



# Women's Matter

McAuley Community Services for Women 2015 | 16

UPDATE Pickett St  
Victorian State Government pledges  
**\$4 million**

www.mcauleycare.org.au

# Our worst year ever!

• Rates of family violence keep on rising. • Pressure builds on government to provide funding for accommodation services.



McAuley Care is the only safe house in Victoria open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jocelyn Biggild.

McAuley Community Services for Women will soon realise one of its visions of a purpose-built accommodation and support hub for women, thanks to the investment of \$7 million from the Victorian Sisters of Mercy and a further \$4 million from the Victorian State Labor government. We have seen through our review of the existing McAuley House programs just how important this comprehensive service is to women who have been homeless, often side and exposed to trauma, violence or isolation. The review found that a specific women's space is inherent, especially for safety, which is a bedrock for good health; that the holistic nature of support does foster confidence and friendship; that learning and friendship remain the opportunity to remain in a community where you are known is a protective factor against housing and repeat episodes of poor health and that case managers are valued and important in helping women achieve their goals. Investing in our workforce is important in our 2015 concluded three year workforce sustainability plan with a customised leadership program, developed in the knowledge that management and leadership skills need to be fostered, and that a successful workforce is key to a successful organisation. We value our staff ideas which drive most of our innovation, often starting with observations about the gaps in the system. One example is the Court Support 4 Kids project - a court-based program aimed at diverting children so that their mothers can finalise their court matters. This year the program has been adopted by Bethany Community Support in Geelong court. The program is set to be expanded to metropolitan and non-metropolitan centres. Another innovation by McAuley Women's Centre is a close and disappointing

Jocelyn Biggild  
Thanks to the investment of \$4 million by McAuley and Labor

Special Edition: McAuley Community Services for Women

**IT TAKES A SPLIT  
SECOND TO HIT A  
WOMAN AND A  
LIFETIME TO UNDO  
THE DAMAGE.**

A punch, slap or hit happens in seconds but its effect can last much longer. Not only is there the obvious physical damage you could cause to your wife, partner or kids, there's the longer lasting damage as well.

If you can just put a few seconds between you and the exact moment of violence, you can escape a lifetime of regret and hurt.

**If you feel you're about to cross the line, leave the house. Take a walk. Get physical in some other way. It's the safest option for everyone, and a much stronger stance to take than violence.**

*A message from McAuley Community Services for Women.*



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# McAuley Community Services for Women

## Our Foundations

Catherine McAuley opened the doors of the 'House of Mercy' in Dublin, Ireland, in 1827. Her dream of providing disadvantaged women and children with housing, education and religious and social services – enabling them to find a brighter future – had become a reality.

Catherine founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. Led by Mother Ursula Frayne, the Sisters of Mercy first arrived in Australia in 1846. Thirty years ago, the Sisters of Mercy established Regina Coeli (now McAuley House) followed by Mercy Care (now McAuley Care) in 1988.

McAuley Community Services for Women was formed in 2008 when Regina Coeli and Mercy Care services were combined to expand the Sisters of Mercy commitment to women and children and social justice.

Today, Catherine's founding spirit and ethos continues to live on at McAuley Community Services for Women.

## Our Values

- › McAuley Community Services for Women is committed to hospitality, compassion, justice and community. In our daily encounters we offer women the opportunity for empowerment in their lives.

## Our Vision

- › Through our service, McAuley Community Services for Women is committed to advocate for a better, safer and just society.

## Our Mission

- › McAuley Community Services for Women is a ministry of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, impelled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and enriched by the spirituality of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

Our mission is to provide accommodation, services, advocacy and support for women who are homeless and women and their accompanying children who experience family violence.

# From the Chair



## We should be ashamed!

No one should be proud of a nation, a community or governments that cannot meet the increasing demand for support for women and children who are fleeing family violence and seeking shelter. The front cover of this report states it simply: **“Our Worst Year Ever”**. It’s a fact – family violence is skyrocketing, homelessness is getting worse and the federal government is walking away from adequately funding essential community services.

## We do good work!

McAuley Community Services for Women helps women and their children when they’re at their lowest point – when they have no money, when they’ve been driven out of their homes, may be struggling with mental illness, sometimes have been traumatised by violence. We give them a place of refuge at McAuley House, and we walk alongside them as they slowly put their lives and their children’s lives back together. We do good work. In many cases we do great work.

We’re doing better, yes, but we have to, just to stay in the same place. The problems in Australian society that knot themselves around vulnerable women are getting harder and harsher year by year. It’s wonderful that we can open an amazing new building with support from the Sisters of Mercy and the Victorian Government – but the true victory would come if we were able to shut one down because it wasn’t needed.

We’re doing our part in the fight to create a society where women can stay in their own homes without being attacked. We’ve worked with governments and unions to bring in policies that can lessen the pressures on women in need. But the family violence and homeless support eco-systems are still overstretched, ripped, and distorted, and we’re still playing catchup.

## Video games mimic our dilemma!

A young child was telling me about the video game Super Mario Brothers where you make your way, if you’re very good, through the play space, avoiding the hazards, leaping nimbly over the obstacles, and picking up the treasures, and eventually you arrive at your destination. Your only reward for these feats is to find yourself at the next level, where the hazards are more aggressive, the obstacles higher and spikier, and the treasures harder to come by; and so it goes on. And they say video games aren’t a good preparation for life!

## We need to thank the Goodies!

In the face of increasing adversity, ignorance and ongoing demonisation of the poor and marginalised a combination of forces are challenging the status quo and giving heart and hope to the many hundreds of women and children who are supported through our programs and services. To our staff, board members, volunteers, donors, businesses, other not-for-profit organisations, the decent politicians and the Victorian Government, we say thank you. In fact, a very big thank you. To our CEO, Jocelyn Bignold, and her team, the entire board sends a massive thank you.

And most importantly, I’d like to give my sincerest thanks to the Sisters of Mercy and their Institute Leadership Team for their gentle wisdom and ongoing financial and moral support to push the boundaries for social justice.

May every one of our supporters take a moment to pat yourself on the back. And then get back to work.

Our reward for doing well is that we get to keep on doing it for another year.

**Denis Moriarty**  
Chair

# The Board

## Mark Birrell



Mark is the Chief Financial Officer of Partners Wealth Group, and has

had extensive experience as a financial services executive / consultant in the development and management of distribution, financial planning, retail investment product, superannuation and master trust businesses with major Australian organisations and Industry Bodies. His background includes leadership experience with profit centre and strategic development responsibilities.

## Michelle Cotter



Dr Michelle Cotter is Principal at Mercy College in Coburg and recently completed

an Executive MBA, Doctorate of Education, Master in Leadership and Master in Religious Education. Leading the Mercy College community for global citizenship in the twenty first century resonates powerfully with the story of Catherine McAuley and Michelle sees her stewardship of Catherine's story being realised in her work as a teacher and leader in the school, and also as a contributor to our Board.

## Sonja Hood



Dr Sonja Hood is CEO of Community Hubs Australia, an organisation working

across Australia to help to integrate migrants and refugees - particularly women - into the community. Her background is in health policy, where she has a PhD and over 20 years experience in research and implementation in Australia, the US and the U.K. Her particular interest is programs that drive change and make a tangible difference to people's lives, and this is the reason she joined the Board.

## Netty Horton



Netty has a long history of working in the area of homelessness,

beginning as an outreach worker in 1988, working with people sleeping rough. Netty was the CEO of the Council to Homeless Persons for more than 12 years during which time she chaired the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the development of the Victorian Homelessness Strategy.

## Louise McNamara



Louise McNamara is Community Engagement Officer at Loreto Mandeville Hall

in Toorak. Louise joined the Board after having spent four years on the Special Events Committee working closely with other people passionate about preventing family violence. While assisting the McAuley Care Safe House and the women and children who arrived there was always a focal point, advocacy also became important to the committee and inspired Louise to move into governance.

## Denis Moriarty Chair



Denis, the founding Managing Director of Our Community, joined the Board

in 2008. Denis has a strong background in executive management in both the public and private sectors. He was the former head of the Victorian Government's Information Service and former Commissioner and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Tourism Commission.

### Anita Morris



Dr Anita Morris is the Allied Health Manager of Social Work and Pastoral

Care at Western Health. She has worked as a social worker for over 20 years and in 2015, Anita completed a PhD focused on the safety and resiliency of children who experience family violence. She was an expert witness at the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and she hopes to bring her knowledge of honouring children's voices into our organisation and continue to support initiatives that keep women and children safe.

### Kath Tierney rsm Treasurer



Sr Kath Tierney, a Sister of Mercy, works as a governance and management

consultant across the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea and in the broader community. Kath's association with McAuley Community Services for Women began more than a decade ago when, as Congregational Leader, she oversaw the amalgamation of two Mercy ministries (Mercy Care and Regina Coeli) in 2008 to form the current organisation.

### Matt Tilley



Matt Tilley, KiiS 101.1 FM breakfast radio personality, had been involved with

McAuley Community Services for Women through MC'ing the Fed Up Lunch for two years prior to joining the Board in 2016. McAuley Community Services for Women offers Matt a chance to work toward the elimination of family violence, and also to continue his long association with ministries of the Sisters of Mercy, an order of women religious that he admires for the work they have done over many decades.

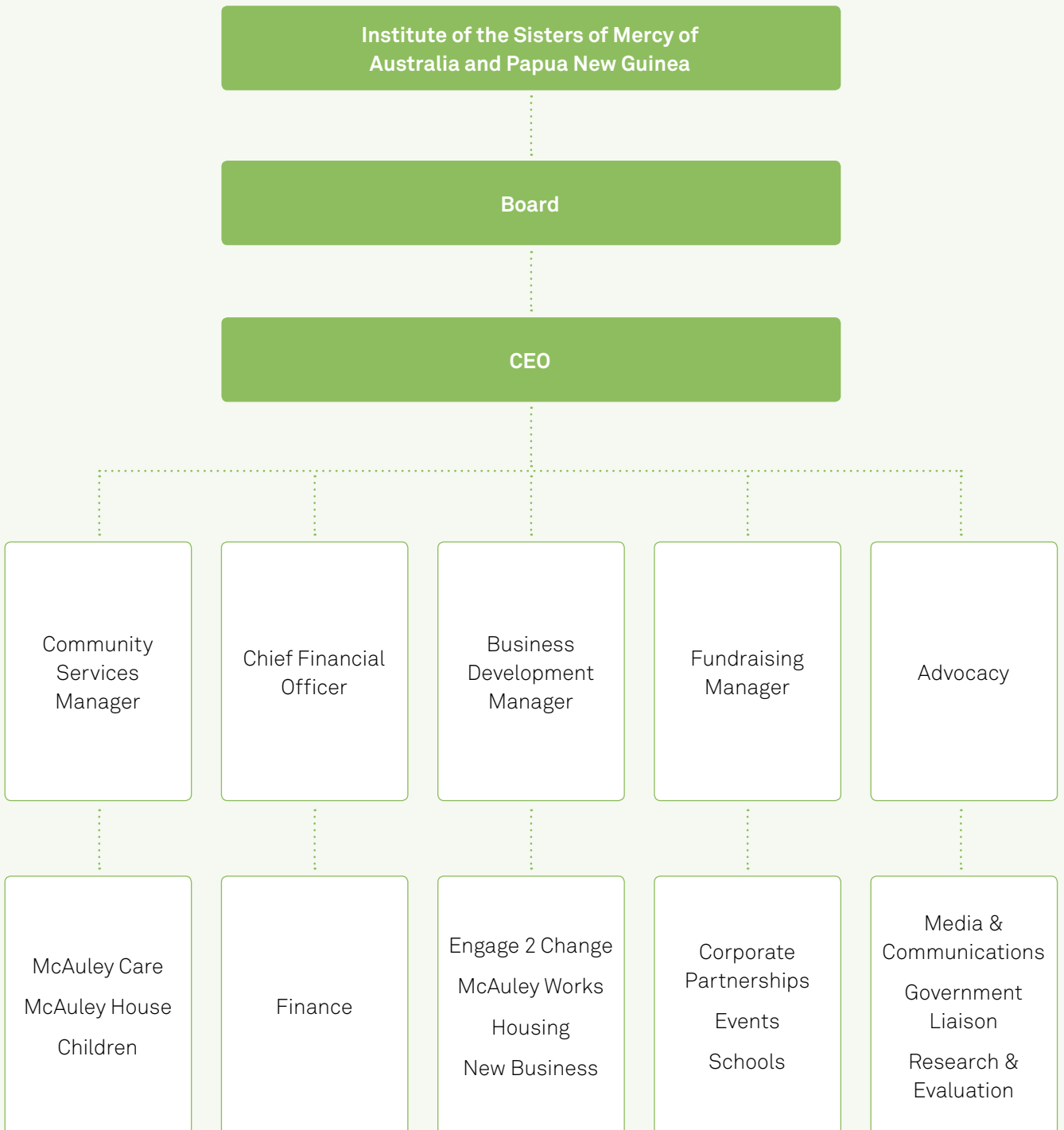
### Kim Windsor



Kim is Managing Director of Windsor & Associates, which has worked for over 20

years with government, business and the not-for-profit sector to analyse and apply evidence on workforce and skill needs to support service models and business strategies. This work spans across health, community, manufacturing, farming and service sectors with a strong recent focus on disability.

# Operational Chart





## From the CEO

McAuley Community Services for Women will soon realise one of its visions of a, purpose-built accommodation and support hub, for women, thanks to the investment of \$7 million by the Sisters of Mercy and a further \$4 million from the Victorian State Labor government.



We have seen through our review of the existing McAuley House program, just how important this comprehensive service is to women who have been homeless; often sick and exposed to trauma, violence or isolation.

The review found that a specific women's space is important, especially for safety, which is a bedrock for good health; that the holistic nature of support does foster confidence, better health, learning and friendship; that the opportunity to remain involved in a community where you are known is a protective factor against housing breakdown and repeat episodes of poor health and that case managers are valued and important in helping women achieve their goals.

Investing in our workforce is important. 2015 concluded our three year workforce sustainability plan with a customised leadership program, developed in the knowledge that management and leadership skills need to be fostered, and that a strong workforce is key to a successful organisation.

We value our staff ideas which drive most of our innovation, often starting with observations about the gaps in the system. One example is the Court Support 4 Kids project – a court-based children's program aimed at diverting and entertaining children so that their mothers can finalise their court matters.

This year the program has been adopted by Bethany Community Support which is delivering the program in the Geelong court. This program is set to be expanded into other metropolitan and regional centres.

Another innovation, McAuley Works, unfortunately came to a close in 2015. It is disappointing and frustrating to see programs that work close due to a lack of funding. The accompanying loss of momentum; practice wisdom and staffing is difficult and expensive to replace and causes an even greater loss to the community.

During this time, our employer education program continued. Originating from McAuley Works, Engage 2 Change filled a gap in employer's knowledge of family violence and introduced them to ways of addressing it in the workplace. Our impact was evident recently when a large private hospital reported that, as a result of a two hour training session, they have developed their own family violence training package which has been delivered to eight hospitals across the Eastern States.

We are ending the year in good shape. Our surplus demonstrates the community's confidence in our work and our sound financial management.

I would like to thank all those very generous and talented people; Sisters, Board, Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, Supporters, Donors and Women and Children for the work they do each day to help us advocate for a better, safer and just society.

**Jocelyn Bignold**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Highlights of 2015/16

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Provided  
**accommodation  
and support** to  
**416**  
women and children.



**\$4 million**  
The Victorian  
Labor Government  
invested \$4 million  
into **Pickett Street**.

**12**

Our **12  
recommendations  
adopted** within The  
Royal Commission  
into Family Violence.



Implemented  
**major reviews and  
evaluations** of our  
homelessness and  
family violence  
services.



**\$700,000**  
Raised \$700,000  
through **community  
fundraising** efforts.



Our CEO was  
**appointed** to  
the Victorian  
Government's  
Family Violence  
Housing Assistance  
Implementation  
Taskforce.

**2**

Launched the  
**Catherine Circle**  
and funded **two**  
projects focussing  
on **Safe at Home**  
and employment  
for women.



Reached  
**450**  
**community  
leaders** and **senior  
managers** through  
Engage 2 Change.



Assisted  
**5**  
**companies** with  
**family violence  
policies**.



Victoria's Governor of Victoria, the **Hon Linda Dessau AM**, became our inaugural **Patron**.



Board member **Sister Kath Tierney rsm** was named an **Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)** on Australia Day.



**Barr Family Foundation** was recognised with a gender-wise award for its support for our **Court Support 4 Kids** program.



McAuley Community Services for Women provided **expert witness testimony** at the **Royal Commission into Family Violence** hearing about economic abuse.



Expanded our property portfolio to **32 houses**.



Launched our **Champions of Change** and **Social Justice Youth Ambassadors** program.



Reached over **750,000 people** through our media, social media and engagement work.



McAuley Community Service for Women's **homeless program** and its inter-connection with family violence was **profiled on ABC 7.30 Report**.



Spoke at over **50 community functions**.

# Findings from the Royal Commission into Family Violence

Family violence and homelessness were in the spotlight throughout the year as a result of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, and the landmark findings it delivered.

Our CEO Jocelyn Bignold appeared as a witness to the Commission in July 2015. She highlighted the link between economic abuse and family violence, sharing examples of how McAuley Works and Engage 2 Change programs have enabled women experiencing family violence to stay in the workforce.

In April 2016, we welcomed the wide-ranging approach mapped out by the Commissioners to address the family violence epidemic. The Commission's 227 recommendations provided a comprehensive outline for long-term, whole-of-government change from primary prevention, to the role of universal and mainstream services in identifying and responding to family violence, to the need to better support specialist family violence services.

Our 12 recommendations to the Commission were recognised in the extensive 2,000 page report with

frequent references made to our submission. Of particular note was the major finding that it is vital to keep women and children safe at home.

Whilst our current legislation recognises the rights of victims of family violence to remain home safely, this is still far from reality. Too often homelessness is the safer option.

We acknowledged publicly the commitment by the Victorian Andrews Government to fund every recommendation, but we also voiced concerns about how the multiple initiatives are to be coordinated, managed and governed. These include many legislative changes, and updated standards and practices. Coordination is critical to the rollout of the Royal Commission findings and is an area that we will be watching closely.

## Recommendations

1. Fund a comprehensive, fully resourced Safe at Home service across Victoria.
2. Fund additional crisis accommodation facilities for women and their children leaving family violence.
3. Invest in additional temporary/transitional supported accommodation.
4. Extend the Federal Government's HOME (Household Organisational Management Expenses) Advice program.
5. Negotiate a National Affordable Housing Strategy.
6. Improve funding and support for children facing family violence.
7. Fund an enhanced legal response to women and their children experiencing family violence.
8. Actively link the new Commonwealth Women's Employment Service to women who are experiencing family violence.
9. Raise community awareness and capacity.
10. Support community campaigns and initiatives at a local as well as state wide level.
11. Embed gender analysis into the formation of family violence related public policy and resource allocation.
12. Prepare an annual report card on the progress and outcomes of the National Plan.

# Gaps in the Royal Commission into Family Violence

While the findings from the Royal Commission into Family Violence are comprehensive, there are several gaps that concern McAuley Community Services for Women. We have, and continue to, take these up with relevant politicians and bureaucrats. Among the gaps are:

## Safe at Home

The Commission's recommendations focussed on supporting women who have experienced family violence to stay at home, where it is safe to do so and they wish to remain. Recommendations placed an emphasis on strengthening perpetrator accountability and included strategies such as: increasing the number and type of crisis accommodation service models; providing long term rental and mortgage subsidies for those experiencing family violence; expanding safe at home programs over the next two years; and increasing Family Violence Flexible Support Packages, amending the Residential Tenancies Act.

We welcomed these findings, and they largely echo our recommendations. However, although the Family Violence Act 2008 enshrines a Safe at Home policy, the support measures are not yet strong enough to implement it successfully.

McAuley Community Services for Women continues to call for more affordable housing and for expanded crisis accommodation modelled on our 24 hour service.

Currently only 3% of women who leave our service are safe enough to return home. The Catherine Circle, our giving circle, has funded research into how we can better strengthen our Safe at Home response.

## Specialist family violence services

The report emphasised the role specialist family violence services play in keeping women and children safe, and helping them recover from family violence.

We welcomed the Budget and recent investment into the family violence sector but we are still concerned about long-term funding arrangements for services.

## Support for children and young people

The report recognised that children experience, and are often harmed by, family violence, and the current family violence system fails in responding to them.

We are disturbed about the lack of funding to develop specific responses for infants, children and young people; for counselling and for strategies to enable mothers and their children to bond. Our experience shows that this bond has often broken down by the time women and children reach McAuley Care, with the mental and physical health of very young children being put under pressure and older children and young people at risk of homelessness.

## Legal responses

The report recommended expanding specialist family violence courts, finding alternative ways to provide evidence in court, including the use of remote technology, and to work through COAG (the Council of Australian Governments) to expand resources for legal assistance services. It also called on the government to advocate for increased federal funding and reversal of future cuts to funding for legal assistance services.

While the report highlighted the importance of magistrates' courts to be more child-friendly, a major gap is the lack of court support for mothers with children. We are addressing this through our Court Support 4 Kids program.

# The Questions That Concern Us

## Young People

*Where are the young people? Who's looking after them?*

McAuley Care supports women and their children, girls and boys up to the age of 18 years old, yet only around 10% of the young people who accompany their mothers into the family violence crisis service are over 12 years old.

This group worries us because we know that family violence damages young people's relationship with their mothers and can be the cause of their separation. We also know that family violence often results in youth homelessness.

Currently our response is to focus on protecting and strengthening the bond between mothers and their infants, toddlers and school aged children. However, we are struggling to maintain momentum on this work despite having some very generous and consistent benefactors who have helped us put the spotlight on this issue. What is missing is a concerted and sustained effort in investing in responding to children and preventing the harm at the earliest age possible.

## Safe at Home

*Only 3% of women returned home from our family violence crisis service safely this year. Why is that?*

We assisted seven women to return home safely last year, despite a 46% increase in intervention orders being granted to women. Most others go to a refuge, or stay with family and friends. This is also despite legislation that enables perpetrators of violence to be excluded from the home.

We know from the intervention order breach rate that it is not safe for many women to live at home, and we know that, for others, the trauma has been so significant that they don't want to go near their house again.

In this environment, we are not sure what our response should be. Through funding from the Besen Foundation and the Catherine Circle, we are researching when is the most appropriate time for a woman to return Safe at Home. The research will consider the risk and safety limitations facing women; whether the system has to catch up to provide perpetrator accountability; and what are the needs of women and children accessing our services.

## Women without permanent residency

*Where can we accommodate women and their children who don't have permanent residency in Australia?*

Sixty women in McAuley Care and five women in McAuley House did not have permanent residency. Most women without permanent residency do not have access to an income or Centrelink. They cannot access Medicare and have virtually no housing options because they cannot pay rent. It sometimes means they cannot live with their children.

Through the generosity of individuals and family foundations, we have been able to accommodate some families and cover their rent and provisions, but this is nowhere near enough.

We are part of a national campaign calling on the Federal Government to make legislative changes to ensure all women have sufficient income to live free from violence.

## Funding for homelessness services

The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) funds frontline programs and services for people who are homeless. Family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women, children and young people, yet the Federal Government have not committed to funding the NPAH beyond June 2017.

*What will this mean for the service systems ability to support the 10,000 Victorians who are homeless?*

We know that investing in support for people who are homeless is cost effective, as is the investment in public and affordable housing. We know that people can't get jobs or participate in society without housing. We know that, despite considerable investment from the Sisters of Mercy and our many supporters and donors, we cannot deliver a quality service without government funding.

We are advocating for certainty about future homelessness funding alongside organisations such as spell out Australia Council of Social Sciences (ACOSS). In our Federal Budget submission, we also called for a national housing affordability strategy to provide housing as a human right.

## Funding for Community Mental Health services

*What will happen to women and children who have a mental illness and do not fit the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) criteria?*

The Victorian Government commitment to roll community mental health funding into NDIS is likely to result in women slipping through the health net. This is because the NDIS caters for people living with a permanent disability rather than those who experience episodic bouts of mental illness.

Around \$500,000 of funding currently allocated to provide accommodation and services to women who are homeless and experiencing a mental illness or physical disability is being reallocated to the NDIS.

We urge the Victorian Government to rethink its strategy, and have advised that in the current housing crisis the state cannot afford to lose any women's accommodation. We have also called for additional funding to strengthen our mental health support services.

# McAuley Care

**In 2015/16 our family violence service supported 183 women and 174 children were accommodated in our safe house and refuges.**



**23** pregnant women



**68** women who were awarded an Intervention Order



**7** were able to return home safely



**66** women said perpetrators used ICE



**15** Aboriginal and Torres Islander women and children



**95** culturally and linguistically diverse women and children



**104** women with mental health issues



**60** women had no permanent residency

The number of children present highlights the need for our increasing focus on responding to children's needs as well as their mothers.

## Safe house - crisis accommodation

All women and children welcomed into McAuley Care were provided with safe accommodation; material aid in the form of meals, clothes and access to financial, medical, legal and specialist services.

Only seven women were able to return home safely; 75 women moved into safe accommodation options, including our refuges. Around 12 women and children have been able to pursue housing options through flexible support packages rolled out by the Victorian Government. The packages, of up to \$7,000 pay for rent, bond and relocation costs.

The majority of women coming into our family violence service were Australian-born and of those, 15 women were from Indigenous backgrounds, and 91 women from other countries.

The last year has seen an increase in families with no permanent residency, resulting in women staying longer in our crisis service (an average of ten days). This has meant we have not been able to support as many families as in past years and women and children are instead, spending weeks in motel rooms.

However, thanks to the Impact 100 Melbourne grant, we have been able to review our service and have been able to offer a higher quality of support and advocacy to each family in our care.





## Faxbacks

Under the Victoria Police Family Violence Referral Protocol, McAuley Community Services for Women works with Women's Health West to respond to women who have been victims of family violence. Police fax through risk assessments (known as Faxbacks or L17s which relate to the 17 areas of risks assessed).

Women are taken through an updated risk assessment and a quick safety plan; whilst not all women wish to talk to staff, others express a sense of relief that someone has followed up and an increase in confidence in knowing what to do.

Last year the partnership received around 10,000 faxes from Police operating in the Western Metropolitan Region. We are unable to respond adequately to all faxes.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence noted the exceptionally high number of referrals and the opportunity it presents to offer support earlier. It has recommended that additional resources be provided to ensure that referral points are fully and discretely funded within the next year.

## Refuge program

McAuley Care specifically supported 81 women and children in its refuge and transitional housing properties. Of these, 19 from other countries, including Myanmar, India, New Zealand, Lebanon and Vietnam, and the remainder were Australian, of which four identified themselves as being Indigenous.

Our property portfolio expanded this year to 32 homes for families to move into while awaiting private or public housing. One property has been set aside for women without permanent residency visas. Women and children stayed for an average of nine weeks in our refuges with a 100% occupancy rate as at the end of June 2016.

## Highlights

- The highly successful 24/7 luncheon at Raheen raised \$120,000, enabling us to keep the safe house open around the clock, every day of the year.
- Our partnerships with community organisations including The Nappy Collective, Food Bank, St Kilda Mums, Britax, NicePak and the Rich Hart Foundation, as well as support from volunteers and donors are vital in providing much needed goods.
- We have been successful in obtaining flexible support packages, which have led to more housing options for women.

## Concerning trends

### Child protection

The last year has seen an increase in high risk and complex cases, with a higher level of child protection involvement. This is in part due to changing child protection legislation. This trend is challenging because it limits the opportunities for women to return home under the Safe at Home program.

### ICE and other drugs

Sixty-six women disclosed the perpetrator used ICE and other drugs. This, coupled with the use of alcohol and drugs by women themselves, highlights the complexity of family violence. We continue to monitor the situation.

# Children's Program

Over 2015/16 our family violence service supported 174 children.

 174 children

We continue to support children in their own right, focusing our attention on early intervention to prevent further trauma and detachment from mothers.

Lack of funding for a full-time children's program has reduced our ability to work as comprehensively as we would like. Despite this, we remain committed to delivering a high standard of care to children which enables all children to retain as normal and safe routine as possible.

Using the newly established Allied Psychological Services, we have been able to ensure children have access to short-term counselling during their stay with us. The program began in April 2016 and over three months, a counsellor saw 14 children with their mothers, and delivered 31 counselling sessions. The program is funded through the Primary Health Network.

Thanks to our volunteers, we continued to operate our playroom, giving children the chance to be in an environment free from abuse.

## Highlights

- We continued to trial new approaches to working with children and their mothers. A volunteer University of Melbourne music therapy student successfully explored emotions and childhood with the families, and RMIT student social workers worked alongside our staff to learn first-hand the intricacies of crisis work.
- The reluctance to leave family pets is cited often by women coming into our family violence service. This year the arrival of Tutu, the kitten, has proved to be a success with mothers and children alike.
- The introduction of a yoga program, thanks to the Dr Lucinda Jordan program and the support of Corrective Services, has been well received. A start has also been made on a memorial peace garden at one of the refuges.

“Lack of funding for a full-time children's program has reduced our ability to work as comprehensively as we would like.”



# Court Support 4 Kids

Interest in our pioneering Court Support 4 Kids program has grown significantly this year with the Chief Magistrate of Victoria recommending that the program be expanded across Victoria.

The program was initiated as a result of evidence that women with accompanying children were unable to finalise intervention orders due to the lack of childcare on the day of the hearing. Over 30% of women are forced to bring their children to court due to safety concerns.

Thanks to funding from the Barr Family Foundation, the program continued to be rolled out through Sunshine Magistrates Court. It was pleasing to see their foresight rewarded during the year with a Gender-wise award from Philanthropy Australia.

A snapshot of women and children assisted at Sunshine Magistrates Court revealed that each month, on average, 10 women and 10 children engaged with the program, and the majority are aged between one and seven years old; and 22 women were able to secure intervention orders. In March 2016 alone, seven women completed intervention orders and 48 children were supported.

Court Support 4 Kids addresses two of the major gaps identified by the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence: limited understanding of the short and long-term impact of family violence on children and young people, and an inaccessible and complex justice system in which victims do not always feel safe.

## Highlights

- McAuley has developed a comprehensive Court Support 4 Kids training package enabling the program to be delivered in partnership with local service providers.
- The service has expanded from Sunshine Magistrates Court to Geelong in partnership with Bethany.
- Funding from the William Buckland Foundation has been secured, enabling us to expand the program still further, undertake an external evaluation of the program and employ an experienced children's worker to run the program.

## Trends

Originally designed for children, this program is assisting more women navigate the court process because of a chronic lack of support. This highlights the critical need for more funding to support women in court, and child-focussed approaches to court procedures.

# McAuley House Recovery and Wellbeing

## In 2015-16 McAuley House supported 59 women residents:



**29** women were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds



**23** women were aged between 45 – 54 years



**3** women used our respite service on repeat occasions through out the year



**39** women had been diagnosed with a mental illness



**20** women said family violence was the main reason for seeking help



**All** were homeless, or at risk, when they arrived



**30** women in the community used our social and recreation programs

Thirty years ago the Sisters of Mercy established Regina Coeli, now known as McAuley House. Today, we continue the work begun by the Sisters, offering support and accommodation for women who are homeless usually because of mental health or family violence.

Our work is grounded in our mission to provide housing with flexible support to open up opportunities for women to move permanently from homelessness. We provide more than bricks and mortar through the practical and expert support given to each woman, the partnerships McAuley Community Services for Women has with organisations such as the Royal District Nursing Service, Salvation Army Social Housing (SASHS) and community legal services; and the support offered to women in the community to prevent recurring homelessness.

## Significant change

The past year has been one of significant change. The Big Impact project, funded through the Impact 100 giving circle has resulted in improved case management practice' and an accompanying evaluation. This evaluation has enabled staff to review operations and adopt new approaches to working collaboratively with residents, such as the establishment of the 'Co-design Council', a revitalised Peer Leadership program, and increased engagement with women living in the community through a range of activities, including skills training and social events.

In addition to McAuley House, we have acquired access to six new transitional properties, building our network to 32 houses that are used to house women and children temporarily.

However the community mental health reform led to the loss of outreach support.

This year we have seen an increase in the number of women using our service who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. McAuley House was home to women from 23 countries. Of the Australian-born women using the service, most came from Victoria's northern and western suburbs.

Family violence was cited as the main reason for 34% of women seeking assistance from McAuley House although none were referred specifically from family violence services.

Around 26% of women were referred to McAuley House from homelessness services. Thirteen per cent were referred from mental health services despite 41 women (66%) being diagnosed with a mental health condition, and 30 women (48%) receiving medical assistance. Eight women had been in a hospital, or psychiatric unit, a week before entering our service.

Before arriving at McAuley House, 62% of women had been living alone, five had been with their children, and five had been sleeping on the streets. Twenty seven women were on Newstart and five women had no income at all.

### McAuley House review

We undertook a major review of McAuley House during the year. Findings have helped to influence changes and will continue to shape our program as we move to Pickett Street in late 2016.

#### Major findings include:

- Over half of the women stayed at McAuley House for more than a year, providing long-term stability that is known to promote positive and enduring change.
- McAuley House as a women only space, was deemed important to all respondents.
- The majority of women agreed that they felt safe at McAuley House. Support, friendship and companionship were the most valuable aspects of the program for many women.
- Some women were overwhelmed by communal living, and made suggestions for increased one-to-one support; something successfully provided by a previous peer support program.
- Case managers provide both practical and emotional support while helping residents achieve their self-determined goals, and are highly valued.

### Social and recreation program

Our recreation program is vital to our overall goal of helping women at McAuley House and overcome social isolation in the community. A range of activities were organised throughout the year including trips to Phillip Island, South Melbourne market, Ripponlea, Werribee Zoo and Circus Oz.

### Skills for Life

Our Skills for Life program was well received throughout the year, with women regularly attending sessions on cooking, creative writing, health, drama, music and art therapy and managing finances. Again, the evaluation highlighted the importance of the skills program to assisting women have a better chance of success once they move from McAuley House.



## Peer Leadership program

With funding from Gandel Philanthropy and StreetSmart, we were able to review and reinvigorate to recruit peer leaders from the many women who have experienced life at, or are currently living at, McAuley House. Our case workers and training provider Caraniche have finalised a program that will see six women trained as peer leaders to support women new to McAuley House.

## Highlights

- McAuley Community Service for Women's homeless program and its inter-connection with family violence was profiled on ABC 7.30 Report.
- McAuley Choir joined with the No Excuses Choir at the Big West Festival and other events throughout the year. The choir is one aspect of our highly successful music therapy program led by acclaimed singer-songwriter Christina Green.
- Residents reported improvements in mental health, largely due to the social and recreation program and the 'Me' program that supports skills development, both of which lead to increased self-reliance.
- Volunteers continued to support residents and staff regularly throughout the year.

## Trends

- More women without permanent visas stayed at McAuley House during the year. This has created added pressure on limited resources, with women staying longer, and without access to funds.
- Changes to funding, such as mental health funding, and the lack of a national homeless strategy continued to affect case management.



# New Purpose-Built Homeless Service

The past year saw a welcome announcement by the Victorian Labor Government of \$4 million towards the Pickett Street building in Footscray.

This funding, together with the generous \$ 7 million from the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, has ensured that Victoria's first purpose-built accommodation and support hub for women will open in late 2016.

The new building will provide safe and secure medium term housing for women. The 25 rooms with ensuites and balconies will support women to recover from the impact of family violence and homelessness; poor health (physical and mental); extreme social isolation; poverty and unemployment.

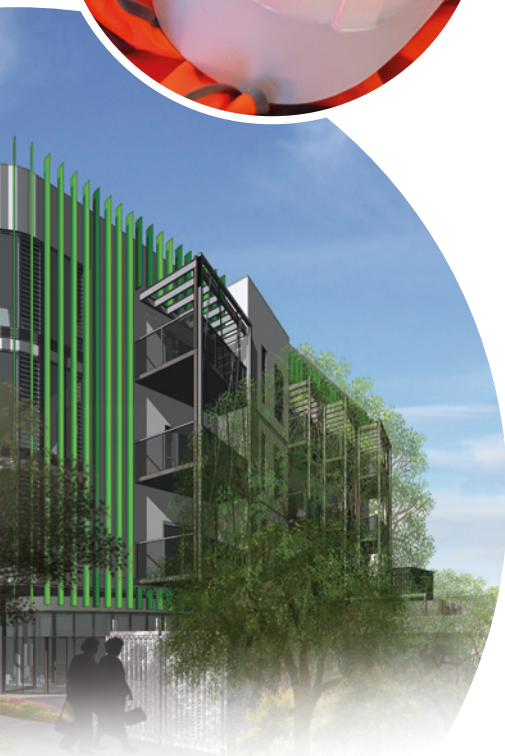
McAuley Community Services for Women will also pioneer programs sensitive to women's specific needs at the hub. These will include education and employment, health, social and recreation programs. The facility will be staffed 24-hours a day, allowing for after hours and weekend community contact and support. It is expected that many more women will be assisted through the new centre each year.

There were several highlights during the year including the awarding of a \$16,000 community grant from Tim Watts, MP for Gellibrand, to fit out the new social and recreation space in the Pickett St building. The grant, awarded through the Gellibrand Stronger Communities program, will be put towards buying sewing machines and other equipment, which will be used by women attending workshops run at Pickett St.

The Green Acres Golf Club raised over \$25,000 for the Pickett Street hub at its women's golf day in October 2015, \$8,182 was granted for computers from the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation and the Swift Family Foundation donated \$25,000 to the centre too.

During the year, we conducted hard hat tours for Sisters of Mercy, politicians, philanthropists, and others interested in our work with women who are homeless. These tours have allowed us to explain the importance of providing housing with wrap-around services to prevent the endless cycle of homelessness.

Plans are now underway to launch STOP homelessness fund with a focus on Social, Training, Outreach and Prevention work. Homelessness is marked by a lack of access to education, recreation and social events. Funds raised will go towards reshaping the housing and support program to include an education and skills package.



# Engage 2 Change

## In 2015/16 McAuley Community Services for Women:



Facilitated **14** face to face sessions with businesses



Engaged with **150** participants including leaders and managers



Reached **300** community leaders through forums



Assisted **5** companies with family violence policies

Engage 2 Change is an innovative, preventative education program that aims to empower employers and their employees to address family violence positively in the workplace.

Thanks to funding from the Baker Foundation and the NAB Community Fund, Engage 2 Change has reached a broad spectrum of employers and sectors, including Members of Parliament for Southern Metropolitan, Sandringham, and Bundoora.

This program originated from our women's employment program after participants reported that they were losing their jobs because their performance was affected by their experience of family violence. The education package's aim was twofold: to help employers understand and address the issue so that their existing workforce can remain safely employed and thereby reduce the risk of further exposure to violence and risk of homelessness; and to assist women who are unemployed to re-enter a supportive workplace.

An extraordinary example of the success of this program is how St Vincent's Private Hospital has used the training. As a result of one two hour, face-to-face training session from us four years ago, St Vincent's Private has developed: a policy, referral pathways for suspicion or disclosure of family violence, a screening tool, a two hour face-to-face training package which has been rolled out across eight hospitals in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Each St Vincent's Private Hospital has nominated trainers who are responsible for facilitating the training and is mandatory for managers, hospital co-ordinators, ward champions, pastoral care, midwives, paediatric nurses, emergency department nurses and mental health nurses. Currently, St Vincent's Health Australia is developing an online training package that will be accessible to all staff across all its services.

“ We have a strong commitment to addressing social issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of the community we serve... Little did we know how much we didn't know, nor how powerful and practical a training program like this could be. ”

- Elizabeth Murdoch. Program Director, Ambulatory, Community and Allied Health Services. Mercy Health.



# Advocacy on Legislation and Funding

McAuley Community Services for Women has campaigned to change legislation and ensure funding is allocated with a gender equity focus. Our work with politicians focused on working together to make informed decisions on family violence and homelessness.

Throughout the year, we have briefed policy makers about our response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, mental health funding, court support for children, and employment. We take a bipartisan approach and value the open conversations.

## Permanent residency visas

McAuley Community Services for Women called on the Federal Government to speed up the processing of applications for permanent residency visas, and to change legislation to enable women without permanent residency, and who had escaped family violence, access to adequate crisis payments. Women without permanent residency status are not eligible for any benefits from Centrelink, access to Medicare, and have limited housing options.

## Domestic violence leave call

McAuley Community Services for Women joined forces with the ACTU to call on the Federal Government to ensure that domestic and family violence leave is enshrined in all modern awards. The ACTU's submission to the Fair Work Commission asked for ten days paid leave and two days unpaid leave to be guaranteed through the award. The call followed research findings from the University of New South Wales that the provision of domestic and family violence leave led to positive outcomes for employers and employees.

## Federal budget needs a gendered approach

Our submission to the Federal Government Budget called for the reinstatement of the \$200 million that was cut in the previous year to respond to the increased reporting of family violence. It also called for funding for a review of existing homelessness and housing priorities with a gender analysis including a National Affordable Housing Strategy as recommended through the Senate Economics Reference Committee paper *Out of Reach: The Australian housing affordability challenge* (May 2015).

## Mental health funding

McAuley campaigned for additional mental health funding through Victoria's adult residential rehabilitation program. It called on the Victorian Government to rethink its strategy of rolling community mental health funding into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), arguing that the women it supports would not necessarily be eligible for the NDIS, and therefore would slip through the health net.



# Advocacy and Community Engagement

## In 2015/16 McAuley Community Services for Women:



Engaged with over **750,000** people



Worked with **16** schools



Engaged with **15** Federal and Victorian politicians



Spoke at over **50** functions



Secured **50** media stories

This year McAuley Community Services for Women reached well over 750,000 people directly and indirectly through speaking engagements, traditional and social media, events and community partnerships.

The impact our advocacy and community engagement has made is evident through an increase in newsletter subscriptions, interest in volunteering, growth in community fundraising, and in social media interaction.

## Engaging with the community

The past year has seen staff talk at more than 50 functions to community groups, businesses, local councils and sporting clubs. Engagements have included Rotary Clubs across Melbourne, Southern Cross Care, St Vincent's Private Hospital, St Vincent de Paul's *Social Justice in the City* lecture, and the Lady Mayoress Fund. Staff fronted panel sessions on *Confronting Family Violence* with Catholic Social Services Victoria, the *Future of Inner City Social Housing: Options for Local Government* with the Inner Melbourne Action Plan ahead of World Homeless Day, and *Family Violence in the Community* by Brimbank City Council.

The year's highlights included *Behind Closed Doors*, an interactive session which explored the profound and far-reaching impacts of family violence. The session was hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills and initiated by 24/7 committee members Monique Rosshandler and Amanda Oliver; and our involvement at the 2016 VICSERV Conference discussing the topic of the intersection between mental health, alcohol and other drugs, and family violence.



## Championing change and social justice

Last year we initiated the Champions of Change and Social Justice Youth Ambassadors programs to recognise and celebrate the significant contributions that individuals are making as they raise awareness about family violence and homelessness and the effects on women and children. Sixteen women and men were recognised as the inaugural Champions of Change and five young people as Social Justice Youth Ambassadors. Together, they are a formidable force in bringing about change. Individually, they are doing their bit to empower and engage other young people to make a difference.

[www.mcauleycsw.org.au/get-involved](http://www.mcauleycsw.org.au/get-involved)

Other community engagement highlights have included: artist Emma Schauder and the Twelve Batmitzvah Program who created a mural especially for the safe house; three students Rohan Bunsee, James Lin and Clare Myers who ran in the Melbourne Marathon raising \$5,000 towards our homeless program; the Pushke Giving Circle, led by Daniel Porus, Ben Hershman and Sam Bruce raised more than \$7,500 for our safe house.

## Working with schools

Our schools' program continued to reach more teenagers and teachers over the year, raising awareness and funds for our work. Our approach is one of responsible relationships to enable students and teachers alike understand the link between family violence and homelessness. A major highlight was the undertaking by Mercy Education to focus on our work from 2016, as well as a closer connection with the Seeds of Justice program.

## Media

We engaged with the media on a range of issues from housing through to material needs for women and children escaping family violence, as well as providing comment about the Royal Commission into Family Violence. Highlights have included being featured on the ABC's *Breaking the Cycle* program; the *Australian Financial Review*, *The Australian*, *The Age*, *Marie Claire*, *Parity*, *Advocate* and on radio including *774 Melbourne*, *3AW*, *Kiis FM*, and *Radio National*.

Our social media presence continues to make an impact, with a 50% growth of friends on Facebook and 100,000 impressions on Twitter. Highlights of the year included Man With a Van, which approached us after reading a shout out on social media, to offer pro bono support to move women and children into new homes.



# Advocacy and Community Engagement

One of the hallmarks of McAuley Community Services for Women's advocacy is its emphasis on strong relationship building to effect change, raise awareness and funds.

## The Catherine Circle

The Catherine Circle is made up of individuals and groups who are passionate about supporting our work, and are able to commit \$1,000 a year over three years.

We celebrated the launch of the Catherine Circle on 23 June where members and guests attended to hear about our advocacy work. Louise Doyle, CEO of the Besen Family Foundation officially launched the Circle and talked about the power of giving.

Two projects were put to the members to vote on: the first project was to help homeless women become financially independent through employment and the second was to assist women and children to be able to stay in their own homes and for that environment to be made safe for them. The winning project was safe@home, but thanks to the extraordinary generosity of one person in the room, the other project was also funded.

We also thank Centonove in Kew for its support throughout the year.

A full list of Catherine Circle members can be found: [www.mcauleycsw.org.au/catherine-circle](http://www.mcauleycsw.org.au/catherine-circle)

## High Tea 2016

In May and June 2016 McAuley Community Services for Women held its second annual #HighTeaAppeal, raising around \$45,000 to keep women and children safe from family violence and homelessness.

Over 30 high teas were held across Victoria and in Sydney, with support from the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, corporate Australia including HSBC which matched employee contributions dollar for dollar, and many committed individuals who held high teas in church halls, homes, offices, on the beach and by lakes.

Rebecca Maddern was the 'face' of the appeal once again, with Nicky Riemer, co-owner of the hatted Union Dining restaurant launching the appeal with her mother.

We congratulate everyone who put their culinary skills to great aplomb.



# Events

Events organised by our supporters play a major part in raising funds and also reaching out to new people who want to learn more about our work, and make a positive difference. We thank all those who worked tirelessly to create great experiences.

McAuley Community Services for Women commended both the Twentyfour/7 and Fed Up Team initiatives as being exemplar grassroots awareness raising events, in our submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

## Twentyfour/7 annual event

The 2016 Twentyfour/7 event was this year hosted by Jeanne Pratt AC for us at her home, Raheen. Held in May, we welcomed close to 100 guests for an intimate luncheon in glorious surroundings. The luncheon included entertainment and a three-course meal generously provided by Mrs Pratt.

Guests were captivated to hear from our senior practitioner at McAuley Care, who talked about the 24/7 accessible, safe house and the critical role it plays in supporting women and children at their most vulnerable. Board member Sonja Hood, in thanking Mrs Pratt and the Raheen team, emphasised the importance of the function in enabling Victoria's only 24/7 accessible, safe house to remain open.

We thank everyone for their continued generosity and passion.

## Events Committee

Jodie Holckner  
Amanda Oliver  
Sarah Orloff  
Alicia Pau  
Monique Rosshandler  
Emily Slade  
Kim Thurlow

## Fed Up Lunch

The second Fed Up Lunch was held in February at the Flemington Race Course on Lighting Stakes Day. The lunch saw over 250 people come together to raise \$60,000 to keep women and children safe from family violence.

Matt Tilley, KiiS FM presenter, was MC of the highly successful event. Guest speaker was Peter Fraser, one of the Fed Up Team, who talked about how the lunch idea began following an interview with our CEO on Triple M's Hot Breakfast show.

## Team

Michael Jones  
Peter Fraser  
Nick Poole  
Toby Potter  
Scott Walker



# Financials

## Profit and Loss Statement

| <b>INCOME</b>                     | <b>2016</b>      | <b>2015</b>      | <b>EXPENSES</b>             | <b>2016</b>      | <b>2015</b>      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Government Grants         | 1,039,961        | 964,349          | Employee Benefit Expenses   | 2,046,051        | 2,156,797        |
| State Government Grants           | 1,014,223        | 1,000,155        | Depreciation                | 50,969           | 54,634           |
| Gift & Donations                  | 724,049          | 707,880          | Program Resources           | 358,146          | 283,829          |
| Board & Lodging Fees              | 176,568          | 160,113          | Occupancy Expenses          | 179,112          | 169,359          |
| Interest/Dividends Received       | 56,903           | 54,272           | Administration Expenses     | 246,122          | 291,210          |
| Interest income on Building funds | -                | 503,985          | Interest Expense            | 57,703           | -                |
| Miscellaneous                     | 61,341           | 99,142           | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>       | <b>2,938,103</b> | <b>2,955,829</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>               | <b>3,073,045</b> | <b>3,489,896</b> | <b>ENTITY PROFIT (LOSS)</b> | <b>134,942</b>   | <b>534,067</b>   |

## Statement of Equity

|                                                    | 2016      | 2015      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Retained Earnings at beginning of Financial Year   | 8,097,022 | 7,562,955 |
| Profit/(Loss)<br>[Refer Note 1]                    | 134,942   | 534,067   |
| Retained Earnings at the end of the Financial Year | 8,231,964 | 8,097,022 |

Note 1. The Profit in 2015 includes interest income earned on funds gifted by ISMAPNG for the completion of the Pickett St building. The Profit in 2016 includes a loss on the balance of funds gifted by ISMAPNG described as Interest Expense in the Accounts.

## Balance Sheet

|                                | 2016              | 2015             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>          |                   |                  |
| Cash & Equivalents             | 3,683,705         | 6,918,466        |
| Receivables                    | 63,113            | 132,427          |
| Other Current Assets           | 222,004           | 113,670          |
| <b>Non-Current Assets</b>      |                   |                  |
| Investments                    | 2,369             | 1,838            |
| Property, Plant & Equipment    | 7,642,106         | 2,025,362        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>            | <b>11,613,297</b> | <b>9,191,763</b> |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>     |                   |                  |
| Payables                       | 2,227,517         | 935,517          |
| Borrowings                     | 1,000,000         | -                |
| Provisions                     | 118,393           | 138,828          |
| <b>Non-Current Liabilities</b> |                   |                  |
| Provisions                     | 35,423            | 20,396           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>       | <b>3,381,333</b>  | <b>1,094,741</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>              | <b>8,231,964</b>  | <b>8,097,022</b> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                  |                   |                  |
| Retained Earnings              | 8,231,964         | 8,097,022        |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>            | <b>8,231,964</b>  | <b>8,097,022</b> |

# Thank You

The past year has seen an extraordinary increase in the generosity of all our donors. There are too many donors to name individually but we appreciate their support and thank them very much.

Our donors are pivotal to our work. Without them, our mission would not be realised. In 2015/16, we received over \$700,000 from corporate and individual donors, and philanthropic organisations.

We also thank the many individuals who donate regularly through workplace giving.

Special thanks go to our volunteers who work across McAuley Community Services for Women with infectious energy, enthusiasm and expertise.

## Trusts & Foundations

Arthur A Thomas  
 Australian Communities  
 Foundation  
 Baker Foundation  
 Barr Family Foundation  
 Besen Family Foundation  
 William Buckland Foundation  
 Campbell Edwards Trust  
 Duggan Foundation  
 Freemasons Foundation Victoria  
 Limited  
 The Marian and E.H. Flack Trust  
 Gandel Foundation  
 The Jack Ethel Goldin Foundation  
 Rich Hart Foundation  
 Mercy Foundation  
 Lord Mayor Charitable Foundation  
 National Australia Bank  
 Community Fund  
 George Perry Fund  
 Scanlon Foundation  
 Streetsmart  
 Swift Family Foundation  
 Woodards Charitable Foundation

## 24/7 Trusts and businesses

24/7 Trusts and businesses  
 Antler Luggage  
 Bardas Foundation  
 Bennelong Foundation  
 Herbert Smith Freehills  
 Holckner Family Foundation  
 Humanity Foundation  
 Nordia Foundation  
 Orloff Family Charitable Trust  
 Partners Wealth Group  
 Pratt Foundation  
 Sinapse  
 Spotlight Charitable Foundation  
 Jack and Robert Smorgon  
 Families Foundation

## Companies

Bank Australia  
 Cornwall Stodart  
 Cummins & Partners  
 Dempsey Group  
 Exterior - Style Room  
 Grill'd  
 International Cleaning Solutions  
 Group Pty Ltd  
 Landpower  
 Maurice Blackburn - Ringwood  
 Nourish Melbourne  
 Russell Kennedy Lawyers  
 Southern Cross Austereo  
 Supa Group Pty Ltd  
 St Vincent's Private



## High Tea businesses

Australian Super  
 HSBC  
 Melbourne IT  
 NAB  
 Overnewton Castle Receptions  
 Surf Coast Hotel  
 St Vincent's Private Hospital  
 Union Dining  
 Woodards Real Estate

## Schools

Academy of Mary Immaculate  
 Carey Baptist Grammar School  
 Doncaster Secondary College  
 Melbourne Girls Grammar  
 Mercy College Coburg  
 Mercy Education Limited  
 Mercy Regional College  
 Notre Dame College  
 Our Lady of the Assumption  
 Our Lady of Mercy College  
 Padua College Mornington  
 Padua College Rosebud  
 Sacred Heart College Geelong  
 Sacred Heart College Kyneton  
 St Aloysius College  
 St Francis Xavier Primary School  
 St Kevin's College

## Community Groups

All Souls Opportunity Shop  
 Break The Cycle  
 Catholic Women's League of  
 Victoria & Wagga Wagga  
 Convent of Mercy North  
 Melbourne  
 Country Women's Association of  
 Victoria - Umina Branch  
 Green Acres Golf Club  
 Royal Park Ladies Golf Club Inc  
 Southern Cross Care (Vic)  
 StreetSmart Australia  
 Trak Opportunity Shop  
 Vermont Lions Club Inc  
 Parish  
 United Pentecostal Church  
 Outreach of Caroline Springs

## Pro bono and expert advice

Thank you to the many experts who provided advice during the year.

We also thank Man With A Van for providing a pro bono removal service for women moving into their own homes.

## Government

McAuley Community Services for Women is supported by funding from the Victorian Government.

## Sisters of Mercy and Board

We acknowledge and thank every Sister and the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea for their generosity and unfailing support, and the McAuley Community Services for Women's Board for their hard work and focus on vision and excellence.

# Great Ways to Give

With your compassion and generosity, McAuley Community Services for Women can continue to prevent women's homelessness and brighten the lives of the women and children we work with.

**There are many ways you can get involved and make a difference:**

## **Make a donation**

Your donation, no matter how large or small, will help vulnerable women and children set up new lives. Donate online at [mcauleycsw.org.au](http://mcauleycsw.org.au)

## **Become a monthly donor**

Sign up to monthly giving and make a lasting difference. It's simple and convenient. Your regular donations also help us plan for the future, as well as save on administration costs, which enables us to spend more on the vital programs we run.

## **Donate through workplace giving**

You can help change lives every payday. Workplace giving is an easy and tax-effective way to support our vital work. It also provides us with a steady, regular source of income, enabling us to plan for the future.

## **Volunteer**

Gain new skills and experience while giving back to the community. Meet new people and discover a new passion. The benefits of volunteering are endless!

## **Leave a bequest**

Leaving a bequest to McAuley Community Services for Women is a special way of leaving a gift for generations to come. It also allows us to plan for the long-term future with a greater degree of certainty.

## **Invite us to speak**

We offer various presentations to suit schools, community groups and businesses.

Invite us to speak to your group and learn more about the vital work of McAuley Community Services for Women, and the pressing issues of homelessness and family violence.

## **Hold your own fundraising event**

Get creative, have fun and make a difference! Planning your own fundraising event is a great way to raise much-needed funds and awareness of McAuley Community Services for Women. Have a casual clothes day at work or school, set up an Every Day Hero account and raise money via fun runs or hold a girls' night in.

For further information about how you can support McAuley Community Services for Women, please call 03 9371 6600, email [fundraising@mcauleycsw.org.au](mailto:fundraising@mcauleycsw.org.au) or visit [mcauleycsw.org.au](http://mcauleycsw.org.au)

# The Mercy Network

McAuley Community Services for Women is a ministry of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

## **We work closely with, and are supported by other Mercy ministries. These are:**

- > The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea
- > Institute Property Association Ltd
- > McAuley Property Ltd
- > The Sisters of Mercy Papua New Guinea Inc
- > Ministry Companies

## **Health and Aged Care**

- > Mercy Health and Aged Care Inc
- > Mercy Services Ltd

## **Education**

- > Mercy Education Ltd
- > Mercy Co-sponsored Schools
- > Mercy Affiliated Schools

## **Communications**

- > Fraynetwork Ltd

## **Community Development**

- > Mercy Works Ltd

## **Community Services**

- > McAuley Community Services for Women
- > MacKillop Family Services Ltd
- > Mercy Connect Lavington Ltd
- > Mercy Services
- > St Joseph's Cowper Ltd

## **Ecology**

- > Rahamim Ltd

## **Other spiritual and corporal works of Mercy**

- > McAuley Ministries Ltd



McAuley Community  
Services for Women

A ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

**McAuley Community Services for Women**

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T 03 9371 6600

E [mcsw@mcauleycsw.org.au](mailto:mcsw@mcauleycsw.org.au)

W [www.mcauleycsw.org.au](http://www.mcauleycsw.org.au)

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