

EXTENDING HORIZONS AS PEOPLE OF HOPE AND HOSPITALITY

2025 MMC Conference

Program Schedule

DAY 1: MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4pm | Arrival, Registration & afternoon tea | Pre-function space |
| 4.30pm | Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and didgeridoo performance | The Green |
| 5pm | Welcome and Conference Opening Margaret Bounader, Chair, Mercy Ministry Companions Opening Prayer | Celtic Hall |
| 5.30pm | Session 1: "Hospitality, Synodality and Hope" Keynote address from Archbishop Shane Mackinlay, including table conversation and Q&A | Celtic Hall |
| 6.30pm | Pre-dinner drinks & dinner Dinner speakers - brief presentation from each ministry (5 mins) around the Conference theme and their workshop focus for Day 2. | Dining Rooms |
| 9pm | Close for the day | |

DAY 2: TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 8.30am | Morning Reflection We will be joined by students from St Aloysius College, North Melbourne | Celtic Hall |
| 9am | Session 2: "The Power of Inclusion" Keynote address from Dr Sonja Hood, includes table conversation and Q&A | Celtic Hall |
| 9.50am | Panel conversation with Angela Scaffidi, Bishop Shane Mackinlay and Dr Sonja Hood - continuing to explore the Conference theme | Celtic Hall |
| 10.45am | Angela explores links between upcoming workshops and sessions 5 & 6 | Celtic Hall |

10.55 Morning Tea

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Session 3: Round 1 of Ministry-led Workshops (70 mins) | Celtic Hall & Studios 3,4,6,7,8,9 |
| 11.25am | <p>Workshop 1 - MacKillop Family Services Doing Hope: Expanding Horizons through Trauma-Informed Education This workshop explores how MacKillop Family Services brings 'doing hope' to life by supporting vulnerable students—particularly those in residential care—to re-engage with education through trauma-informed practices that foster healing, connection, and achievement. It also introduces the ReLATE Education Model, a whole-school approach developed from this work, which empowers educators and communities across Australia to build inclusive, connected and flourishing learning environments.</p> <p>Convenors: Brona Walshe and Justin Roberts</p> | |
| | <p>Workshop 2 - Mercy Connect Extending Horizons: Cultivating Hope and Hospitality through Emotional Culture This interactive workshop invites participants to explore how emotional awareness can deepen our commitment to Hope and Hospitality within our respective Mercy Ministries. Using the Emotional Culture Deck by Riders and Elephants, we will reflect on how our emotional experiences shape the way we welcome, support and extend compassion to ourselves and others.</p> <p>Convenors: Jessie Arney and Caroline Cummins</p> | |



Workshop 3 - McAuley

Extending horizons: Safe at Home: A Whole of Household Approach to Reduce Family Violence

Aligned with the conference theme 'Extending Horizons,' this pilot shares four-month findings on systemic approaches to family violence. The workshop highlights challenges of systems change and presents innovative strategies being tested to foster safer, more resilient households.

Convenor:

Dr Marion Muliaumasealii

Workshop 4 - Mercy Health & Mercy Education

Extending Horizons: The Power of Us - intergenerational connections through Mercy ministry collaboration

The iGEN Learning program started as a collaboration between Mercy Health Bendigo (Bethlehem Aged Care and Golden Rise Seniors Living), Catherine McAuley College Bendigo and Australian Catholic University and has evolved into a nationally recognised intergenerational program that is now expanding to other Mercy Health and Mercy Education sites. This workshop will explore the benefits of intergenerational practice and the possibilities of cross-ministry Mercy collaborations in different settings

Convenors: Ellen Francis and Colin Hogan

Workshop 5 - Mercy Education (Round 1)

Expanding Horizons: How a school community can be a vessel of hope and growth
St Aloysius College (SAC) Adelaide has been welcoming students with refugee experience for over 50 years. In this workshop, past student and current staff member, Nagina, will share her journey from Afghanistan to Adelaide. Nagina's story is one of remarkable courage and is a testament to the transformative power of Mercy education.

Convenors: Nagina Zahra and Paddy McEvoy

Workshop 5 - Mercy Education (Round 2)

Extending Horizons: Mercedes Professional Growth, a hope-filled model
Hope is the belief that growth is possible, even when the path is unclear or difficult. Our Mercedes Professional Growth Model is predicated on the beliefs that mercy grounds us in the present, allowing us to accept where we are and hope pulls us toward the future, encouraging us to believe in where we can go.

Convenors: Dr Lucie McCrory and Mr Jamie Clark

Workshop 6 - Mercy Indigenous (First Nations) Alliance

Expanding Horizons: Partnerships with First Nations people

For our Mercy whānau and yakapna (family) we have a shared opportunity and responsibility to support both reconciliation and positive outcomes for Indigenous (First Nations) peoples. To help that, indigenous people from Australia, Torres Strait and Aotearoa, New Zealand are coming together to form an alliance through Mercy. This workshop will explore the shared philosophy (kaupapa), its goals and is an opportunity for participants to be involved by way of yarn (korero) and deep listening (Dadirri) in what it could mean for ministries. The MacKillop Family Services Stretch RAP Action 26 and Deliverable 26.3 "Develop and grow a First Nations network across Mercy Ministry Companions in Australia and New Zealand" supports this initiative.

Convenors: Esmail Manahan and Philip Alexander-Crawford

11.25am

12.35 Lunch

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.25pm | Session 4: Round 2 of Ministry-led Workshops (70 mins) | Celtic Hall & Studios |
| 2.35pm | Session 5: Facilitated session reflecting on insights and possibilities emerging from the Workshops | Celtic Hall |

3.10pm afternoon Tea

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 3.35pm | Session 6: Plenary session - strategic ways of moving forward as people of Hope and Hospitality | Celtic Hall |
| 4.05pm | Words of thanks | Celtic Hall |
| 4.10pm | Closing Ritual | Celtic Hall |
| 4.30pm | Close of conference | Celtic Hall |



Mercy Health
Care first





ANGELA SCAFFIDI - CONFERENCE FACILITATOR

Angela Scaffidi is a founder and managing partner of SenateSHJ, an Australasian consultancy that specialises in change, reputation and communication. She is deputy chair of Challenge: supporting kids with cancer, one of Australia's longest running children's cancer charities. She is chair of The Missed Foundation, Australia's only not-for-profit that supports the families of long-term missing people. Angela is co-chair of the advisory board of Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg and she previously sat on the board of McAuley Community Services for Women. Angela is a Fellow of the Communication and Public Relations Australia (CPRA) and a member of Chief Executive Women.



ARCHBISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY - KEYNOTE 1

Archbishop Shane Mackinlay is to be installed as Archbishop of Brisbane on September 11, 2025. He has been Bishop of Sandhurst in Victoria, Australia, since October 2019. Prior to his ordination as a priest in 1991, he completed degrees in theology and physics and subsequently undertook graduate studies in philosophy at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, where he completed a master's degree and a Doctorate. As a priest, he had a variety of pastoral, diocesan and academic appointments, including nine years as Master of Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, in the University of Divinity. Since becoming a bishop, he has been elected as Vice-President of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia and was one of the Australian delegates at the Synod for a Synodal Church. In 2022, he was appointed as Co-Chair of the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission



DR SONJA HOOD AM - KEYNOTE 2

Qualifications: PhD, MSc, GAICD.

Dr Sonja Hood AM is the CEO of the Scanlon Foundation, a leading advocate for Australia's social cohesion. She has more than thirty years' experience in public policy and community development, with extensive leadership roles in government, sport, not for profits, and philanthropy.

Sonja is President of the North Melbourne Football Club, a Director of the Scanlon Foundation, and Board Chair of the Foundation's three satellite organisations: Welcoming Australia, Community Hubs Australia, and the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute. She is also a member of the Community Directors Council.

CONFERENCE NOTES

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

- The Catholic Leadership Centre (CLC) is located at 576 VICTORIA PDE, on the corner of Victoria Pde and Hoddle Street, EAST MELBOURNE.
- Tram stop 18 (on Victoria Pde) is directly opposite the Catholic Leadership Centre and can be accessed by tram number 109 or 12.
- North Richmond Station (on the Epping/South Morang and Hurstbridge train lines) is a 200 metre walk to the CLC.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- The main sessions of the conference will take place in the Celtic Hall.
- Studio Rooms for Workshops are on level 1, access via lift or stairs

ACCOMMODATION:

- Those staying at the Catholic Leadership Centre will receive a separate email confirming accommodation details. Check in from 2pm, check out by 10am.
- Luggage can be left at CLC Reception.
- Taxis to the airport can be booked at Reception.