year, Margaret took the opportunity to acknowledge the significant contributions of Sr Sylvia Williams RSM who was retiring as Chair and Director and Tony Wheeler OAM who retired as Director.

Seminar for Company Secretaries

On June 15, a 90-minute Zoom seminar was conducted for Ministry Company Secretaries. Nine people participated from within MMC and ISMAPNG. Our guest presenter was Mandy Grogan, the Company Secretary and Governance Counsel at RAVC Ltd. Mandy addressed some current issues relevant to the Company Secretary role and shared some helpful tips for managing various aspects of the role. Anthony Loschiavo, MMC Executive Officer, provided participants with an update on relevant processes emerging within MMC and some practical sharing emerged from the Q and A session. It is hoped that the seminar evaluation will provide some helpful directions for our future planning.

Consultation document exploring processes for reporting on 'formation for mission' within MMC

In February/March, a mapping exercise was conducted to identify 'formation for mission' responsibilities contained in core documents and to map current procedures used by ministries and Boards when reporting on their various ongoing formation activities. A rich amount of information was shared. Emerging from the mapping were 6 six key themes, now outlined in a document drafted for consultation with ministries, Boards and Trustee Directors. The document, entitled "Sustaining an effective environment for enhancing 'formation for mission' within Mercy Ministry Companions" has been circulated for feedback. It is hoped that, after considering the feedback in mid-July, an agreed reporting process can be trialed for 12 months within MMC and then reviewed.

Companions Together – 2022 Ministries Gathering

Our ministries gathering in Melbourne on October 27 and 28 will provide an excellent opportunity to bring together the community services, health, aged care and education ministries that form the Mercy Ministry Companions family. As companions together on our journey as a new ministerial public juridic person, we will reflect on the mission, vision and values that underpin our identity. We welcome board chairs and directors, executive team members, and those involved in senior formation roles, to join with the Trustee Directors as we share our dreams about ways Mercy Ministry Companions can serve God's mission in our own unique way. We look forward to welcoming you!

Save The Date...

Newly appointed Directors Induction

Melbourne

FRI 2 SEP 2022

An Induction seminar is being offered for new or recently appointed Directors of Ministry Boards within MMC. It will be held from 9.30am – 3pm at the Marist Centre, 1 Dawson Street, Brunswick, where MMC's office is now located. Further information will be available soon

Contact Details – General Communications

ministries@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Use this email account for all communications from ministries to MMC, including:

- Newsletters
- Invitations
- Questions
- Decision Requests

mpl@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Use this email for all requests for support with all MPL property matters, including:

- Planning permit requests
- Building permit requests
- Heritage enquiries
- Disputes with neighbours or councils

Contact Details – Staff

Anthony Loschiavo

Executive Officer

anthony.loschiavo@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Annette Schneider RSM

Formation Coordinator

annette.schneider@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Helen Boland

Ministry Governance Officer

helen.boland@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Joe Konynenburg

Business Manager

joe.konynenburg@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Mercy Ministry Companions

Office & Postal Address

1 Dawson Street, Brunswick VIC 3056

Trustee Director Meetings 2022

Month	Meeting (Day 1 of 2)	Papers Due	Location
FEB	MON 28 FEB	MON 14 FEB	Mercy Education, Fitzroy VIC
MAR	THU 24 MAR	THU 10 MAR	Sydney NSW
APR	THU 28 APR	THU 14 APR	Mercy Connect, Albury NSW
MAY	MON 30 MAY	MON 16 MAY	Mercy Health, Heidelberg VIC
JUN	MON 27 JUN	MON 13 JUN	Mercy Services, Newcastle NSW
JUL	MON 25 JUL	MON 11 JUL	Mercy Health, Montrose VIC
AUG	MON 29 AUG	MON 15 AUG	Mercy Education, Perth WA
SEP	MON 26 SEP	MON 12 SEP	McAuley, Footscray VIC
OCT	THU 27 OCT	FRI 28 OCT	Ministries Gathering, Melbourne
NOV	MON 07 NOV	MON 24 OCT	Mackillop Family Services, Blacktown NSW
DEC	MON 12 DEC	MON 28 NOV	Melbourne VIC