



McAuley Community
Services for Women
A ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

Annual Report
2014/15



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.

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.

From the Chair

All great causes go through four stages. First, nobody can see that there's a problem. Second, what was once accepted now seems wrong, but what can you do? Third, the pressure starts to build on institutions, and every level says that someone else should do something about it. Finally, governments are forced to act themselves rather than trying to pass the parcel.

Family violence isn't a secret any more. Rosie Batty and the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence have ensured that. Changes in Canberra promise some relief and a way through political gridlock. Let's not declare victory yet, though. This year we have supported 1,000 women and children through our services, a far higher number than in previous years. We've engaged with politicians, businesses, philanthropists, the media, schools, and the community, educating them about our work and about the link between family violence and homelessness. We've told them how they can support us.

This report shows why they should support us. It paints a revealing picture of an agile organisation working with real people, each of whom with their own need and their own story. Each woman, each child, is more than a statistic. Each person's story is one of resilience in the face of danger.

We are a strong organisation, and despite tightening budgets, we've accomplished a lot and we continue to introduce new programs – the Children's Court Program, for instance – giving women and children what they need as they begin a life free from the threat of violence.

I pay tribute to our hard-working Board. Each director brings essential skills in finance, law, program development, or government relations, as well as a capacity for lateral thinking and a willingness to roll up their sleeves and help our staff and volunteers as they work ever harder to keep up with the demand.

I thank the team, headed by our CEO Jocelyn Bignold, working tirelessly to make a difference to each individual who comes to our family violence and homeless hubs. Nor could we do our work without the support and dedication of volunteers and donors.

As ever, our work would not be possible without the continuing support and involvement of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. I also thank every Mercy sister for their gentle wisdom and their not so gentle prompting for keeping up the fight for social justice.

Board members

Mark Birrell

Sheree Ford
(To May 2015)

Barbara Hingston
(To May 2015)

Annette Horton

Denis Moriarty (Chair)

Sr Anne Ryan RSM
(To October 2014)

Sr Kathleen Tierney
(Treasurer)

Kim Windsor



Denis Moriarty
Chair

From the Chief Executive Officer

The past 12 months have been a period of change for McAuley Community Services for Women as demand for our programs continues to rise. More women and their children are seeking our support as they escape family violence and homelessness.



This year we have seen more pregnant women and very young children than ever before in our safe house and refuge program. As a result we are broadening our children's programs. We have seen a rise, too, in women with chronic mental illness in our

homelessness service, highlighting the importance of our respite service, our recreation and social programs, and the need to reinstate our outreach capacity.

There have been significant changes in the broader funding environment that have impacted us. We have had to temporarily close McAuley Works, our employment program, due to a lack of funding. Government funding has become more competitive and homelessness funding continues to be skewed towards rough male sleepers.

We have enjoyed considerable support from philanthropic trusts and foundations, and we thank them for it. Our Engage to Change and Child Court Support programs are entirely funded by philanthropy. These are important, pioneering initiatives for which we have been congratulated by the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

The past year has seen us extend our advocacy work: we have argued in the media and in our submission to the Royal Commission for a gender analysis to be applied to mental health and homelessness funding. We have run two highly significant advocacy campaigns – Couch Surfing in Federation Square and Homelessness Should Never Be the Safer Option. Our media profile continues to improve, and our community reach through events, such as the successful 24/7 cocktail party and inaugural Fed Up lunch, is extensive.

This advocacy work has contributed greatly to our fundraising. Our inaugural High Tea Appeal raised over \$30,000, our supporters continue putting on terrific events, and school students are demonstrating not only extraordinary money raising abilities but also a commitment to our work.

I thank all those people who support us. We could not do what we do without our volunteers, our donors, our staff and Board. I am deeply grateful too to the Sisters of Mercy who are unfailing in their joint commitment to our work.

I thank the Victorian government for their continuing financial support.

Jocelyn Bignold
Chief Executive Officer

Royal Commission into Family Violence

The spotlight has been on family violence in Victoria this year with the establishment of a Royal Commission into Family Violence headed by former Justice Marcia Neave AO as Commissioner and Patricia Faulkner AO and Tony Nicholson as Deputy Commissioners.

We welcome the Royal Commission as a critical step towards ending men's violence against women and children in Victoria.

Our submission included 12 recommendations, based on our experience, and an overview of the pioneering work that we – as a leader in the provision of services to women and children – undertake in order to keep vulnerable people safe.

As part of our contribution, we interviewed many brave women whose stories portrayed how family violence has terrorised and controlled their lives. The stories

portrayed the full spectrum of family violence from acquired brain injuries through to repeated tales of breached intervention orders, abuse of children and animals and, physical, verbal and financial violence.

Our CEO Jocelyn Bignold spoke at a Commission hearing about financial control and our work through McAuley Works and Engage to Change to reduce economic disadvantage and discrimination.

We thank the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea for their generous support towards the submission.

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 support for children facing family violence by funding.
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.

McAuley Care

In 2014/5 our family violence service supported:



255
women



241
children



68 babies and toddlers
(up to aged two)



42 Indigenous women
and children



28
pregnant women



126 women with
mental health issues



61 women without
permanent residency



86 women who
said perpetrators
used ICE



68 women who
were awarded an
Intervention Order

Over the past year McAuley Care, Victoria's only accessible 24/7 safe house and refuge service kept a total of 496 women and children safe. Two hundred and forty one children, from babies through to teenagers, accompanied their mothers. These figures highlight the need for our increasing focus on children's needs as much as responding to women in crisis.

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. 98% of women moved onto other safe accommodation options with only 2% returning home, unprotected by an intervention order and to a partner who had been violent.

The majority of women were Australian (35 women from Indigenous backgrounds), Indian, Vietnamese, New Zealanders and Iranians. During the average stay of seven days, our staff provided access to legal, financial, medical, emotional and housing support.

Leading up to our submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, we consulted with women staying in the safe house and refuge. Again we were shocked by the extent of violence perpetrated against them. Many women also commented on the sense of safety, hope and 'time to think' that the service gave them, and drew strength from sharing experiences with other residents.

The majority of women and children needed to move again into transitional accommodation options before being able to access secure, permanent housing. One hundred and nineteen women and children moved into refuges, two returned home under the safe@home program, 36 stayed with family and friends, 24 went to other accommodation, 14 returned home and 17 did not disclose their destination.

Refuge program

McAuley Care supported 104 women and children in its five refuge properties. Of these, 70 were Australian and 24 were from other countries. Of the children, 22 were primary school age (six to nine years); 11 were babies through to two-year-olds and 12 were aged between ten and 14.

Eighty seven women and children left our refuges during the year with six moving into transitional housing, five into private rental, five into public housing, five to family and friends and the remainder moving home (without the perpetrator), to McAuley House, or into boarding houses.

Highlights

- The highly successful 24/7 Cocktail Party raised \$155,000 enabling us to keep the safe house open around the clock, every day of the year.
- Our partnerships with community organisations, such as St Kilda Mums, The Nappy Collective, and Food Bank, Community Corrections and the Rich Hart Foundation, as well as support from donors are vital in providing much-needed goods in kind.

Trends

ICE – 86 women disclosed the perpetrator was using ICE, and other drugs. We continue to monitor the use of ICE closely.

Child protection – this year more families have been connected to child protection due to the complexities of family violence and the increased use of ICE by both fathers and mothers. This trend is challenging because it limits the opportunities for women to return home under the safe@home program.

Referrals for children – Children aged from three to teenage years often miss out on counselling or mental health services because they are in the safe house or refuges. This is an area of growing concern, hence our broadening of the children's programs.

Permanent residency – An ongoing trend is the number of women escaping family violence without permanent residency. This leaves women, in many cases, without access to Centrelink, a health care or Medicare card. Their length of stay in both the safe house and refuge is much longer due to very limited housing outcomes.

Children's Program

Over 2014/5 our family violence service supported:



241
children



68 babies and toddlers
(up to aged 2)



51 primary school
aged children



38 children
aged 10 to 19

This year we supported more children than ever, which highlights the urgent need to intervene early to prevent trauma and detachment from mothers. Mother/Child relationships are often disrupted and /or severed by acts of violence and manipulation from perpetrators of family violence.

A major focus of our work is giving children and young people the opportunity to play and communicate in an environment that is free from abuse, that is safe due to clear boundaries, that is respectful, taking into account the child's /young person's individual wishes and feelings.

Our children's program consistently achieved positive results thanks to the ongoing generosity of trusts and foundations, dedicated volunteers and our full time children's case manager and our local connections.

Highlights

- Volunteer play therapist Christine Harkin, Co -Director from Play Therapy Melbourne, worked with mothers and children for six months, helping them to work through complex and traumatic memories and experiences. The success of this project has resulted in a grant from Marian & EH Flack trust being allocated to us to continue this work.
- We continue to trial new methods of working with children. The introduction of yoga has given children the physical and mental benefits of traditional exercise in a safe and supportive environment.

“ We have been able to get children back to school within two days of arriving in refuge and a local school has allocated us use of their music room and instruments for music therapy. ”

Court Children's Program

From August 2014:



389

children



28% of children
were school aged



100 women obtained
intervention orders

“ I have glimpsed my happy, gregarious and infectious sweet little girl. There are no words to describe the positive affect the program has had on her young life at a time when there isn't a lot that is stable and 'safe'. ”

- Mother

In 2014, we introduced Victoria's first Court Children's Program through funding from the Barr Family Foundation.

The program was initiated as a result of evidence that women with accompanying children were unable to complete intervention orders due to the lack of childcare on the day of the court hearing.

The Court Children's Program aims to assist women to successfully complete their family violence related legal proceedings; minimise further trauma to children by offering them a safe and positive diversion; accompany children through the court process and monitor their safety and wellbeing.

Since August 2014, 389 children have engaged with the Court Children's worker; 1/3 of the children were primary and secondary school aged.

Highlights

- Our observations show that every interaction with children, no matter how short, has the potential to be beneficial, with children often relieved to be able to discuss what's on their mind.
- Our advocacy for the rights of children attending court has promoted the need for child-focused approaches to court procedures. This work was highlighted during evidence at the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Trends

- This program, originally designed for children, is now also assisting more women navigate the court process because of a chronic lack of available support.
- Only around 1/3 of women presenting at court are able to access critical safety information and risk assessments at court.

McAuley House Recovery and Wellbeing

In 2014/15 McAuley House supported 78 women:



31 were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds



4 used our respite service



45 were involved in our Women In Communities service



71% had been diagnosed with a mental illness



37% had experienced family violence



90% were homeless (10% were supported to maintain long-term housing)

As Victoria's largest service focussing solely on women who are homeless, we have a constant demand for our safe and secure medium term accommodation and services.

Our accommodation and support program, McAuley House, provides transitional housing and social support, helping women to recover from homelessness and start their journey towards well-being and independence.

Housing crises remain the main reason for women being referred to McAuley House. This is followed by mental illness (71%) and family violence (37%). These figures underscore the importance of our work with politicians as funding for both homelessness and mental health programs such as ours is decreasing.

Over the past year, McAuley Community Services for Women has supported 78 women, the majority of whom were aged between 30 and 50. However 23% of women were over 50 years old, reinforcing the reality of older women's homelessness. More than half of the women stayed for a year, demonstrating the importance of our long-term and on-going support model.

This year has shown the importance of our respite service, where women are able to return to McAuley House usually for medical or social reasons. Three women have accessed the service twice, and one woman has returned three times. Our partnership with the Royal District Nursing Service is critical throughout every woman's stay and when they need respite care.

Housing Outcomes

Fifty two women left McAuley House last year to move into their own homes: 35% into public housing, 17% into community housing, 14% into private rental and 14% into transitional housing.

Highlights

- Winning the \$100,000 Impact Melbourne grant together with an evaluation of our services, has enabled us to develop and expand our service which we will take into the new McAuley House in late 2016.
- Introducing the Co-Design Council where staff and women residents meet to discuss the service and design and trial improvements.
- Increasing community engagement, especially with school students, who volunteer in many different ways such as gardening (Twelve Batmitzvah), massage (Mercy Links), or cooking (year 6 student Josh Pardo).
- Being the launch venue for *Parity* magazine's *It has to stop: Homelessness Violence* issue which the Hon Fiona Richardson, Victoria's Minister for Women and for the Prevention of Family Violence launched. The keynote speech was delivered by Rob Hulls, Director, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University.

Trends

- Older women are the “new” face of homelessness at a time when they should be consolidating their finances in readiness for retirement and older age.
- The lack of gender analysis around homelessness together with limited affordable, safe and secure public housing continues to affect women greatly.

Giving women a voice

McAuley Community Services for Women runs a comprehensive recreation and social activities program, including a choir, as part of our commitment to supporting women to full recovery and independence.

In August 2014 the choir was a highlight of our contribution to Homeless Prevention Week. We placed an old couch in Federation Square to draw attention to the fact that the majority of women who are homeless couch surf from friend to friend or live in a car.

“ Going to Federation Square and singing was a highlight of my time at McAuley House. It boosted my confidence as I saw people stopping to listen and then ask questions about what we were doing, and why.

I was amazed by how little people knew about women and homelessness. They see men sleeping on the streets and don't realise that women are homeless too. ”

- Shiana

Engage to Change

Engage to Change is the first solution-based program in Australia addressing the link between women's employment, the prevention of violence and economic independence.

Our training program offers employers and their employees practical assistance in how to recognise and respond to family violence issues in the workplace, and where to refer both inside and outside the business.

Over the past year, we have conducted 12 face-to-face training sessions to around 200 senior managers in the banking, legal, health and local government sectors. We are expanding our 'mixed' sessions where we invite leaders from a wide range of organisations to meet, and experience the program.

Our e-learning module has been trialled by focus groups, and will be featured at the National Nurses Forum in Melbourne in September 2015.

Highlights

- We thank the Baker Foundation for funding the role of business development manager to promote Engage To Change until December 2015.
- We testified before the recent Royal Commission into Family Violence about our workplace program and its early intervention capability, particularly in keeping women in the workforce while navigating the difficulties of family violence.
- We acknowledge our partnership with Jen Allen in the development of the e-learning module.

Lessons learned

- The rollout of Engage to Change is revealing in terms of the much-needed cultural change required to increase understanding, address the issues, language used, and community attitudes to family violence.
- Feedback highlights the program's particular value to male participants who had previously been uncertain about how to recognise and respond to employees experiencing family violence, and where to refer them.

“ It is imperative that organisations are aware of the impacts of domestic violence on their staff and in turn their business....the program has enabled managers to feel more comfortable about broaching the subject with their staff and to recognise some of the key warning signs. ”

- Darren Mannix, Manager Human Resources
St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne

McAuley Works – Women’s Employment Program

In 2014/15 McAuley Works assisted:



97 women, and of these, **57** were new to the program



17 women found employment during the year



19 employers were engaged in the program



Clients came from all over Melbourne



Of the **62** women who declared their educational backgrounds, **26** had a TAFE level qualification and **11** had a university degree



75 women were either Australian citizens or permanent residents

Family violence affects women in different ways, our evidence shows that employment plays an important role in recovery, and is a path to freedom, financial independence and improved self-esteem.

McAuley Works has supported women who are highly disadvantaged and either unemployed, or not in the labour market and are in receipt of a Disability Support Pension or a Parenting Payment. Either way, they are not expected to work but are highly motivated to do so.

This year, over one-third of McAuley Works’ clients were either homeless or at risk of being homeless **and** had mental health issues; almost half were either homeless or at risk of being homeless **and** had experienced family violence; almost one quarter of clients were either homeless or at risk of being homeless, **with** mental health issues **and** had experienced family violence.

Highlights

- We testified before the recent Royal Commission into Family Violence about our workplace programs and their successes in helping women maintain or gain employment.
- We supported women who have been discouraged by Centrelink and job services in their quest for employment.
- Paid and flexible work experience for two women was trialled with the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea; one woman has secured part time ongoing work as a consequence.

Next steps

As of June 2015, due to a lack of funds, the future of McAuley Works is unclear. Nevertheless, the need for the program remains evident and we are currently discussing options with businesses, Government and Community Services to continue this critical service.

Advocacy and Community Engagement

In 2014/15 McAuley Community Services for Women:



Engaged with over **500,000** people



Engaged with over **15** Federal and Victorian politicians



Secured **40** media stories



Worked with **15** schools



Made **6** major submissions



Spoke at **40** engagements

This year we have boosted our advocacy and community engagement efforts to reach over 500,000 people directly and indirectly through traditional and social media, speaking engagements, events and community partnerships.

These efforts have enabled us to disseminate our message about the link between family violence and homelessness; the invisibility of women's homelessness, and the urgent need for reform and funding for both the family violence and homelessness sectors.

The ripple impact of our advocacy and community engagement is witnessed through the many new initiatives now underway; the growth in community fundraising; an increase in newsletter subscriptions; social media interaction and increased interest in volunteering.

Helping policy makers

Our advocacy with politicians is about working together to make better and more informed decisions. We met with 15 politicians and political advisors from Federal and State Governments to discuss funding, policies, and to engage them in our work. We value the open conversations with each politician and their ongoing interest in our work.

We also made six submissions including the Royal Commission into Family Violence, Federal Budget, the McClure Report into Welfare Reform, the Federal and Victorian Mental Health Review, and the Senate Inquiry into Domestic Violence in Australia.

Working with schools

Our schools program reached 15 Mercy, Catholic and independent schools, raising \$23,400 and growing awareness of our work. Our approach is one of responsible relationships – engaging students and teachers in a meaningful way to learn more about family violence and homelessness while fundraising.

A major highlight was our pilot program with Our Lady of Mercy College, through funding from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (LMCF). The program involved a student-led initiative shaping an advocacy program around youth homelessness and family violence. It included a 'Look Up, Look Down' awareness raising campaign, a video by students talking about the issue, a series of events that raised \$4,000, and a template to offer other secondary schools.

Community engagement

This was one of the busiest years for our staff who spoke at over 40 functions to community groups, businesses, and sporting clubs. Engagements have included the Women's Committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, Rotary clubs across Melbourne, Maribyrnong City Council, the Independent Education Union and St Vincent's Hospital.

We have enjoyed the involvement of many different community groups who have volunteered their time, donated gifts in kind, and supported our public campaigns. These include the Nappy Collective, Young Mercy Links, and parishes such as St Carthages.

Media

We have engaged more with the media over the past year not only in securing stories and interviews but also in briefing journalists about family violence and homelessness for women and children. Highlights have included interviews with ABC's 774 and A Current Affair and stories in *The Herald Sun*, *The Age*, *The Monthly*, and many different local and regional newspapers.

Interaction on social media has increased: Facebook by 318 per cent and Twitter by 200 per cent. Both are used in different ways in order to reach different audiences.

Public campaigns

During Homeless Persons' Week in 2014, we placed a couch in Federation Square for two days, asking the question, *Will it always be like this?* A questionnaire asking people what they understood couch surfing to mean was revealing. Only two out of 50 responses knew the term and its association with family violence.

We initiated our *Homelessness should never be the safest option* campaign ahead of the Victorian election in 2014 and to coincide with the start of the international 16 Day Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women. The campaign involved placing 600 teddy bears on Parliament House steps to highlight the number of women and children we support escaping family violence.



Events

Events play a major part in raising funds and awareness about our work and the women and children who use our services. These events are enjoyable and make a positive difference to the work we do. We thank all those who worked tirelessly to create great experiences and raise funds.

Twentyfour/7 Cocktail Party

The 2015 TwentyFour/7 cocktail party was a great event supported by Peter Rowland Catering, Place Settings and Ckaos. Held in March, we welcomed close to 250 guests at the beautiful Federation Court in the National Gallery of Victoria.

Emceed by Rebecca Maddern from Channel Seven, guests were captivated hearing from author Susan Berg, who talked about her experience of family violence. The evening raised over \$155,000, enabling us to keep our safe house open round the clock, 365 days of the year.

Events Committee

Jodie Holckner
 Laura Held
 Sandra Jacobs
 Eleni Karamihos
 Amanda Oliver
 Sarah Orloff
 Monique Rosshandler
 Emily Slade
 Kim Thurlow

Friends of McAuley Community Services for Women

Deanne Bevan
 Deanne Hobbs
 Jeanine Froomes
 Toni Joel
 Louise McNamara
 Caroline Riddell-Clarke

Special Thanks

Rohan and Monique Davis
 Helen and Tony Gandel
 David and Bindy Koadlow
 Orloff Family Charitable Trust
 Ion Teska and Monique Rosshandler
 Kris Smith
 Michael Paproth

The Humanity Foundation
 Charles Holckner
 Jack and Robert Smorgon Family Foundation
 National Gallery of Victoria

Event Partners and Supporters

Alfasi Group
 Antler
 Berkowitz Furniture
 Catch of the Day
 The George and Freda Castan Families Charitable Foundation
 Capi
 Coopers
 William Inglis and Sons Ltd
 InfoReady Pty Ltd
 JR/Duty Free
 Cassie Liberman
 Montalto
 Place Settings
 Pratt Foundation
 James Richardson Group
 Sinapse
 Harry Tsindos



Fed Up Lunch

The inaugural Fed Up Lunch was held in February at the Flemington Race Course on Lighting Stakes Day. The lunch was the brainchild of five young men who sprung into action after hearing our CEO talk about family violence on Triple M Hot Breakfast. Matt Tilley, KIIS FM presenter, emceed the event that was attended by 260 people. Guest speaker was Noreen Toohey, Lead Magistrate at the Specialist Family Division at Ballarat Court and the

Regional Co-ordinating Magistrate for the Sunshine Region. The initiative was commended in State and Federal Parliaments as a perfect example of grassroots awareness-raising. The event raised \$30,000, and will be run again in 2016.

Fed Up Team

Michael Jones
Peter Fraser
Toby Potter
Nick Poole
Scott Walker

High Teas

We initiated the #HighTeaAppeal in 2015 to raise funds and engage with the community. In all 33 high teas were organised across Victoria by individuals, businesses, schools, and the Institute of Sisters of Mercy during May and June. Rebecca Maddern was the 'face' of the appeal while Emelia Jackson, Masterchef finalist launched the appeal at a special high tea at McAuley House. The appeal raised \$30,000. We thank all the organisers for their extraordinary culinary and fundraising efforts. It will be held again in 2016.

“ I hosted a high tea because I know what it is like to have experienced family violence. I have had my moments but I have come out stronger. My high tea was about showing women and children that there is hope. ”

- Nicole Brand



Thank you

Our donors are pivotal to our work. We value our donors because without them, our mission would not be realised. In 2014/15 year, we received over \$800,000 from corporate and individual donors, and philanthropic organisations. Special thanks to our volunteers who work across all our programs with infectious energy, enthusiasm and expertise. mcauleycsw.org.au/support-us/volunteer

Major individual contributors

Amanda Barnett
 Luke Elder
 Wendy Frahamer
 Christopher Graham
 Alison Hartzler
 Charles Holckner
 Marie Kearney
 Anne Jackson
 George Karagiannakis
 Julie Kessel
 Sally King
 Laurie Larmer
 Anna Martin
 Jenni McMahon
 Raymond Orloff
 Nick and Sarah Orloff
 Tiffany Percy
 James Poynton
 Phillip Ryan
 Peter Tierney
 Elisabeth Thomas
 Noel Thurlow

Catherine Circle

Patricia Eadie
 Daniel O'Connor
 Fiona Marsh
 Nicole Turner
 Penny Underwood
 Karina Woolrich
 Williamstown Segment

Community

Elsternwick Park Women's Golf Club
 Ionian Club
 Magistrates Court of Victoria
 St Vincent's Private Hospital
 Trak Opportunity Shop
 Vermont Lions Club Inc
 Women of the Melbourne Cricket Club

Government

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

Schools

Academy of Mary Immaculate
 Catholic Regional College - Melton
 Carey Baptist Grammar School
 Edmund Rice
 Geelong Grammar
 Haileybury Parents and Friends of Caulfield
 Melbourne Girls' Grammar
 Mercy College Camperdown
 Mercy College Coburg
 Mt Lilydale College
 Our Lady of Mercy College
 Padua College
 Sacred Heart Kyneton
 Sacred Heart Geelong
 SEDA
 St Aloysius
 St Catherine's
 St Columbus
 St Columba's College
 St Kevin's College
 St Vincent's Private
 Trinity College Colac

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 Board for their tremendous hard work and focus on vision and excellence.

Philanthropy

Impact 100 Melbourne
100 Women
The Baker Foundation
Broadtree Investments Pty Ltd
Barr Family Foundation
Campbell Edwards Trust
Lord Mayor Charitable Foundation
Duggan Foundation
George Perry Fund
Minter Ellison
Origin Foundation
Nordia Foundation
Rich Hart Foundation
StreetSmart Australia
Youanmi Foundation
Leo Halpin Trust

Pro bono and expert advice

Thank you to the many experts who provided advice during the year including Wendy Forrest and Paul Foustone, Tony Dynon, Michael Langtree (Broadtree Investments), Naomi Kelly and Bree O'Connell (Clayton Utz).

Tribute to Dr Lucinda Jordan

We thank all those who donated to McAuley Care in tribute to Dr Lucinda Jordan, who sadly passed away in May 2015. Dr Jordan was a well-loved member of staff in our family violence service.



Financials

Balance sheet

	2015	2014
Current Assets		
Cash & Equivalents	6,918,466	7,691,180
Trade & Recievables	132,427	86,456
Other Current Assets	113,670	20,894
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	1,838	1,839
Property, Plant & Equipment	2,025,362	525,545
TOTAL ASSETS	9,191,763	8,325,914
Current Liabilities		
Trade & Other Payables	935,517	618,038
Provisions	138,828	125,885
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	20,396	19,036
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,094,741	762,959
NET ASSETS	8,097,022	7,562,955
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	8,097,022	7,562,955
TOTAL EQUITY	8,097,022	7,562,955

Statement of equity

	2015	2014
Profit (Loss) (Note 1.)	534,067	481,353
Retained earnings at the beginning of financial year	7,562,955	7,081,602
Retained earnings at the end of financial year	8,097,022	7,562,955

Note 1. The Profit includes interest income earned on funds held for the completion of a major building project.

Future interest income earned will not continue beyond the 2016 calendar year.

Profit and loss statement

INCOME			EXPENSES		
	2015	2014		2015	2014
Federal Government Grants	964,349	908,900	Depreciation & Amortisation	54,634	69,025
State Government Grants	1,000,155	975,091	Employee Benefit Expenses	2,156,797	2,251,547
Gift & Donations Income	707,880	847,011	Program Resources	283,829	263,467
Board & Lodging Fees	160,113	167,041	Administration Expenses	287,090	288,272
	2,832,497	2,898,043	Occupancy Expenses	173,479	181,001
			TOTAL EXPENSES	2,955,829	3,053,312
			PROFIT (LOSS)	534,067	481,353
			<i>Less interest income from capital building project funds (Note 1.)</i>	<i>(503,985)</i>	<i>(510,333)</i>
			OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	30,082	(28,980)
OTHER INCOME					
Interest Received	54,144	77,950			
Capital Investment Interest	503,985	510,333			
Dividends Received	128	119			
Miscellaneous	99,142	48,220			
	657,399	636,622			
TOTAL INCOME	3,489,896	3,534,665			

> Collins & Co; under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 completed the audit of the 30 June 2015 financial statements, the full statements are available at www.mcauleycsw.org.au

Looking forward

Next year will continue to see the growth of McAuley Community Services for Women's services and programs.

Opening of Pickett Street

The highlight will be the opening of our state-of-the-art building in Footscray that will provide safe and secure medium term housing for women.

With 25 beds, the site will pioneer programs sensitive to women's specific needs. These will include education and employment, health, social and recreation programs. The facility will be staffed on a 24-hour basis, allowing for afterhours and weekend community contact and support.

The \$11 million building has been funded through the generous support of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. We will launch a corporate and community campaign to assist with the fit out of the building.

Royal Commission

We will use our submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence in Victoria to inform and to advocate for more resources and better systems to support women and children exposed to family violence and homelessness.

Advocacy

Advocacy, Program Development and Fundraising will continue to be the focus of our attention as we capitalise on the momentum for change.

Children's programs

We hope to expand our Children's Program to address the impact of family violence on infants through to young people. Developing our expertise through partnerships with universities and agencies which are researching this critical area.

Court Children's Program

We will officially launch the Court Children's Program, and are currently seeking funding to extend the program across other courts in Victoria that deal with family violence cases.





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

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 or visit mcauleycsw.org.au



**McAuley Community
Services for Women**

A ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

McAuley Community Services for Women

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