



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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ONE MISSION MANY MINISTRIES

The Church has a three-fold nature of “proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity”. Each of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries exemplifies the Church’s “ministry of charity”, which is indispensable to the nature of the Church.¹

In “exercising the ministry of charity”, Mary Aikenhead Ministries continue the mission of Jesus – the calling to be his presence to those whom we serve across the ministries; this is the one mission. Our education, health, aged care, medical research and community services are one dimension of the many ministries. Another dimension is our different roles within Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

Across our colleges, hospitals, aged care facilities, research institutes and other services there are some 25,000 people, both staff and volunteers – theirs is the critical **ministry of service** within the education, health and outreach ministries. They are the backbone of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, bringing the mission of Jesus daily into our facilities – they are the hands, feet and the face of Christ to those whom our ministries serve.

In turn, the senior executives like the Colleges Principals and CEOs of the health facilities and research institutes and their teams, exercise the **ministry of leadership**. Apart from these leaders’ accountability for ensuring excellence in Catholic schooling, healthcare or research, respectively, and in the many auxiliary services associated with these ministries, our senior executives are called to model servant leadership to their staff and volunteers. Jesus’ life exemplified the ultimate servant leader and the ministry of leadership brings this aspect of His mission to our ministries in Brisbane, Griffith, Melbourne, Sydney and Toowoomba.

We also have the **ministry of governance** exercised by the Board Directors of St Vincent’s Health Australia, St Vincent’s Clinic, the colleges, the research institutes and the foundations within Mary Aikenhead Ministries. In governing as Directors of Catholic ministries, they develop a strategic direction to ensure that the facilities flourish, exemplify contemporary best practice, and crucially remain faithful to continuing the mission of Jesus.

¹ Pope Benedict XVI (2005) *Deus Caritas Est*, §25.

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Back: David Robinson, Linda Ferrington rsc, Dr Tessa Ho, Gary Humphrys
Front: David Alcock, Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, Helen Clarke rsc

ONE MISSION

MANY MINISTRIES

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Lastly, we have the **ministry of stewardship** exercised, in our case, by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. The Trustees' role is a 'calling' to what is technically titled 'canonical stewardship' and the Trustees (canonical stewards) have both Church (canonical) and civil responsibility for the ministries entrusted to them.

In recent years, religious institutes, such as the Sisters of Charity, have instigated the creation of ministerial public juridic persons (PJPs), new legal entities under Church law and a pioneering model of sponsorship and of lay leadership for their ministries to ensure their continuation as works of the Catholic Church. Thus, the ministerial PJPs provide for long-term continuation and development of the ministries. Most importantly, in continuing Church ministries, the PJPs benefit the disadvantaged and marginalised.

The Trustees' ministry of stewardship implies responsive to the "signs of the times" to ensure that the ministries are developed and adapted to meet the needs of the contemporary Church and society. At any given time, a group of the Trustees are commissioned to sponsor this evolution of the ministries whilst exercising vigilance to ensure harmony with their heritage and discernment about their 're-founding' to ensure that they continue to serve the mission of Jesus.

Thus, trusteeship is developing as a new Church ministry, particularly for lay members of the Church. Vatican II affirmed the "vocation of the laity":

*"Modern conditions demand that their apostolate be broadened and intensified...making the laity ever more conscious of their own responsibility and encouraging them to serve Christ and the Church in all circumstances."*²

Some 50 years later this vision is flowering in laypeople accepting and performing the role of canonical steward of ministries (and in taking on many other Church roles).

St Paul's *Letter to the Romans* (12:4-6) highlights the many different gifts of its members that make up the one body that is the Church. In the same way, the mission of Jesus animated thorough Mary Aikenhead Ministries has the essential gifts of service, leadership, governance and stewardship of all its members – **one mission, many ministries.**

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

² Pope Paul VI (1963) *Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*, §1.

WHAT IS A MINISTERIAL PUBLIC JURIDIC PERSON (PJP)?

A **juridic person** is the Church's canonical equivalent of a corporation and is set up for one or more specific purposes. Each juridic person functions through designated physical persons who serve as its representative according to its approved statutes – for Mary Aikenhead Ministries, these are the Trustees.

A **ministerial** PJP represents the Church in the same way that religious institutes did with respect to the ministries previously. Such entities are called **public** juridic persons because their ministries are formally sanctioned by a Church authority and carried out publicly under its auspices.

Ministerial PJPs have the role and responsibilities of stewardship of ministries, enabling the ministries to relate directly to the Church.

2017 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FORUM



Toby Hall, SVHA Group CEO, Sol Bellel, Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service Chair and Dr Mark Wenitong, Apunipima Cape York Health Council Senior Medical Advisor at the forum

St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) held its second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander forum this year in October. This two-day event in Sydney included 58 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and 35 senior executives from across SVHA including Human Resource Managers and Mission Leaders along with two of our Elders from NSW attending the event. The first day was inspirational because it gave all staff the opportunity to meet and greet everyone who works within SVHA over a dinner which included a *Welcome to Country* by Auntie Fay Carroll and a performance by Transcendence Dancers.

Our dinner speaker was Dr Mark Wenitong, Senior Medical Advisor, Apunipima Cape York Health Council, a community-controlled Aboriginal health organisation responsible for delivering high quality, culturally appropriate, comprehensive primary health care to eleven Cape York communities. We also had a section entitled 'On the Couch' involving Toby Hall – Group CEO, SVHA, Sol Bellel – Chair, Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service and Bart Moye – General Manager, National Partnerships, HESTA (Health Employees Superannuation Trust Australia).

This section highlighted the diversity between the organisations in how they approach reconciliation but also that how they address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health can be similar. The second day involved speakers sharing their stories, knowledge and insights about reconciliation activities across SVHA but also provided the opportunity for everyone to share their thoughts and reflect on what has happened over the last year.

Associate Professor Anthony Schembri, CEO, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney, spoke passionately about some of the achievements in its Aboriginal Health Unit and across the public hospital. Also, Karen Mundine, CEO, Reconciliation Australia, spoke highly of what SVHA is doing and the how we are achieving many of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) targets.

I think hosting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander forum was a great success because it allowed us as a group to showcase our achievements, accomplishments, successes, triumphs, stories and most importantly our journeys in engagement and employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As two participants stated:

"Overall the conference allows all Indigenous staff to connect, come together and celebrate what we do. It also allows us to comment and improve our (SVHA) vision."

"Excellent forum – inspiring stories and recognition of the work being accomplished and the vision for the future."

Ms Violet Singh

HR Indigenous Programs Specialist, Shared Services, Private and Care Services Division, St Vincent's Health Australia

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS

These awards are presented annually in each of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Colleges by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. In the spirit of Mary Aikenhead and her Sisters of Charity, the students who receive these awards must have a demonstrable commitment to the service of others, especially the poor and marginalised, and through their words and actions be strong advocates for equality.

Through the example of their leadership they have inspired others to become involved in social justice initiatives and programs and action to address inequality and a lack of justice for all.

Trustee Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM attended the final assembly at Catholic Ladies' College on 20 October where Adele Greenwood received the 2017 award.

On 25 October Professor McMullen and fellow Trustee Mr David Alcock then joined Year 12 students and their families for the St Columba's College Graduation Mass and awards ceremony for the presentation to Catherine Christie.

At the Mt St Michael's College Celebrates evening on 2 November, Trustee Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM conferred the award jointly on Josephine Dryer and Georgina Devenish-Meares. The St Vincent's College award was presented on behalf of the Trustees by MAEA Ministry Leader Mr Peter Kelly and Principal Mrs Anne Fry to Molly Spalding at the College graduation ceremony on 19 September.



St Vincent's College awardee Molly Spalding with MAEA Ministry Leader Peter Kelly and Principal Anne Fry



St Columba's College awardee Catherine Christie with Trustees David Alcock and Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries congratulate these students on their outstanding commitment to social justice and service in the tradition of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity and in bringing to life the Mary Aikenhead Ministries' values of love, hope, compassion and justice.

Mr Peter Kelly
MAEA Ministry Leader

JOURNEYS: A REFLECTION



Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, David Robinson and Helen Clarke rsc

As Sr Helen, Gabrielle and myself complete our terms as Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, we reflect on the special privilege afforded us over the last years.

We responded to the call to stewardship of the Ministries created by the Sisters of Charity of Australia and inspired by Venerable Mary Aikenhead. In their discernment to sponsor the creation of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and transfer responsibilities of their Ministries, the Congregation continued the tradition of partnership and relationship with the laity and the wider church.

In accepting this invitation we have received many blessings. We have witnessed the growth and development of the health, aged care, research, education and community care works which are inspired by a deep commitment to the needs of the most marginalised and forgotten. These works are carried on daily by skilled and creative people who have open and generous hearts.

In establishing any new enterprise there are many challenges and there is much change. This can be especially challenging where the community is passionate and long committed to the cause. Many difficult decisions, guided by the Spirit, must be made by those in leadership. It will only be looking back in retrospect that will determine if they were the "right" decisions for the Ministries. But it has been the strength of the relationships at all levels that has allowed proper discernment and then implementation.

In this respect I would refer to the major restructures that have taken place in both the health and education ministries. While those in the Ministries continue to respond to the signs of the times, we observe the creative responses to the needs of the poor and vulnerable, the ongoing commitment to personal formation opportunities, and the overall sustainability of the Ministries despite the challenge of ever-changing funding arrangements from those who control such matters.

On a personal level, the past years as a Trustee have been an opportunity for deepening of faith and spirituality. The Trustees are continually inspired by the commitment of our leaders and all who serve.

Our values of Hope, Compassion, Justice and Love are our bedrock. As the departing Trustees move to the next the phase of their lives, we leave our love and fondest best wishes to those Trustees who continue and our deep appreciation to the Congregation and all in the Ministries.

Mr David Robinson
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

INCLUSIVE HEALTH PROGRAM

ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA



The annual SVHA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum 2016 involved Aboriginal staff, community elders and senior leaders working together to ensure our services are welcoming and inclusive to all members of the Aboriginal community

The Inclusive Health Program (IHP) was established in July 2015 with the aim of increasing St Vincent's Health Australia's (SVHA) impact on servicing the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Through service innovation, research and advocacy into areas that intrinsically relate to our work in health and aged care, the goal of the IHP is to enhance our response to systemic and societal issues that affect the dignity of vulnerable people ensuring they are able to flourish. An attentiveness to their vulnerability is required if we take seriously the principle of the 'preferential option for the poor' so vulnerability is the key lens we are using to focus the work of the IHP.

So far, we have funded over 60 different projects both within SVHA and with external partners focusing on five specific groups:

- People with mental health concerns
- People with drug and alcohol addiction
- People with health concerns who are homeless
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People with health concerns who are prisoners

In addition, the IHP extends its focus to people experiencing family violence and to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees.

One significant issue is the overlap between these groups and thus the level of complexity with which many live. This, in turn, highlights how the health system needs to respond. Two of our projects working with people who are homeless found that 66 percent of participants had an addiction concern, 71 percent identified mental health issues, and all had had involvement with police and the criminal justice system.

We have also found that the experience of trauma is a common, concerning history in the lives of most of the vulnerable. This means that vulnerable people who attend our services bring with them feelings of loneliness, unworthiness, intense emotional pain, and flashbacks of traumatic experiences coupled with a sense of hopelessness. It is with this understanding that services to the vulnerable must be provided, service users approached, staff equipped, and the health system built.

This model calls for time to establish relationships, acknowledgement of each person's unique life story, and the high likelihood that each story will include a history of trauma as well as a history of surviving.

IHP seeks to address the particular needs of vulnerable people in order to overcome their barriers to health. This aim is deceptively simple but the steps required to address it are 'complex' due to the factors that bring about inequity and 'complicated' due to the layers of services, staff, policies and past traumas that impact on the delivery of care to the vulnerable.

These interdependencies and layers are not insurmountable, but do require a health system that is created and funded differently, and focuses on possibilities over limitations. When we see these significant challenges, we are reminded of the passionate thinking of our founder Mary Aikenhead: "Just because it has not been done before is no reason why it should not be done now".

For this future direction to be successful, we acknowledge that it takes time to establish relationships, and to affirm each person's unique life story. As the IHP continues to grow, we expect to develop a body of evidence along with practice examples and patient experiences that highlight how we can improve outcomes for vulnerable people.

SVHA and the IHP is in a strong, committed and well-informed position to support the ongoing advocacy that is needed to push for the broad changes in public policy that are required to respond better to those with complex needs. But more importantly we must remember the inherent dignity of every individual who comes to our services, and create health and aged care systems which ensure that person can flourish. In the words from one of our homeless clients who was engaged in the IHP:

"I wasn't stranded anymore. You know what I mean, eh? They found me, and I could talk to people about my issues openly and not be judged."

Mr John Willis

Group Manager Inclusive Health, St Vincent's Health Australia

INTRODUCING CHRISTINE RAESIDE

TMAM'S NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On 26 October 2017, the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries were delighted to welcome Ms Christine Raeside as their new Executive Officer.



Christine has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of NSW, is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and, over the course of her career, has had significant experience at a senior level within finance, governance, risk, communications and operations. Christine came to Mary Aikenhead Ministries from the Fred Hollows Foundation where she held the position of Governance Manager. Prior to this appointment, Christine was with KPMG, where she held several senior positions including KPMG Board Secretary and Associate Director, Finance.

Christine lives in Sydney with her husband and two children. Significantly, she is a graduate of one of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries schools, St Vincent's College, Potts Point.

In her role as Executive Officer, Christine provides high-level support to major Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries committees and activities like the annual Mary Aikenhead Ministries conference. She will engage with key stakeholders across Mary Aikenhead Ministries and in the wider Catholic sector and looks forward to meeting them over the coming months.

[Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM](#)
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

THE PILGRIMAGE TO HOBART

On 10 November, twenty pilgrims gathered in Hobart to follow in the footsteps of the Sisters of Charity in Tasmania.

This important formation experience was undertaken by pilgrims from across St Vincent's Health Australia (including the CEO of the new Griffith Hospital), our education ministry, the Congregational Office and the Principal of the newly opened St Patrick's Primary School in Mortlake.

After an introductory meeting and dinner, the following morning the pilgrims met 'Toby', the convict on the wharf, then moved across significant sites until finishing with Mass in St Joseph's Church which was celebrated by Emeritus Archbishop Doyle.

[Sr Helen Clarke rsc](#)
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

MAY THE LOVE, PEACE
AND JOY OF THE HOLY
FAMILY BE WITH YOU
AND THOSE YOU LOVE
THIS CHRISTMAS

SEASONS GREETINGS
FROM THE TRUSTEES
OF MARY AIKENHEAD
MINISTRIES

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Nativity Scene

The painting is a celebration of Jesus Christ who is held on high in the coolamon. The white figure is the Holy Spirit that is always with us; whoever looks at the painting will receive his blessing.

The star is the guiding light to help people on their journey in life and to find Jesus.

The blue cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross to redeem our sins and celebrates His birth.

Duwun Lee * August 2007



Image reproduced with the kind permission of the artist, Duwun Lee, and the assistance of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council.

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SAVE THE DATE TMAM CONFERENCE 2018

The Trustees are pleased to announce that the TMAM conference will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart on 10-11 May 2018.

The theme of the 2018 conference is

'The Heart of our Mission: Serving at the Margins'.

The conference is the primary formation activity conducted by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries for leaders of their health, education, research, aged care and outreach ministries.



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