

A young child with curly hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt with a cartoon character, is holding a large bunch of green vanilla beans. The background is a lush green field with trees. The text '2024/25' is written in a large, light blue, stylized font across the top, and 'IMPACT REPORT' is written in white capital letters on a dark blue background. At the bottom, 'MARY MACKILLOP' is written in a dark blue serif font, and 'today' is written in a teal cursive font.

2024/25

IMPACT REPORT

MARY MACKILLOP
today

Quick Guide:

About This Report:

This report celebrates the impact in communities made possible through your generosity in FY2024/2025. It shares how our partners and communities, together with your support, are creating opportunities for self-determination through education, livelihoods, financial inclusion and advocacy across Australia, Fiji, Peru and Timor-Leste.



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of First Australians.

We acknowledge the footprints that are here long before our shoeprints.

We acknowledge the handprints that are here, centuries before our buildings rose.

We acknowledge the hearts that love and spirits embedded in the sacredness of this country, despite the impacts of colonisation, violence, and sorrows that continue to this day.

We acknowledge that cultural authority, traditions and lore are viable and established long before our communities of relationships and leadership came to be.

We commit to walking together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples towards greater recognition, voice, truth telling, treaty and justice.

At Mary MacKillop Today, we are committed to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

*This Acknowledgment of Country was developed in consultation with Cassandra Gibbs, the Reconciliation Action Plan Officer-Facilitator for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and a proud Gamilaraay and Yuwalaray woman.

Board Chair Message

This year has been one of reflection, resilience, and progress for Mary MacKillop Today. As Chair of the Board, I am proud to report that, through strong governance and oversight, we have ensured the organisation remains accountable, financially sustainable, and strategically focused on its mission.

In an environment of economic and social uncertainty, the Board has worked closely with the Executive Leadership Team to safeguard our resources, manage risk, and uphold the highest standards of stewardship. This careful oversight has enabled us to continue delivering impactful programs that reach those who need them most, while protecting the long-term health of the organisation.

We are particularly heartened by the achievements made possible through collaboration with our donor community, staff, and partners. By working together, we continue to turn strategy into meaningful outcomes, embodying our theme of Transforming Lives Together and truly making change possible.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank our supporters, partners, and staff for their continued trust and belief in our mission. With your support, and with the vision of Saint Mary MacKillop as our guide, we will continue to build a more just and compassionate world where all may flourish.

Kieran Gleeson
Chair



Thanks to you, we are transforming lives together.



Welcoming Highways and Byways — supporting rural communities and celebrating the Missionary Sisters of Service.

CEO Message

This past year has shown the power of collaboration more than ever. At Mary MacKillop Today, *Transforming Lives Together* is not just a theme; it sits at the heart of everything we do. Through the generosity of our supporters, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the commitment of our partners, we have been making change possible for individuals, families, and communities who face some of life's greatest challenges.

Across Australia and overseas, rising living costs, social inequities, and environmental pressures have tested the resilience of the communities we serve. Yet, in every challenge, we have seen hope, determination, and collective effort shine through. Together, we have strengthened programs, expanded reach, and continued to deliver life-changing support where it is needed most.

Three highlights this year demonstrate the depth and strength of our mission.

We launched our Reconciliation Action Plan, reflecting our commitment to building a more just, inclusive, and reconciled Australia. We also welcomed the Highways and Byways program into the Mary MacKillop Today family, strengthening support for rural and regional communities while honouring the legacy of the Missionary Sisters of Service. Finally, we successfully achieved re-accreditation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) which is a rigorous process that affirms the quality, accountability, and effectiveness of our international development programs.

Our Strategic Plan and Impact Strategy have continued to guide our work, helping us focus on measurable outcomes and sustainable impact. From supporting children's education in Timor-Leste to providing personalised financial counselling for families in Australia, your generosity has enabled real change, stories that are captured throughout this report.



The achievements highlighted here are a testament to the ongoing support of our donor community, and partners. By working together, we continue to turn vision into action, making change possible in the lives of those who need it most.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to empowering communities, nurturing learning, and opening doors of opportunity. With your continued support, we can continue *Transforming Lives Together*, ensuring hope and opportunity reach every corner of our work.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Jane Woolford
Chief Executive Officer



Our Story:

Made Possible by You

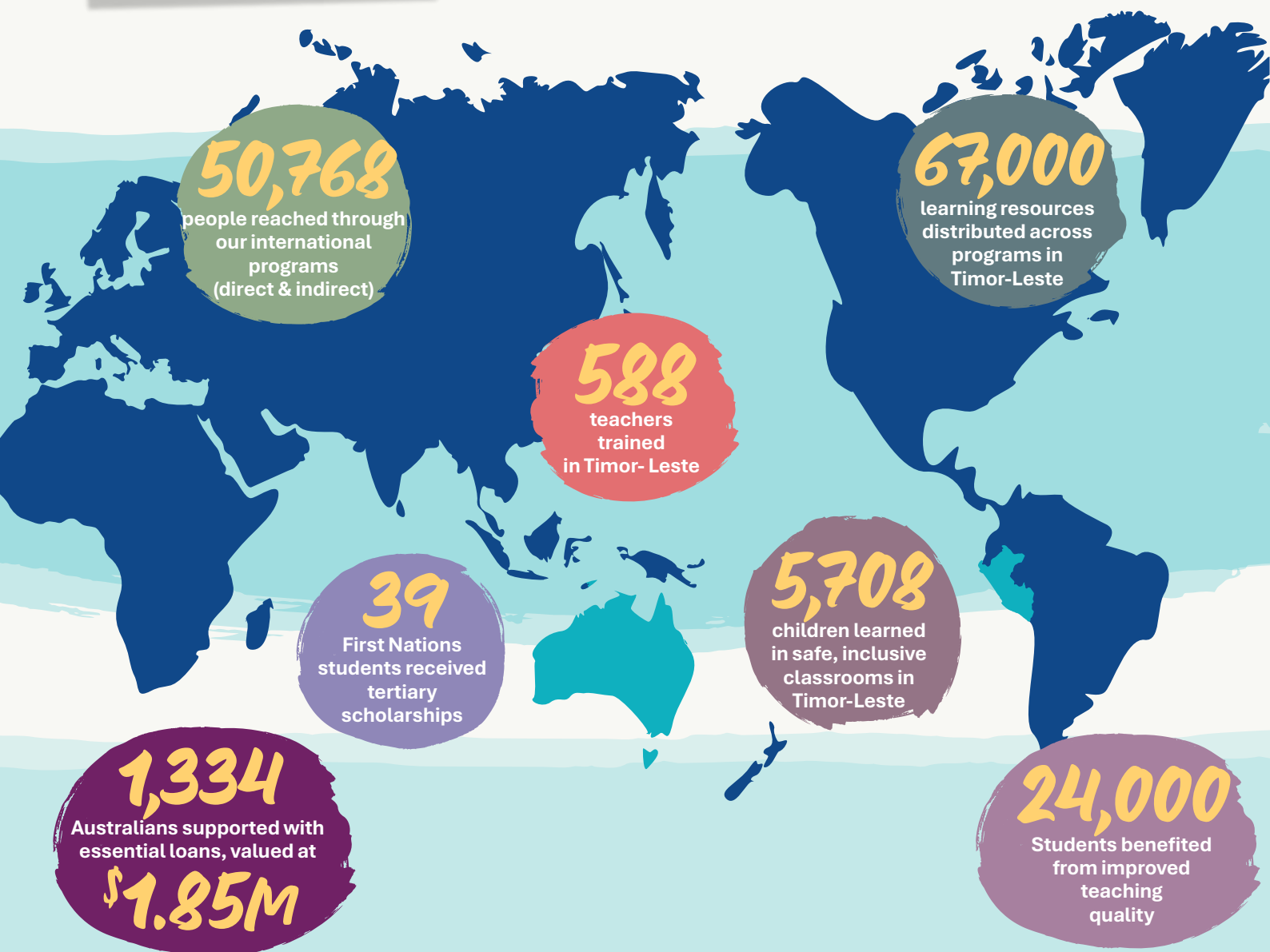


Following in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Mary MacKillop Today carries forward a 150-year legacy of compassion and service.

Established in 2018 to continue that ministry, we partner with local communities to create opportunities for self-determination through education, livelihoods and financial inclusion.

We walk alongside people, listening first, building skills, and supporting locally led solutions that last. From teacher training in Timor-Leste to scholarships for First Nations students, your generosity turns partnership into real outcomes: children learning, families earning, and communities shaping their futures. Every story in this report began because someone like you chose to give.

Thank you for making this possible.



Your Support in Action:

Mission, Purpose and Values



MISSION

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



PURPOSE

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

VALUES



COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

We listen and respect the dignity of all people, stay connected to support one another, and walk together to learn and grow.



IMPACTFUL PARTNER

We value local knowledge, stay professional and accountable, build trust, manage every dollar with care, and focus on impact.



RESPONSIVE PIONEERS

We take action, encourage new ideas, speak up, dare to do things differently to improve, and adapt to changing needs.

Your Partnership: Strategy Snapshot

YOUR SUPPORT BRINGS OUR STRATEGY TO LIFE

Every year, your generosity helps bring Mary MacKillop Today's strategy to life, turning plans on paper into real and lasting change.

Voices from the community and our partners shape our Strategic Directions, supported by our donors. Together, we're not only reaching people in need but also building stronger and more sustainable futures for all.



*Transforming
Lives Together -
Making Change
Possible*

Strategic Directions:

GROWING SUPPORT

Engaging and expanding our community of generous supporters.

SCALING IMPACT

Deepening partnerships and applying innovation approaches to improve outcomes.

AMPLIFYING VOICES

Raising awareness and supporting communities to influence change.

ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

Strengthening systems and people for long-term sustainability.

Impact Pillars:

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Helping children and young people access quality education so they can reach their full potential.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Supporting women, families, and communities to build sustainable livelihoods and financial independence.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Communities are strengthened when people have opportunities to make informed choices, participate in systems change, and lead positive change in their own lives.

AMPLIFYING VOICES

Working alongside communities to understand their needs and help them advocate for themselves – ensuring their voices drive lasting change.



Impact Achieved in FY2024/2025

TIMOR-LESTE

- **2,000+** teachers trained in inclusive, learner-centered education
- **24,000+** students benefited through improved teaching quality
- **67,000+** learning resources produced and distributed

GENDER & INCLUSION ACROSS ALL COUNTRIES

- **11** women's groups strengthened
- **50+** women in leadership or decision-making roles
- **100+** people with disabilities received tailored support
- **200** professionals trained in disability awareness
- **50,768** total participants in development programs (7,569 direct, 43,199 indirect)

AUSTRALIA

- **1,334** Australians supported with essential loans, valued at \$1.85M

OUR PARTNERS (PERU & FIJI)

- In Peru, we worked together with Fe Y Alegria and concluded this partnership after a successful three-year collaboration. We are also proud to enter into new three-year partnership agreements with CEOP Ilo and CCAIJO.
- In Fiji, our partnership with Ola Fou came to a close at the end of the financial year. We are pleased to continue working with the Psychological Survivors Association and to commence a three-year partnership agreement with BIRTH Fiji.
- Through these multi-year funding agreements, Mary MacKillop Today has been able to work closely with organisations that have the knowledge, strength, and resilience to create lasting change in their communities. We value partnering with these trusted organisations, who are leading change on the ground and enabling community-led development.

PERU & FIJI

- In Peru, our partners transformed women's agency, including creating changes in family dynamics, empowering students, and strengthening connections between families and their Communities.
- In Fiji, our partners created sustainable income sources for people with a psychosocial disability and their families, while raising community knowledge and awareness on environmental sustainability, gender-based violence, positive parenting, and leadership.

CORE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE US

- **Women at the Heart** – Uplifting the voices of women and girls
- **Reaching the Margins** – Supporting the most excluded communities
- **Dignity Through Self-Determination** – Promoting locally led decisions and ownership
- **Partnership** – Building strong, respectful relationships for lasting change
- **Pioneering Spirit** – Driving bold action against poverty and injustice
- **Ecological Justice** – Committed to caring for our common home through ethical action and a just response to climate change.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Community voices and our partners continue to guide our Strategic Directions and drive innovation, ensuring the initiatives you fund are both meaningful and impactful.



Why Your Support Matters

Around the world and here in Australia, families continue to face barriers to education, livelihoods, and financial security. In Timor-Leste and Fiji, limited resources and fragile economies make it difficult for children, young people, and women to access learning and income-generating opportunities. In Peru and First Nations communities in Australia, inequality and systemic disadvantage remain daily realities.

Your generosity helps bridge these gaps, providing education, training, and practical support that build skills, strengthen resilience, and open doors to brighter, more secure futures. Together, we are helping communities overcome barriers and create lasting change.

3 IN 4

children are not enrolled in preschool education

40%

of households in Fiji face income insecurity

1 IN 8

Australians experience financial hardship

20%

unemployment of youth in Peru's rural communities

Impact Highlight:

AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMS

The First Nations Tertiary Scholarship Program celebrated the graduation of 9 scholarship holders during this financial year. Among these students were graduates of Law, Medicine, Education (Primary), Sports and Exercise Science, Nutrition, Sports Management (Business) and Arts. Many of them completed a double degree.

"I have officially finished my degree now. Thank you very much for your support over the years. At the recent PRIDoC 2024 Conference, I was awarded Indigenous Medical Student of the year. I received the President's Prize at RMA 2024 Conference, and I also was awarded the Student Resiliency Award from Notre Dame this year as well. All of this could not be possible without the financial assistance of this scholarship."

Doctor of Medicine - Notre Dame University, Freemantle

"Thank you. I'm on track to finish by May, which is very exciting and I'm about to have my graduation next month. I also would like to let you know I have been awarded the Tom Calma medal from my university"

Bachelor of Law - University of Canberra

This student was offered a scholarship in 2018. A mother of three, she recently underwent a serious health challenge and took a year off to become well and resume her studies. Mary MacKillop Today has supported her through her academic journey, helping this student to complete the required legal practice training which enables her to practice law at the completion of her degree.



Your generosity is transforming lives – together, we are building stronger, more resilient communities.

The Change You Made Possible

Thanks to your generosity, Mary MacKillop Today reached thousands of people across Australia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, and Peru this year. From education and livelihoods to leadership and inclusion, your support transformed plans into action, ideas into outcomes, and opportunity into real change. These numbers show the collective impact of our community of supporters, donors, and partners.

PEOPLE REACHED
50,768
total participants
7,569 direct,
43,199 indirect

TOTAL SUPPORTERS
5,409
Supporters

REGULAR GIVERS
423
donors contributing monthly

PROGRAMS DELIVERED
17
projects across:
Australia, Timor-Leste,
Fiji, and Peru

BEQUESTS PLEDGED
29
new bequests committed

Every number represents a life changed thanks to your support.

How You Helped Us Measure Impact

Mary MacKillop Today values ongoing learning to ensure that our programs achieve meaningful impact. Through our Impact Strategy and Measurement Framework, we have strengthened how we design, implement, and evaluate our programs.

By centering local voices in our Impact Framework, we draw on those best placed to guide our decisions and understand what works and where we can do even more. Your support ensures we can continue partnering with communities to create sustainable change.



See The Difference You Make Every Day

Your generosity is changing lives, giving children, families, and communities the tools, skills, and opportunities to thrive. Here's a snapshot of the real impact made possible by your support.



EQUITY IN EDUCATION

"The importance of education for children in Timor-Leste is very important, because through education it's possible to increase the skills they have. Why I say this is because through education it is possible to change people's lives to gain a good, prosperous future. Through education, it makes them aware of human values as human beings."

— School Teacher, Manatuto Municipality

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE/ LIVELIHOODS

"For five long years, life was a daily struggle after Tropical Cyclone Yasa destroyed our home and livelihood. The breakthrough came when the Psychiatric Survivors Association provided a \$3,500 grant - a lifeline. I used it to revive our watermelon farm; the first harvest succeeded, allowing us to expand and add 5,000 dalo tops. What started as a grant became sustainable income and hope for my family."

— Tuinaosara, Project participant



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

"My concept of citizenship has been strengthened. I feel more secure and empowered about my rights and responsibilities within society and the political community. By serving the educational community, I've learned that active citizenship is a fundamental pillar for society providing a framework for rights, responsibilities, and spaces for everyone to take part."

— Micaela, Student

SUPPORTER VOICE

"I particularly like the way that Mary MacKillop Today works with communities in helping people to look after themselves. It gives people a sense of belonging and lifts their self-esteem when they learn new skills. They can then teach others in their community."

— Chris, Supporter



Stories of Change:

EQUITY IN EDUCATION



INCLUSIVE EARLY EDUCATION (TIMOR-LESTE)

"When I grow up, I want to be a teacher..."

— Juliana, aged 11

Through mobile learning centres and teacher training, children like Juliana are gaining the confidence and skills to shape their futures.

Juliana is the youngest of five in a remote farming community in Timor-Leste. Her family often sacrifices food so she can attend school, knowing education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

She loves being part of our Inclusive Early Education program. The mobile learning centre, a colourful bus filled with toys, books in Tetun, and creative activities, brings joyful learning to rural communities, supported by qualified educators. Behind the scenes, we train local teachers in inclusive, child-friendly methods and support families to nurture learning at home. For children like Juliana, this creates real hope and the chance to thrive.

Stories of Change:

EQUITY IN EDUCATION



TEACHER TRAINING* (TIMOR-LESTE)

Marcia, 22, teaches at a school in Manatuto, Timor-Leste. Far from her home in Baucau, she is passionate about helping children learn and grow.

Through Mary MacKillop Today's teacher training, Marcia gained practical skills in phonetics, numeracy, reading, and classroom engagement. She also learned to support children's social, emotional, cognitive, and communication development, understanding that every child learns at their own pace.

"Before the training, I didn't know how to teach letters and sounds effectively or how to guide children respectfully."

Now, I can approach each child with patience and understanding," she says.

The results are already visible: children attend class eagerly, engage more confidently, and enjoy learning. For Marcia, the impact goes beyond academics. Education helps children develop values, skills, and confidence, creating a foundation for brighter futures.

Thanks to your generous support, teachers like Marcia are equipped to inspire the next generation. Your support is transforming classrooms, strengthening skills, and opening doors to brighter futures for thousands of students in Timor-Leste.

My students' smiles make all the distance from my family worth it.

– Marcia

HEALTH LITERACY* (TIMOR-LESTE)

Through Mary MacKillop Today's Health Literacy program, teachers in Timor-Leste are equipping students with essential knowledge about nutrition, hygiene, and disease prevention. At schools in Manatuto, teachers received training aligned with the Ministry of Education's curriculum, covering topics such as malaria, dengue fever, diarrhoea, and overall healthy living.

This training has enabled teachers to turn theory into practice, teaching students how to wash hands properly, maintain hygiene, and understand nutrition for a balanced diet.

Small grants provided through the program also allowed schools to establish proper sanitation facilities, replacing outdated toilets and improving health conditions for students and staff alike.

Thanks to this support, schools are safer, healthier, and better equipped to give children the foundation they need to thrive.

Your generosity is making a tangible difference in the daily lives of students and communities in Timor-Leste.



Teachers are equipping students with essential health knowledge, building habits that protect and empower their communities.

Australian Aid

*These projects were supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

STUDENT LEADERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP (PERU)

In Ventanilla, Peru, students at Fe y Alegría are learning to become active citizens through the Fe y Alegría-led Student Leaders for Environmental Citizenship program, supported by Mary MacKillop Today.

The program helps young people to identify local challenges and lead initiatives that benefit their communities.

This year, students focused on promoting healthy eating after learning that many of their peers had low haemoglobin levels. Through a recipe contest using native Peruvian ingredients, students developed their culinary skills while raising awareness about nutrition and balanced diets.

Alongside their teachers, they organised and coordinated activities, building leadership, teamwork, and confidence in speaking up for their community.

By participating in this program, students are not only improving health and wellbeing in their schools but also developing essential skills for active, engaged citizenship.

Your support is helping young leaders raise their voices, drive change, and shape a healthier, more resilient future for their communities.



Through this program, students are learning to lead, speak up, and create positive change in their communities.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PERU)

In Coalaque, a small district in southern Peru, high school students face limited economic opportunities despite rich agricultural resources. Together, a group of students identified a local challenge: excess limes produced by farmers were often wasted, sometimes even burned, causing environmental and economic loss.

With guidance from CEOP Ilo and support from Mary MacKillop Today, students developed an entrepreneurship project to produce lime jam. They learned innovative tools such as Lean Canvas and Design Thinking to plan, prototype, and refine their product. Tested at school fairs and in the local

community, the lime jam received positive feedback and created opportunities for economic growth.

Through this project, students built leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, while contributing to sustainable livelihoods in their community.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, Mary MacKillop Today is helping young people transform ideas into real impact, turning local challenges into opportunities for growth, learning, and lasting change.



Your support is helping students turn local challenges into opportunities, building skills, confidence, and sustainable livelihoods.

Stories of Change:

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

EDTECH FOR EARLY LEARNING (TIMOR-LESTE)

In Maubara, Liquica, preschool children are discovering a new and engaging ways of learning through the EdTech for Early Learning Project, implemented by Mary MacKillop Today.

This initiative is transforming early education by helping teachers and parents use interactive technology that brings lessons to life while reflecting Timorese culture, language, and identity.

During a recent visit, team members Cameron and Charlotte met with Project Coordinator Enio and Project Officer Maia, observing classrooms using a new early learning app designed to complement the Ministry of Education curriculum. Filled with Tetun language activities including songs, designs, and creative activities, the app helps children see their own culture reflected in what they learn each day.

Children were highly engaged, confidently moving between traditional lessons and digital activities. Teachers like Fernanda have seen clear improvements in participation and enthusiasm: “The children are happier and more engaged. They play an active role in their learning, and parents are very happy to support them at home.”

Parents Maiana and Berta shared that their children are now recognising letters, numbers, and correct pronunciation, and that the app is strengthening learning at home as well as cultural pride.

“Before, we thought education was only the teacher’s job. Now we understand parents must also be involved.”

The project is also attracting interest from neighbouring schools, creating a ripple effect that boosts early literacy,

builds confidence, and deepens pride in Timorese identity.

Thanks to the generous support of the Noel and Carmel O’Brien Family Foundation, this innovative program is expanding across Timor-Leste, giving young learners a strong, culturally grounded start to their education.



SUPPORTING VOLUNTEER TEACHERS FOR BRIGHTER BEGINNINGS (TIMOR-LESTE)

Mary MacKillop Today supported 24 volunteer community pre-school teachers across nine schools in Railaco, Timor-Leste, helping strengthen early learning for 327 children (171 girls and 156 boys). This year, teachers received literacy-focused training, along with mentoring, monitoring, and modest stipends to support their classroom work.

As part of long-term sustainability planning, the project is now transitioning to the Ministry

of Education. The Ministry will take on responsibility for teacher salaries and operational costs, while Mary MacKillop Today continues providing administrative support during the handover.



After being trained by Mary MacKillop Today, I learned how to teach in ways that interest children, and I can now find different ways to help them learn.

– Volunteer Teacher, Ermera District

PARENT TRAINING (TIMOR-LESTE)

Maria lives in Timor-Leste with her husband and two sons. Growing up, she never had the chance to go to school, as education for girls wasn’t considered important and schools were far from her home.

“People used to say that for girls, education didn’t matter, that we would end up in the kitchen,” Maria said.

Recently, Maria took part in a two-week parent training program run by Mary MacKillop Today, her first opportunity to learn in a classroom setting. The training helped parents build confidence and gain practical skills to support their children’s learning and wellbeing, from reading and writing together to understanding children’s rights, basic health, and positive communication.

“This training is very important for me as a mother,” said Maria. “I learned how to pay attention to my children, to communicate well, respect their feelings, and support their learning. Before, I never had the chance to share my ideas.”

Maria says her outlook and her daily life have changed completely.

“Before, if my child didn’t have clean clothes, I would tell them to stay home from school. Now, I understand that was not right. Every morning, I prepare their breakfast, wash their clothes, and make sure they are ready for school. I read and sing with them at night, and I can now write the alphabet and count to one hundred,” she said proudly.



Maria’s dreams have grown alongside her confidence.

“My son wants to become a doctor, and another wants to be a police officer. I will support them so they can have a better future. Thank you to Mary MacKillop Today for giving us this opportunity to learn and to change our way of thinking.”

FIRST NATIONS TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS (AUSTRALIA)

This year, nine scholarship holders proudly graduated through the Mary MacKillop Today First Nations Tertiary Scholarship Program. Their achievements span a diverse range of disciplines, including Law, Medicine, Primary Education, Sports and Exercise Science, Nutrition, Sports Management (Business), and Arts, with many completing double degrees.

Each graduate’s success reflects the strength, resilience, and determination that education can unlock. These scholarships not only help students pursue their studies but also empower them to become leaders and role models within their communities.

As graduate Alissa, who completed a Bachelor of Criminal Justice/Bachelor

of Laws at Charles Sturt University, shared: “In the light of NAIDOC Week, I thought I’d also share that I have been nominated and am a finalist for the CSU Student of the Year Alumni Award for First Nations Excellence. Thanks for being on this journey with me and supporting me!”

Through this program, we continue Transforming Lives Together — Making Change Possible by supporting First Nations students to achieve their educational and professional goals, and to inspire the next generation.



Charles Sturt University

Finalist

2025 Alumni of the Year
First Nations Excellence

Alissa Paulson

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Stories of Change:

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE/LIVELIHOODS

VANILLA BEANS OF HOPE (TIMOR-LESTE)

In Railaco Leten Village, coffee farmer David began experimenting with vanilla cultivation, planting a few vines on his land. With guidance, training, and seedlings provided by Mary MacKillop Today, David learned essential skills such as pollination techniques, organic fertilisation, and crop care that enabled his vanilla crop to thrive.

Today, 250 of David's vanilla vines are bearing fruit, generating a significant income that has allowed him to invest in his family's future, including building a new home and covering his children's school fees. Beyond income, the project fosters sustainable agricultural practices, empowers local farmers, and

creates opportunities for economic independence in the community.

Thanks to the generosity of Mary MacKillop Today's supporters, initiatives like Vanilla Beans of Hope are transforming livelihoods, turning small-scale farming into lasting opportunities and helping families build resilience, stability, and hope for the future.

Thanks also to Mary MacKillop Today and the donors who came to this village to help us with these things. We are grateful.

Your support is helping farmers like David turn crops into livelihoods, building stronger, self-reliant communities in Timor-Leste.

This project receives support from The Edmund Rice Foundation Australia.



CU BEHAFU WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS (TIMOR-LESTE)

In Sobrekek, Railaco Craic, Angelina has long worked on her family's farm, planting vegetables, cassava, taro, and coffee. With guidance from Mary MacKillop Today, she learned business and financial skills that inspired her to start a small home-based kiosk.

Through support from the CU BEHAFU Cooperative, Angelina secured microloans to grow her kiosk, pay school fees for her children, and make essential home repairs. Today, her kiosk provides daily income, improves access to food and household items, and gives her family a reliable source of support.

This project demonstrates how small-scale enterprise, training, and local partnerships can empower women, strengthen households, and build resilient communities.



Mary MacKillop Today helped us to no longer struggle as we did before... it was enough for us. Thank you very much to Mary MacKillop Today and to those who helped.

PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE* (FIJI)

After Tropical Cyclone Yasa devastated their home and livelihood, one family faced five years of hardship and uncertainty. Their farm was destroyed, income vanished, and the future seemed bleak.

Support from the Psychiatric Survivors Association (PSA), enabled by Mary MacKillop Today's donors, provided a \$3,500 grant that transformed their situation. The family invested in essential farming equipment and labour to revive their watermelon farm. With the first successful harvest, they expanded production, replanted additional crops, and created a sustainable source of income.

The impact extended beyond the family. Steady income improved living conditions, allowed for better food and stability, and created opportunities to support others in the community, including part-time employment for a family member in need.



*This project was supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Your support has helped us rise from hardship, rebuild our livelihood, and extend that hope to others. I owe you a great deal—not just for the financial grant, but for restoring our confidence, dignity, and the strength to face life again.



Stories like this show how Mary MacKillop Today's Financial Inclusion programs are not just about financial assistance; they're about helping people with dignity, respect, and belief in their own potential.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION: NO INTEREST LOANS (AUSTRALIA)

When financial challenges arise, access to fair and affordable credit can make all the difference. Through Mary MacKillop Today's No Interest Loans (NILS) program, people on low incomes can purchase essential items or vehicles without the burden of high-interest debt, helping them build financial stability and independence.

For one client, this support came with a special touch of care from Rochelle, one of Mary MacKillop Today's dedicated Financial Inclusion team members.

"From the very beginning, Rochelle was attentive, thoughtful, and incredibly supportive. She answered all my questions with clarity and kindness and went out of her way to think outside the box to help me access the NILS vehicle loan."

Rochelle took the time to understand her client's situation, reviewing every detail carefully and explaining the process in a way that was both professional and deeply compassionate.

"What stood out most to me was how much she genuinely believed in me. Her confidence in my ability to manage the loan meant a lot, and it felt like she was really advocating on my behalf."

Thanks to Rochelle's support, the client was approved for a NILS vehicle loan, opening up new opportunities for work, independence, and stability.

"Rochelle made the whole process feel human, supportive, and clear every step of the way. She truly deserves recognition for her outstanding service."

Stories of Change:

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE/LIVELIHOODS

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING (AUSTRALIA)

What if you had to choose between putting food on the table for your grandchildren or repairing a leaking roof threatening your family's health?

For Libby, a 63-year-old grandmother from rural Australia, that was her reality.

A lifelong carer in her local aged care home, Libby shares her small family home with her daughter, son, and three grandchildren. The house, over 80 years old, had been damaged by time and hardship. The roof leaked, mould spread across the walls, and the winter cold seeped in.

Rising electricity and groceries costs, along with the theft of her car, pushed Libby to breaking point.

"I just felt completely helpless," Libby shared. "Everything just seemed to stand still."

Across Australia, the cost-of-living crisis is pushing people to the edge, with three in five households struggling to afford basic necessities and rural families facing higher costs and limited services.

Libby turned to Mary MacKillop Today's Financial Counselling program, meeting Emma, a Financial Counsellor who guided her with care and compassion. Emma helped Libby understand her finances, create a manageable plan, access energy rebates, and connect with a handyman to repair her roof.

"Emma doesn't just look at my bills," Libby said. "She sees me as a person... It's like having a friend who truly cares."

Today, Libby's home is safe

and warm, her bills are manageable, and her grandchildren are thriving.

Through our Financial Counselling program, Mary MacKillop Today helps families like Libby's regain stability, independence, and hope.

Together, we are **Transforming Lives — Making Change Possible** across Australia.



FINANCIAL COUNSELLING (AUSTRALIA)

At 86, Margaret has always lived modestly, carefully managing her small household budget. But as the cost of living rose, even her careful planning wasn't enough.

Things worsened when her credit card provider offered a cash installment plan. The funds helped with short-term expenses, but repayments doubled her monthly bills. Living on a fixed pension, Margaret quickly fell behind, and the stress began to affect her health.

Thankfully, she reached out to Mary MacKillop Today and met Emma, one of our Financial Counsellors. Emma took the time to understand Margaret's situation and advocate on her behalf.

After contacting the credit card provider, she successfully negotiated to have the debt waived and the account closed.

With immense relief, Margaret cut up her card, freeing herself from the burden of debt.

"I want to thank Emma and Mary MacKillop Today for all their support," she said. "I finally have peace of mind knowing I'm not being drained by debt I can't afford."

Through our Financial Counselling program, Mary MacKillop Today is helping Australians like Margaret regain financial stability and confidence — one conversation at a time.



Thanks to our generous supporters, we are helping to break the cycle of poverty and restore hope for Australians doing it tough amid the cost-of-living crisis.



Because of your support, women like Dorotea are gaining confidence, learning their rights, and becoming leaders in their communities.

ENHANCING WOMEN'S CIVIL PARTICIPATION* (PERU)

In the remote district of Marcapata, Dorotea, a 38-year-old mother and carer, is helping lead change for women in her community through the Kusi Kawsay women's organisation.

With limited schooling and few opportunities, Dorotea once doubted her ability to influence local decisions. But through workshops delivered by Mary MacKillop Today's partner, CCAIJO, she gained new confidence and practical skills in leadership, communication, and self-esteem.

"CCAIJO came to our district and taught us about self-esteem, leadership, and communication."

I feel more confident now — I no longer feel alone. I know we have rights and that together, we can make change." — Dorotea, participant.

Today, Dorotea is an active voice for women's participation in her district. She dreams of helping Kusi Kawsay grow stronger, attracting more women and younger members to ensure their voices continue to be heard in community decision-making.

Australian Aid

*This project was supported by the Australian Government via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING (FIJI)

From Awareness to Action in Tomuka

In the community of Tomuka, 32-year-old mother Arifa has seen her life and neighbourhood transformed through BIRTH Fiji's (Building Innate Resilience Through Hearts) community project, supported by Mary MacKillop Today.

Before the workshops began, awareness around environmental care, gender-based violence (GBV), and positive parenting was limited. *"We didn't know much about how to manage our waste properly, and we never really talked about violence at home,"* Arifa shared.

Through BIRTH workshops, community members learned practical ways to apply the 3R approach, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and are now taking active steps to keep their environment

clean. *"Now we reuse things at home, separate our waste, and talk to our children about keeping our surroundings clean,"* she said with pride.

The training also gave women vital knowledge about GBV support systems. *"Before, we didn't speak up. Now we know the helpline numbers, and we use them. Women here don't stay quiet anymore, we ask for help and help each other."*

Parenting sessions have helped strengthen family relationships too. *"I understand my child better, and I talk to them with more patience,"* Arifa said.

From cleaner streets to safer homes and stronger family bonds, the BIRTH project is helping families in Tomuka create lasting, community-led change.



Thanks to your support, families in Tomuka are building safer, stronger, and more connected communities.

Stories of Change:

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

YAWARDANI JAN-GA (AUSTRALIA)

HORSES HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE HEAL AND GROW

For the past four years, Athena has been part of the Yawardani Janga program which is an Equine Assisted Learning initiative that uses horses to help young Aboriginal people strengthen their social and emotional wellbeing.

Since it began in 2019, Yawardani Jan-ga, which means 'good feeling from horses', has supported more than 2,000 young First Nations people. The program, developed and led by Aboriginal community members in partnership with Murdoch University and supported by Mary MacKillop Today, is providing a light at the end of the tunnel for young people navigating the challenges of adolescence.

By connecting with horses in a culturally grounded, trauma-informed way, participants like Athena are building confidence, self-awareness, and resilience, skills that will stay with them for life.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Yawardani Jan-ga continues to empower young Aboriginal people to heal, grow, and flourish.

"I can really calm down when I'm with the horses... I can really slow down and I feel very happy."

— Athena



HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS COMMUNITY GRANTS (AUSTRALIA)

In June 2024, Okines Community House hosted its much-loved Winter Solstice Lantern Parade, celebrating community, culture, and conservation. This year's theme, *T Politus – Red Handfish*, highlighted the plight of the critically endangered Red Handfish — a unique species found only in Tasmania.

The event began with a Welcome to Country and storytelling by local Tasmanian Aboriginal Elders, who shared the deep cultural connections between land, sea, and community.

In the lead-up to the parade, Okines Community House ran two days of lantern-making workshops, giving hundreds of local schoolchildren the chance to learn about marine conservation and create lanterns inspired by the Red Handfish.

On the night, more than 600 people gathered to light up the streets in a vibrant celebration of community spirit and environmental care. Information displays about the Red Handfish helped raise awareness about local conservation efforts and the importance of protecting the fragile marine ecosystem.

One participant shared, *"Having recently moved to the area, I really enjoyed my first Okines Lantern Parade. The Welcome to Country and community spirit were amazing. I didn't know anything about the Red Handfish before, but I learned so much from the event."*

Through support from Mary MacKillop Today's Highways & Byways Community Grants program, Okines Community House brought people together to celebrate connection



to Country, environmental stewardship, and shared responsibility for protecting Tasmania's unique biodiversity for generations to come.

COMMUNITY GRANTS (AUSTRALIA)

GIVING CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO FIND THEIR VOICE

Through the Cockburn Ear Health Program, supported by Mary MacKillop Today, Aboriginal children in and around Perth are receiving the specialised care they need to thrive. Since January 2025, the program has provided free ENT, Audiology and Speech Pathology sessions, helping to address hearing loss and communication challenges caused by ear health issues.

More than 100 children have already been supported by the Speech Pathology service in clinics, schools, homes, and day care centres. Families say the program has been life-

changing, giving their children the opportunity to communicate, learn, and grow with confidence.

"The service has been wonderful. My grandson and granddaughter have come so far. Junior's speech has come along, and his understanding has grown in leaps and bounds. It's been great that the therapists can come to us because we are not always able to get to the clinic for sessions there." — Grandparent of children supported through the Cockburn Ear Health Program.

Thanks to your support, Aboriginal children are gaining stronger voices, brighter futures, and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

FREE2B GIRLS (AUSTRALIA)

Across rural Tasmania, Free2b Girls is creating a place where girls can truly belong. With locations in St Helens, Campbell Town, Longford, and Beaconsfield, the program offers a safe, welcoming space where participants feel valued, supported, and empowered.

For many girls, Free2b is more than an after-school program; it's a consistent space to connect, explore, and express themselves. Its non-judgmental environment fosters belonging, and some long-term participants are now mentoring others, sharing the guidance that helped them thrive.

Free2b empowers girls in rural and isolated communities through mentorship, activities, and community support, helping them build confidence, resilience, and leadership skills.

Support from Mary MacKillop Today and Highways and Byways enabled essential infrastructure and a paid staff member, strengthening the program's impact and ensuring more girls can flourish.



How Your Support Reaches Further

Your generosity doesn't just fund programs, it strengthens the foundations for lasting change. Across every initiative, we embed three key themes that amplify your impact and ensure no one is left behind. These cross-cutting priorities guide how we work with communities, partners, and organisations, and shape the way we operate internally.

GENDER EQUITY

Your support helps ensure all people, regardless of gender identity or sexuality, have equal access to opportunities, resources, and rights. Sometimes this means providing different types or levels of support to ensure everyone can participate fully and thrive.



DISABILITY EQUITY & RIGHTS

We work to make sure people with disabilities can engage meaningfully and equally in all activities, free from barriers and discrimination. Through your generosity, we consult with people with disabilities, partner with representative organisations, and embed inclusion at every stage of our programs.



ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Through your support, we promote sustainable practices that protect communities and ecosystems today while safeguarding the future. We integrate environmental awareness into all programs, acknowledging the vital link between people, place, and the planet.



Safeguarding Commitment

Ensuring the well-being and safety of children and adults who engage with our programs and services is our utmost priority. Our Safeguarding commitment extends to staff and representatives, both in Australia and in collaboration with partner organisations overseas. Our policy aligns with ACFID, DFAT and Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (formerly Catholic Professional Standards Limited). Our Safeguarding Committee continues to meet before each Board meeting to ensure that Safeguarding remains a central organisational focus.

*Your generosity ensures these priorities are more than principles
– they are the way real change happens.*

Supporting Communities to Thrive: Our Supporters and Partners

This year, your generosity continued to make a real difference, even amid a challenging fundraising environment. Economic pressures, rising operational costs, intensifying competition in the not-for-profit sector, and tightening data and privacy regulations created challenges, yet together we achieved strong results to support communities in Australia and overseas.

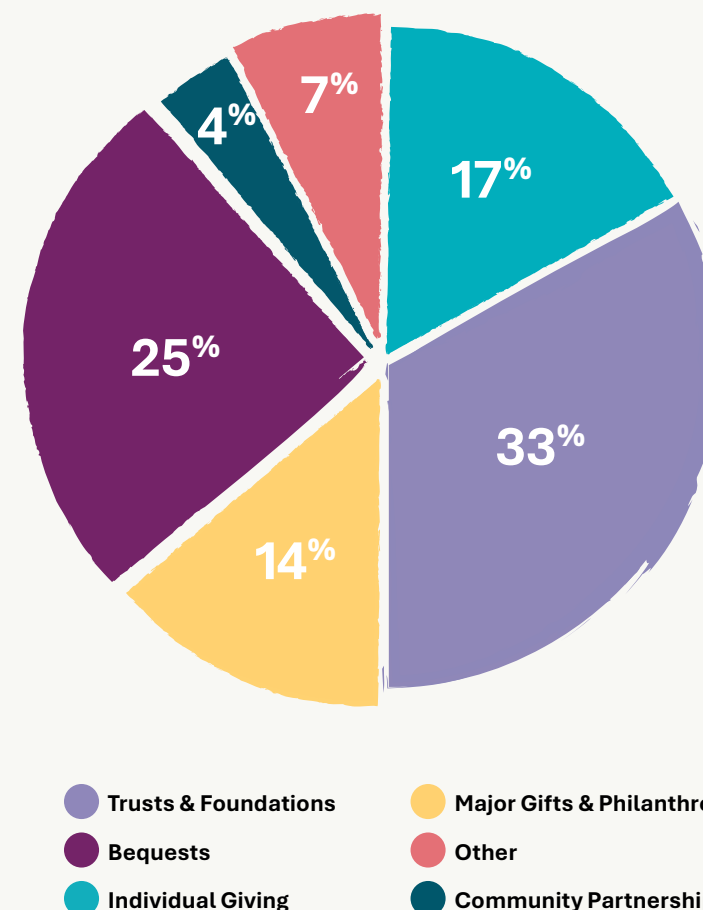
Your support reached us through multiple channels: Individual Giving, Philanthropy, and Major Giving, Bequests, Philanthropic Trusts & Foundations, and Community Partnerships. Our campaigns, including the annual Christmas and Tax Appeals and Feast Day activities, were made possible by donors like you.

Even as many faced economic pressures themselves, our supporters gave with generosity and heart, helping people in need. We are also deeply grateful to trusts, foundations, corporations, and community organisations, whose partnership amplifies the impact of every gift and ensures your support reaches further.

*Every gift, large or small,
helped transform lives
– thank you for powering change.*

OUR FUNDRAISING MIX FY2024/2025

Your generosity fuels every part of our work—from providing education and training to supporting livelihoods and inclusion across Australia and overseas.



HOW YOUR SUPPORT FUELS OUR MISSION

Your generosity, combined with support from partners, funders, and the wider community, ensures Mary MacKillop Today can continue transforming lives through education and opportunity. This year, we strengthened our financial sustainability through a balanced mix of fundraising, grants, and partnerships. Every contribution helps us reach more people, build stronger communities, and create lasting change.

\$3.7+
million total support
from donations
and bequests



Supporting Communities to Thrive:

Our Supporters and Partners

MAURINE’S STORY – A LEGACY OF HOPE

For 16 years, Maurine has been a dedicated Josephite Companion, inspired by the life and vision of Saint Mary MacKillop. She has joined seven In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop pilgrimages, visiting places connected to Mary’s story and drawing strength from her example of courage and compassion.

A retired teacher, Maurine shares Saint Mary’s belief in the power of education to transform lives.

“Saint Mary changed the lives of the most destitute and helped young people follow their dreams. That’s why I support Mary MacKillop Today and why I plan to leave a legacy to continue this mission.”

Through her generosity, Maurine helps create opportunities for people living on the margins today, ensuring change continues for generations to come - a testament to how supporters like her make change possible.

JANE’S STORY – A COMMITMENT THAT LASTS

“Saint Mary MacKillop was a phenomenal person. She is what we should all aspire to be.”

Jane has been giving monthly to Mary MacKillop Today since 2012. Growing up in Shepparton as the eldest of six, she learned the importance of caring for others early on. At school, she was inspired by social justice leaders, especially Saint Mary, who supported people others had abandoned.

Jane’s connection to Timor-Leste began in 2000, when she helped run a coffee-fundraising project for a local village.

The experience strengthened her belief in the power of education and confirmed that Mary MacKillop Today was the right cause to support.

“I am happy to giving monthly donations as it means I have a really considered way of contributing. Knowing my donations allow the organisation to plan its projects properly is a great feeling.”

Supporters like Jane make change possible every day, contributing to lasting change through education and practical life skills.

With Gratitude

This year, Mary MacKillop Today’s work has been made possible by the collective dedication, generosity, and passion of our community. To our Board, staff, partners, donors, supporters, and the many beneficiaries whose lives you touch, thank you.

Together, we carry forward the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, bringing compassion, education, and opportunity to those who need it most. Your generosity is transforming lives, helping children access education, supporting families to achieve financial independence and enabling communities to thrive.

From classrooms in Timor-Leste and Peru, to projects that promote economic independence and livelihoods in Fiji, to local programs supporting First Nations individuals and families in Australia, your support is building skills, creating opportunities, and shaping brighter futures.

Every donation and partnership fuels learning, livelihoods, and resilience, bringing meaningful change where it is needed most. It is because of your kindness, your belief in justice, and your care for others that we can make a difference every day. Thank you for walking with us, believing in our vision, and helping us bring hope, dignity, and opportunity to those we serve.

Together, we are Transforming Lives and truly Making Change Possible.

The Leaders You Support

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kieran Gleeson
Chairperson
Board Member since 2019



Kate Barnett
Deputy Chairperson
Board Member since 2017



Bernadette Wrafter
Board Director
Board Member since 2020



Hilary Johnston-Croke
Board Director
Board Member since 2020



Michael Johnston
Board Director
Board Member since 2024



Ray O'Brien
Appointed 29 April 2025



Darcy Godden
Appointed 28 Nov 2024



Ann Wigglesworth
Appointed 28 Nov 2024



Jane Sloane
Appointed 28 Nov 2024



Anthony Abraham
Chair of the Audit Finance and Risk Committee
Board Member 2015 - November 2024



John Collins
Member of the Audit Finance and Risk Committee
Board Member 2018 - April 2024



Grahame Petersen
Member of the Audit Finance and Risk Committee
Board Member 2018 - November 2024

SENIOR LEADERSHIP



Jane Woolford
CEO



Alex Mitchell
CFO
Appointed 11 Nov 2024



Belinda Pratten
Operations and Strategic Initiatives Director



Francesca Cinelli
Fundraising and Marketing Director



Caitlin McGrath
Programs Director

OTHER KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DURING THE PERIOD WERE:

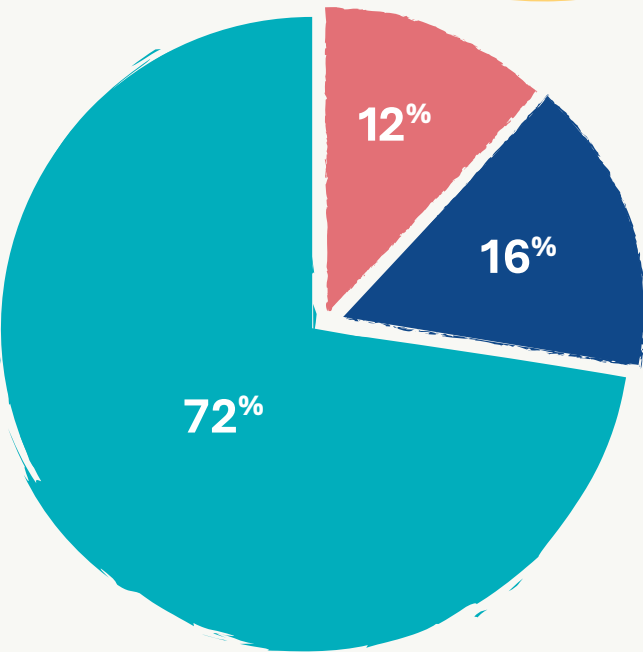
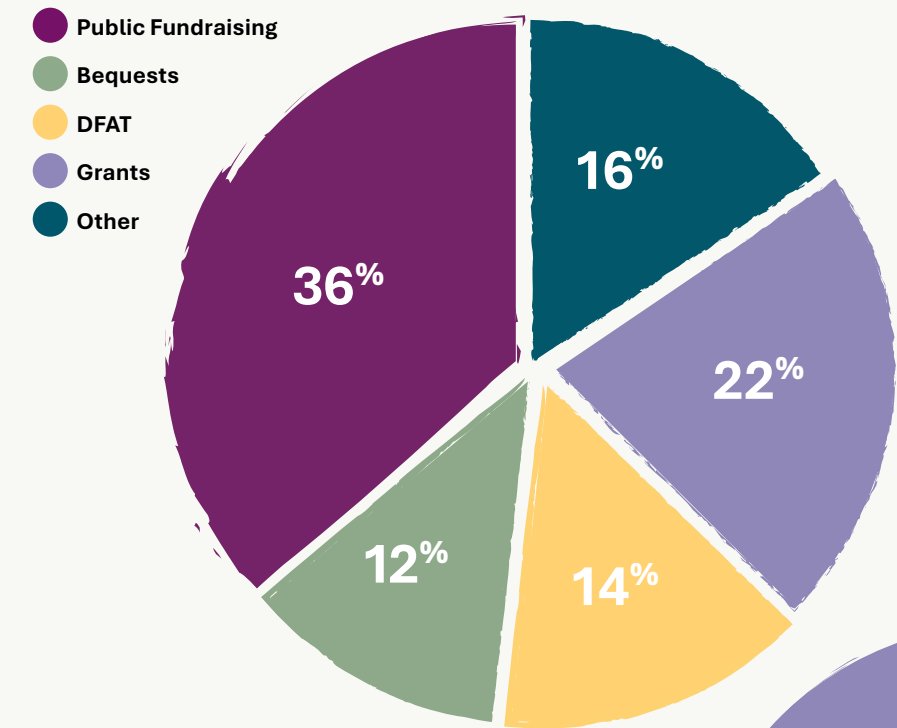
Maria Attard
Australian Programs Director

Siobhan Reynolds
Marketing and Communications Director

Tessa Henwood-Mitchell
International Programs Director

Financial Snapshot

REVENUE SOURCES TO 30 JUNE 2025

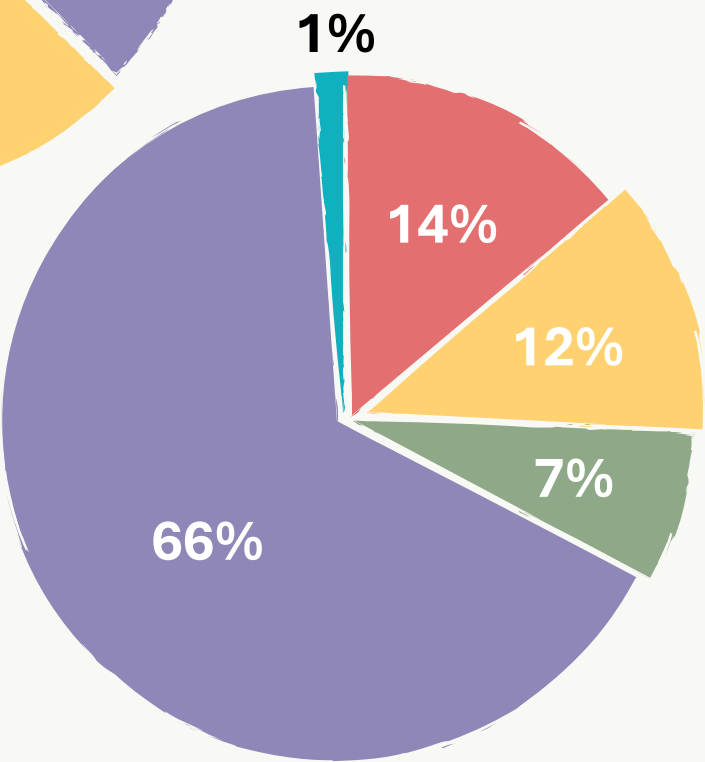


EXPENSES TO 30 JUNE 2025

- Program Expenditure
- Fundraising Costs
- Accountability & Administration

OUR OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

Total current assets	11,477,673
Total non-current assets	10,257,557
Total assets	21,735,230
Total current liabilities	1,346,882
Total non-current liabilities	81,013
Total liabilities	1,427,895
Net assets	20,307,335
Total equity	20,307,335



SPENDING BY IMPACT PILLAR

- Equity In Education
- Amplifying Voices
- Active Citizenship
- Financial Inclusion
- Economic Independence

How Your Donations are Used

OUR SOURCES OF FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

DONATIONS AND GIFTS:

Monetary	2,823,109
Bequests and Legacies	930,047

GRANTS:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1,157,229
Other Australian	1,754,248

OTHER REVENUE:

Investment Revenue	395,454
Interest Revenue from Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	463,393
Net (Loss) /Gain on Financial Assets Classified at Fair Value through Profit or Loss	337,624
Other Revenue - Monetary	39,601
Other Revenue - Non-Monetary	18,316

TOTAL REVENUE 7,919,021

Deduct expenditure

INTERNATIONAL AID AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

International Programs - Development	4,431,102
International Programs - Program Support Costs	739,150
International Programs - Non-Development Programs	55,870

Fundraising Costs - Public	1,571,885
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	103,673
Other Expenditure	1,101,161

DOMESTIC PROGRAMS:

Domestic Programs - Development	1,486,137
Domestic Programs - Program Support Costs	228,928

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 9,717,906

Net Deficit	(1,798,885)
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Read the full report at:
marymackilloptoday.org.au/our-reports

Governance and Compliance



The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak body for Australian non-government organisations involved in international development and humanitarian action.

As an ACFID member, Mary MacKillop Today is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulating sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints



Mary MacKillop Today is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing Australia's development program. To maintain accreditation, Mary MacKillop Today's systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Australian Government.

Mary MacKillop Today receives support through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Mary MacKillop Today welcomes feedback about our organisation. To provide feedback, or lodge a complaint or compliment, call 02 8912 2777, write to Mary MacKillop Today, PO Box 1646 North Sydney 2060 or send an email to complaints@marymackilloptoday.org.au

View our policy www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/feedback-and-complaints-policy

How You Can Continue Transforming Lives

Thank you for helping make change possible through your partnership. Your support ensures people in Australia and overseas can access education and practical life skills, creating opportunities for stronger, more hopeful futures. Together, we're changing lives every day.

CONTINUE MAKING CHANGE POSSIBLE BY:

- **Become an Independent Spirit** – Join our monthly giving community inspired by Saint Mary MacKillop. Your regular support helps create opportunities for children, families, and whole communities.
 - **Make a Donation** – Every gift strengthens our mission to break the cycle of poverty through education and training.
 - **Leave a Bequest** – A gift to Mary MacKillop Today in your Will extends your compassion into the future, helping change lives for generations to come.
 - **Stay Connected** – Sign up to receive our free newsletter and see how your support is making change possible.
 - **Join Us Online** – Follow us on social media and share the message of changing lives together.
- Thank you for walking alongside us as we continue to make change possible where it's needed most.



I'm so happy as my lessons are fun now. I get to play games with my best friend David but I'm also learning maths at the same time.

School is a much nicer place for me to come to every day.

When I grow up, I want to become a teacher so that I can help other children become intelligent people.

– Francisco

MARY
MACKILLOP
today



MARY MACKILLOP *today*

“Together,
creating lasting impact
in communities”

Scan to
donate:



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North Sydney 2060

Phone: 02 8912 2777

Email: hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au

ACN 159 091 737 | ABN 88 808 531 480

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 www.marymackilloptoday.org.au