

All Home Safely

McAuley Community Services for Women
Strategic Plan
2018 to 2023



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

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 vision

Women and children are safe, supported and empowered to achieve their highest potential... All home safely.

At McAuley, our vision is for a world where women are safe, supported and empowered to achieve their highest potential.

To us, it is not enough that women and children are not at immediate risk of harm. Our vision – encompassed in our tag line of *All home safely* – is that women and children are safe to remain at home or return home.

We recognise that McAuley is both a safe haven and a restorative facility. Our vision is ultimately, to live in a world where violence and homelessness are eradicated.

Our mission

Creating a world that enables women and children to participate in society on their own terms through innovative services, advocacy and a caring community... so violence and homelessness can be eradicated.

Our mission is to enable women and children to participate in society on their own terms through innovative services, advocacy and a caring community. We focus on the whole woman, acknowledging her choices, her agency and her capacity to rebuild. We focus on empowering the woman to live a life she desires.

We do this by providing innovative solutions in housing, employment, education and life skills. We do this through our advocacy, informed by our insights from integrated service delivery to advocate for change and raise awareness of the impact of women's homelessness. We do this through creating a community, connecting women, reducing isolation and mitigating against future risk.

Our values

COMMUNITY

Women and children coming to McAuley feel that they belong and have the confidence to join other communities.

COMPASSION

McAuley will respect where women and children come from, and that they will be heard and listened to with dignity.

HOSPITALITY

Everyone is met at McAuley as an equal and made to feel at home when they are there.

JUSTICE

Women and children have the right to live at home safely and free of fear.

As a Mercy organisation, we are stewards of, and witness to, the inspiration of Catherine McAuley in our contemporary Australian setting.

Our strengths and opportunities

Our unique integrated service model

McAuley's integrated model of service delivery and advocacy is unique. McAuley's services provide support to women and children from immediate crisis to long term capability building, with the ultimate aim of women and children able to live independently and safely.

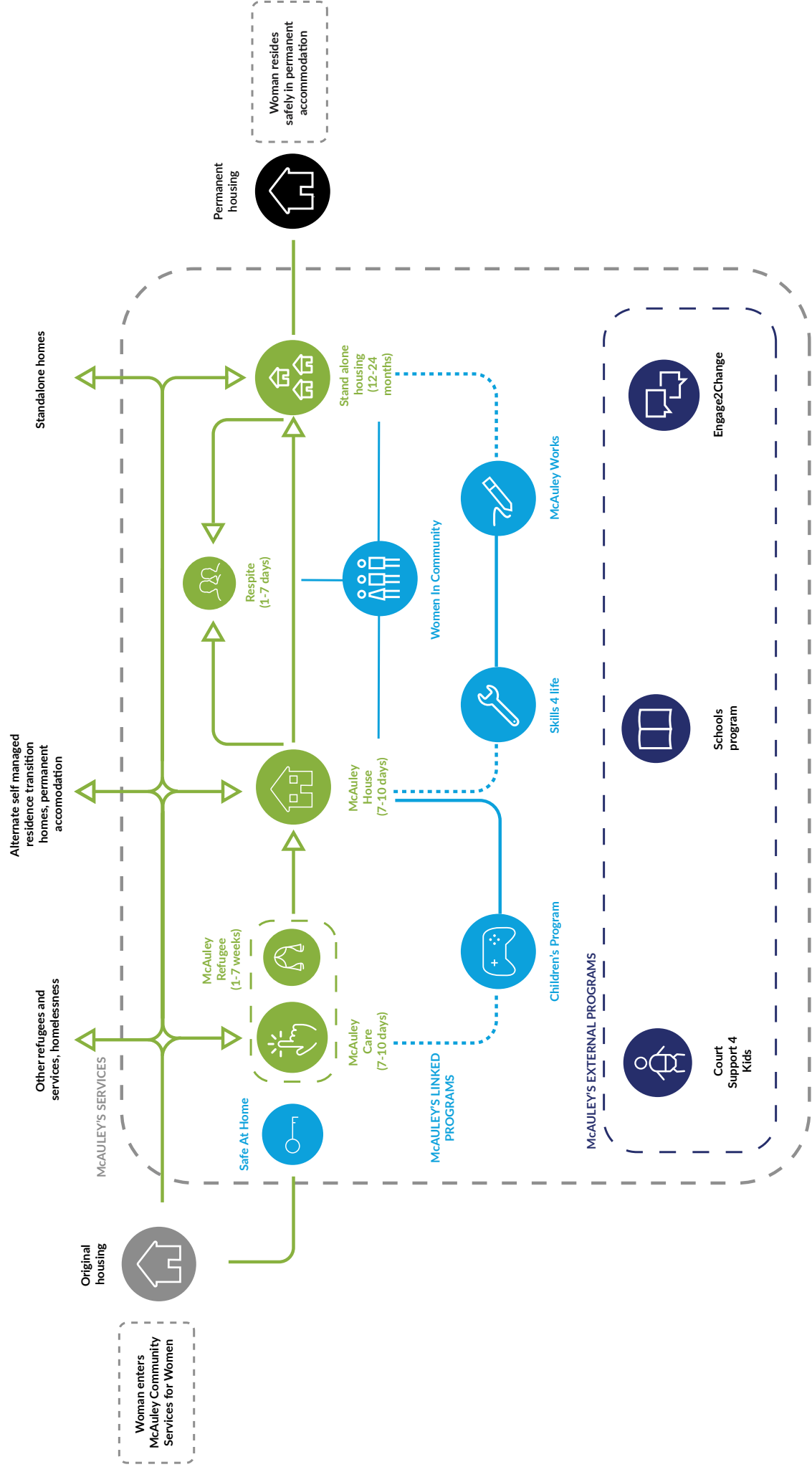
McAuley provides immediate support to remove women and children from risk of harm through our 24/7 crisis refuge and access to support aiming to reduce trauma in children. McAuley also provides wrap-around support to build their capabilities in the medium term through McAuley House and programs and services in employment, life skills and mental health. These are the critical capabilities required to help build a pathway out of homelessness.

Our opportunities

As the number of women who are homeless grows and surpasses the number of homeless men, for the first time in 2016/17, our services are now more in demand than ever. With the completion of Pickett Street, Victoria's first purpose-built accommodation and support services hub for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, there is a huge opportunity to leverage and replicate our innovative model of service delivery regionally first, then nationally. Similarly, our unique position as a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy provides us an opportunity to potentially expand our independent housing footprint.

With the spotlight on family violence and unprecedented investment into family violence services, now is the time to advocate to government to provide sustainable funding to services and deliver them to those who slip through the cracks. We need to raise awareness in the community and workplaces on homelessness and how to respond to family violence. We need to raise the profile of McAuley and our impact through our programs and services and additionally to fundraise and obtain more sustainable sources of funding.

McAuley's services in 2018



Strategic objectives

Objective one: to expand accommodation services, regionally and nationally

Pickett Street has become an iconic hub that embodies the work of McAuley. We will now take our proven integrated model to regional Victoria.

Objective two: to build the capabilities of women and children through education, health and employment services

It is important women and children are empowered to determine their own futures.

Objective three: to advocate for women and children, in places where they do not have a voice

It is not enough to respond to women and children in need, we will advocate for change, identify gaps in services and speak up for women who are homeless and children who do not have a voice.

Objective four: to develop and test solutions to empower women to rebuild their lives

Our service is built on the insights gained from women and children we work with. We will continue to design and deliver innovative responses.

Objective five: to build our capability and capacity to deliver integrated services and advocacy

To deliver on our five year plan, we need the organisational capacity to expand and deliver. We will build our staff capabilities in areas such as innovation, partnership, advocacy and operations.

The Mercy network

McAuley is a ministry of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea; they are great supporters of our work and we work closely with them.

McAuley works with and is supported by other Mercy ministries.

The Mercy network in Australia consists of:

- 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

- McAuley Ministries Ltd

**Homelessness
should never be
the safe option.**



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