

STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2025 - 2027



Mercy Ministry
Companions

INTRODUCTION

A ministerial public juridic person within the Catholic Church, Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) continues the Mercy tradition, providing Community Service, Education, Health and Aged Care ministries enlivened by the spirit of Catherine McAuley. We engage in these ministries on the lands of many First Nations Peoples whose culture, spirituality and connection to land, we respectfully acknowledge.

We are open to the voice of the Spirit as we reimagine the charisms of our founders including the many religious institutes and congregations that have contributed to the vibrant ministries we hold today.

This document provides a focus for the activities of MMC as we work collaboratively with the MMC ministry boards and executives to foster the mission of God's Mercy in our time. Now in its fourth year of stewardship of these ministries, MMC sets out its strategic priorities for the next three years from 2025 – 2027.

Companions, by definition, journey together. Following a process of discernment by the Trustee Directors and staff of MMC and consultation with each of the ministry boards, this document sets out the proposed journey to continue our response to exclusion, disadvantage and inequality and to meet emerging needs. We are guided by our Vision, Mission and Values statements.

Vision Statement

As companions in ministry, we seek to bring about a compassionate and just society and Church by striving to alleviate disadvantage, exclusion and inequality.

Mission Statement

We collaborate in the mission of Jesus by fostering a heart for Mercy within the ministries, in the broader society and for our environment.

Values

Our core values underpin the mutuality of our relationships with God, each other and our common home.

Compassion – we respond with kindness and generosity to those we serve, our ministry colleagues and all with whom we interact

Hope – we see within our current situation possibilities and promise, which nurture and shape our future

Hospitality – we are welcoming of people and ideas, bringing an openness of heart, mind and spirit to our work and life

Justice – we treat everyone with fairness and advocate for the rights and responsibilities of all, especially those who experience disadvantage, marginalisation and vulnerability

Respect – we uphold the intrinsic dignity of each person, no matter their circumstances.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE:



A shared and flourishing program of formation for mission.



Responsive ministry services that address disadvantage, exclusion and inequality.



Strong canonical stewardship and civil governance practices.



A collaborative approach to leadership succession.



Productive relationships with organisations within and beyond the Mercy family.



Sustainability and strengthened resourcing.

We will promote a shared responsibility for formation for mission by:

- Developing a formation pathway.
- Fostering collaboration in the delivery of formation programs across MMC and its ministries.
- Developing a statement which articulates MMC's theological and ethical foundations.
- Exploring a 'Congress of the Heart' for heartfelt engagement and deep spiritual dialogue with the ministries.
- Engaging with other Mercy entities and Catholic ministries in the work of formation.

We will foster responsive ministry services that prioritise addressing disadvantage, exclusion and inequality by:

- Encouraging ministries to identify the people and communities most excluded from critical services and resources.
- Fostering cross-ministry collaboration in response to the needs identified.
- Encouraging partnerships and identifying opportunities to strengthen and widen the delivery of responsive services.

We will continue to embed strong canonical stewardship and civil governance by:

- Establishing robust discernment processes.
- Promoting MMC-wide faithfulness to our mission, vision and values.
- Working towards best governance practices.
- Aligning the annual work program with our strategic priorities and actively managing risk.

We will engage in a collaborative approach to leadership succession by:

- Enhancing leadership formation programs and pathways and engaging potential leaders with these.
- Working with ministry governance committees to ensure proactive succession plans.
- Identifying potential future leaders, including Trustee Directors.
- Providing professional development and formation opportunities for Trustee Directors and staff of MMC.

We will enhance productive relationships with organisations within and beyond the Mercy family by:

- Adopting a synodal approach to discernment and decision-making.
- Engaging with stakeholders proactively.
- Continuing active participation in Mercy networking groups.
- Increasing engagement with other Church entities.

We will ensure organisational sustainability by:

- Exercising effective stewardship of the ministry property portfolio.
- Developing resourcing options which lessen reliance on the ministries.
- Ensuring that our investment and resourcing model is ethical and sufficient and meets regulatory requirements.
- Continuing to foster the relationship with the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea as MMC's sponsor.