

Assumptions and Guiding Principles

The Future Sponsorship Steering Committee developed a set of Assumptions and Guiding Principles as part of their process to ensure that any recommendation made regarding the future sponsorship of the Incorporated Ministries was in keeping with the charism and traditions of the Sisters of Charity of Australia and with the teachings of the Catholic Church. These have guided discussions throughout the entire process.

Underlying Assumptions

1. A recognition by the Congregation that the focus of religious life in the 21st century has shifted from administering and governing the ministry works to ensuring the prophetic nature of the ministries into the future.
2. There is a deepening awareness that the role of religious involves sharing of the charism, spirituality and theological knowledge with those who will lead the works into the future, in order to keep alive the vision of Mary Aikenhead which is lived out in the founding story of the Sisters of Charity of Australia.
3. A desire by the Congregation to embrace the Vatican II Council's direction of engaging in a partnership with all who are baptised. The universal call to holiness and mission (vocation) is shared by all. Thus, the works of the Congregation are undertaken by all who share in this call.
4. To prepare for future leadership within the Church, consideration needs to include the obligations and responsibilities of stewardship in canon and civil law and the demographic profile of the Congregation.
5. Ongoing financial support for the Congregation will be ensured prior to the establishment of the PJP and reviewed, in consultation with the CL&C as agreed.

Guiding Principles

1. In the first instance, *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will include the Incorporated Ministries of the Congregation.
2. The ministries will remain works of the Catholic Church.
3. *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will aim for simplicity and flexibility while recognising the complexity of the organisation at an operational level.
4. *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will have the ability to respond to “the signs of the times”.
5. It will embrace the principle of subsidiarity in all its endeavours.
6. *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will be open to engagement and collaboration with other like-minded groups to enhance the Mission of Jesus Christ into the future.
7. The structure of *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will be sustainable and perpetual in the Church.
8. *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will be effective, efficient, ethical and financially viable.
9. A leadership formation process will be integral to *Mary Aikenhead Ministries*.
10. Future leaders will participate in formation in Gospel-based servant leadership; the teachings of the Catholic Church; spirituality of the baptised and the charism and spirituality of the Sisters of Charity of Australia.
11. The moral and spiritual support of the Congregation will be offered to *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* for as long as feasible.
12. *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will invite Sisters of Charity of Australia to contribute their presence, experience, involvement, wisdom and spirituality for as long as Sisters are willing and able.