



australian
mercy

australian
2024 Annual Report

*People who care
helping people in need*

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Australian Mercy – Who Are We?

Australian Mercy is a non-governmental, not for profit, charitable company limited by guarantee that is a Public Benevolent Institution and a tax concession charity.

Australian Mercy is subject to an annual independent review of our accounts that meets the standards of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC).



Australian Mercy was founded out of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Australia in 1988 to assist the poor and the needy both within Australia and overseas. Like YWAM Australia, Australian Mercy endorses and is guided by the YWAM Statement of Purpose, Core Beliefs, Foundational Values, Legacy Words and Covenants as its sincerely held beliefs in good faith and operational practices.

Australian Mercy does not oversee, or take responsibility for, the activities of other YWAM entities, except within the confines of formal agreements which may be in place from time to time. Neither does YWAM Australia oversee or take responsibility for the activities of Australian Mercy. Australian Mercy is independently constituted and governed by a Board elected from the Australian Mercy membership.

More about Australian Mercy can be found on our webpage: [Australian Mercy](#).

Australian Mercy Board of Directors

	<p><u>Dianne Clark (Secretary)</u> – Canberra, ACT</p> <p>Dianne has a strong interest in staff development and in reaching out to the poor and needy. Dianne and her husband Kevin have initiated several programs to try to assist those in need both within Canberra and overseas.</p>
	<p><u>Kevin Clark (Treasurer and Executive team member)</u> – Canberra, ACT</p> <p>Kevin hails from Perth and has been with Youth With A mission since 1984. He has a <i>Cert IV</i> in Financial Services Accounting (Canberra Institute of Technology 2005). Kevin serves as Accounts Manager for Youth With a Mission Canberra and as Treasurer for Australian Mercy. He is married to Dianne, they have 5 children and 11 grandchildren.</p>
	<p><u>Chris Harrison (Executive team member)</u> – Adelaide, SA</p> <p>Chris was formerly director YWAM Darwin and chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in Darwin. He serves as a fire fighter for the South Australian Country Fire Service and as a Justice of the Peace in South Australia. He is married to Gina, has 2 children and lives in the Adelaide.</p>
	<p><u>Jen Keatch</u> – Darwin, NT</p> <p>Jen background is in teaching and working with children with disabilities. She was previously employed by the Anglican Church as a community worker specializing in delivery of programs for disadvantaged children and families. Jen has studied and worked in Community Development and has a particular interest in projects across SE Asia.</p>
	<p><u>Bruce Skinner</u> – Wollongong, NSW</p> <p>Bruce is Co-Director of YWAM Wollongong. Having been a Structural Engineer for sixteen years in heavy industry, Bruce draws on his experience in the marketplace, combined with more than twenty years in church leadership. Bruce is married to Kristin and lives in Wollongong.</p>
	<p><u>Kris Thomson (Webpage, Online Portal and Executive team member)</u> – Netherlands</p> <p>Kris has a background in mechanics but now works in IT. He has worked in the volunteer sector since 1985. He also lived and worked in Indonesia doing business and community development activities. Kris is married to Gerda and resides in The Netherlands. He is part owner of KJHosting, a web design and hosting company.</p>
	<p><u>Kent Truehl (Board Chair and Managing Director of the Executive team)</u> – Adelaide,</p> <p>Kent has a Bachelor of Christian Ministry and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning. He has worked for World Vision Australia and for the Government South Australia. Kent was a founding member of the International Community Development Centre of the University of the Nations in 1993. For 12 years Kent and his wife Josephine worked in community development in Amazonas, Brazil and co-authored the book, <i>River People</i>. Kent serves on the National Leadership Circle of Youth With A Mission Australia.</p>

Australian Mercy Board Chair



As the Australian Mercy board chair, it is my primary responsibility to help determine the strategic agenda of Australian Mercy. Because nations, governments and externalities change regularly we also need to change both our internal operations and how we connect with the external environment to stay relevant and effective. Max DePree, one of my favourite authors on leadership says,

“We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.”

Max DePree also says, “The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you.”

I want to say “Thank You” first. Then share a strategic organisational reality driven by the Board last.

Thank you cannot be said enough to all Australian Mercy donors. The sacrificial generosity and unwavering commitment to the projects of your heart has achieved so much in the lives of those less fortunate. On behalf of Australian Mercy, the project staff and even the beneficiaries of the projects, I extend my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to each of you.

I also express my sincere gratitude to each Project Management Group (PMG) member of Australian Mercy’s projects. Besides the day job, a PMG member is a volunteer, occasional fundraiser, and advocate.

Special mention and thanks go especially to all the project leaders and their operations team. The in-country, on-the-ground delivery of project outcomes is the precious fruit we all labour for, but no one labours more than the in-country project leader! Often the founder, the visionary, the implementor, the communicator, the encourager etc. etc. the project leader is the hub through which all threads come together. Well done good and faithful servant. Thank you so, so much.

I also wish to thank the General Members of Australian Mercy. Although an Annual General Meeting is the only requirement, I know each member is informed and supportive of Australian Mercy, advocating whenever they can. Thank you. The Australian Mercy Board of Directors can only be drawn from the company membership, so I hope to grow the general membership numbers with the view towards generational renewal of the Board and executive team.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank each Australian Mercy Director. A Board Director is there to help make major decisions on policy, procedures and the overall strategic direction of Australian Mercy. Each director has wisdom, life and ministry experience. I know that each of you serve as leaders in other capacities, so I recognise that giving your time to the Australian Mercy Board is an additional, voluntary commitment. Having those other responsibilities and breadth of experience, however, is the very thing that adds genuine wisdom when confronting and discussing current challenges or projecting the future direction of Australian Mercy.

It is the partnership and collaboration between all the groups mentioned above that really makes Australian Mercy what it is function so well. Thanks again to all.



Now, lastly, back to reality...**true leadership accurately defines reality!** The major reality check of the Board back in 2021 was that the Australian Mercy legal and financial structure needed to be changed. The Australian Mercy Treasurer and accounts manager Kevin Clark has capably led this Board decision since then. Today, all offices around the country, except one, are no longer a legal extension (subsidiary) of the company Australian Mercy Limited. This is not a negative, but the very change to our corporate structure that we have been actively pursuing.

In 2021, Australian Mercy's largest Australian project and successful enterprise, the Nowra Food Store, was transferred to another organisation. It is now called the Nowra Community Food Store and still operates as a charity-run supermarket serving the disadvantaged. When this was finalised, the Board saw the opportunity to gradually unwind our other offices within Australia.

In 2022, Kevin helped The Pantry remove itself from being an Australian Mercy office and come under the full administration of YWAM Canberra, which is a Public Benefit Institution (PBI). It too continues to serve the disadvantaged. Also in 2022, Kevin began communicating with Reverse the Curse of Landmines who was restarting their Cambodian Harvest project that had lost its market of tourists during COVID in 2020 and 2021. Cambodian Harvest could not pay their 20+ workers during that time, so most employees (landmine victims) had to leave. Encouragingly, most found other jobs due to the training, discipleship and confidence they received while working at Cambodian Harvest. Furthermore, over the years, the Cambodian Government had become more proactive supporting landmine victims and disabled people in general. During COVID, the Cambodian Harvest leadership decided to pivot from fruit processing (selling to tourists) to market gardening (selling vegetables to locals in the local market). The continued support of faithful donors through the COVID years enabled a successful transition. By 2023 Cambodian Harvest became a self-sustaining, market garden business under local Cambodian leadership. As a result, Kevin helped Reverse the Curse of Landmines wind up the Australian Mercy office and their Australian operations, since they finally achieved the long-sought after goal of sustainability.

In 2023 RAHAB became an accredited Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) in its own right. As a result, we closed that Australian Mercy office as well. For 10 years RAHAB was administered jointly by YWAM South Australia and Australian Mercy. In 2014 RAHAB formed its own board but continued to process donations through Australian Mercy. In this financial year of 2024, however, RAHAB, received and processed all donations on its own because of its PBI status.

Perth Community Care, a ministry of YWAM Perth, is the only location that is still an “office” or Australian Mercy. This is only because they have funds in a bank term deposit that only matures in this 2025 financial year. When it does, this will complete the long and careful journey of removing all “offices” of Australian Mercy. This is a perfect example of the Board taking strategic leadership and defining reality then commissioning the executive team of the Board to carry out the necessary tasks.

The benefit of this major change is that the former office structure made every project in Australia an extension of the Australian Mercy ABN. In other words, they were a subsidiary of the Australian Mercy National Office. As such, we were the legal covering of the project even though they had their own Board of Directors or were under the covering of a ministry body. We did not feel that was right, nor was it reality. Financially, all the comings and goings of the project was reported as if it was credit or debit of the National Office – this too was not reality.

The ministries that remain connected and served by Australian Mercy in Australia are now reclassified as Australian Mercy projects, not offices. These are G'Day Farmer and Perth Community Care. Australian Mercy wants to have more projects in Australia come on board as we are now better positioned to serve. They will not have an extension of our ABN but will be the legal and spiritual responsibility of their Board, their leadership team, the YWAM base, church or Project Management Group – whatever the case may be. This is just like our international projects are. This is a streamlined, effective and efficient structure suited to today's reality.

Blessings,



Kent Truehl

Australian Mercy Board Chair



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Financial Snapshot

Australian Mercy's income is almost entirely through donations. Employee salaries and wages commonly take 30-40% of a company's gross income. According to the ACNC over 200 billion was given to over 56,000 Australian charities in 2023 alone. Of that 200 billion in donations 108 Billion went to wages – over 50%.

By comparison, Australian Mercy spent absolutely nothing (of your donation) on wages. Wow! Being a pure volunteer organisation with no salaries or wages is a huge savings and a huge material contribution to all Australian Mercy projects. All Australian Mercy staff give their services and expertise without charge, which means, all volunteers, including the Managing Director, raise funds external to Australian Mercy and donate their professional services in-kind, contributing their goodwill and skills with no expectation of remuneration.

Year	Income	Donations	Expenditure	\$Admin & Percent	Profit (Loss)	Cash on Hand
2022	\$906,405	\$748,811	\$896,280	\$31,161 - 3.5%	+ \$10,125	+ \$48,184
2023	\$907,262	\$747,238	\$722,766	\$26,709 – 3.7%	+ \$184,496	+ \$225,104
2024	\$497,313	\$418,268	\$536,411	\$20,515 - 3.8%	(\$39,098)	+\$195,543

As a result of not having offices in Australia, far less donation money is now passing through Australian Mercy's books. This is the main reason for the drop in donation income this year. Australian Mercy is not the least bit discouraged by this reduction however, because Australian Mercy measures success by our service and empowerment of the projects we serve.

It should be noted however that “*Funds sent to International Programs*” in 2024 was \$375,629 which exceeded by \$20K the funds sent to International Programs in 2023 - \$353,490. That's right, despite the drop in Australian office income, money sent to projects overseas actually increased! See the “Financials” section for details.

We do not measure success by financial measures such as income. Seeing Cambodian Harvest independent and sustainable in its work and ministry in Cambodia, with no dependence whatsoever on Australian income is a whopping success by all development measures. Similarly, seeing The Pantry and Rahab grow from strength to strength to become their own PBI's is also a roaring success. These were the outcomes sought years ago when each began.

95% of ALL money donated to Australian Mercy goes directly to the project, whether in Australia or overseas. An organisation operating efficiently and effectively on 5% of gross income is almost unheard of, even in the charity and not-for-profit sector. And as you can see in the table above, ***Australian Mercy's administrative operations is a miniscule 3.5% - 3.8%*** of all corporate expenditure.

Projects that partner with Australian Mercy, in Australia or in other countries, also operate almost entirely by volunteers, but this is not a requirement. In fact, employment is one of the most significant development outcomes that a project can provide. The Old Testament says this too – read the book of Ruth. The New Testament reinforces the value of work and does not endorse free handouts, “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” 2 Thess 3:10

Because we are a pure volunteer organisation, we feel it is important to keep track of our volunteer work hours. Because the actual number of projects that came under the legal covering of Australian Mercy has reduced, so has total number of volunteer hours reduced. Nevertheless, an estimated 101,477 hours of volunteer work was provided to the domestic and international projects of Australian Mercy in 2024. If common salaries of Australia were paid for the same level of work, then the total value of these volunteer hours would be A\$4,609,104 (**four million, six hundred and nine thousand, one hundred and four dollars**). In other words, Australian Mercy would have to ask for this funding from people like you or spend A LOT OF TIME AND MONEY fundraising from other sources. Only a pure volunteer organisation like Australian Mercy can deliver such value for money.



Australian Mercy Managing Director



To carry out the will of the Board and to drive operations, is the role of the executive team of the Board led by the Managing Director.

A special word of thanks to the Directors who serve with me in this capacity, they are, Chris Harrison, Kevin Clark, and Kris Thomson. We meet about forty times a year to execute Board decisions and implement tasks that emerge from those decisions and to take care of business.

Four major undertakings of the last financial year dominated Australian Mercy's workload and corporate operations of the executive team in this financial year ending 30 June 2024.

First The Online Project Management Portal (OPMP) is accessed by Australian Mercy projects for the purposes of project management. It was rolled out for operation on 1 February 2024. Like any major organisational change, this required adjustment for all projects, especially the project leaders.

The OPMP has significantly improved organisational efficiency by hosting all communication between Australian Mercy and the projects in the portal, thus reducing the forwarding and storage of emails and reducing overlooked communication as it is also stored in the portal with the communication thread visible to all. The automated OPMP system makes project tasks, reporting and tracking streamlined and easier, and it can be done on a smart phone, now a key project management tool!

Once again, I wish to acknowledge the expertise and work of Board Director and executive team member Kris Thomson, for his development and ongoing management of the Online Project Management Portal.

Second Last year's review of foundational documents led to removing the old name, acronyms, charitable purpose statement, and company objects in the constitution and in other documents and resources. These changes also required us to review and update of Australian Mercy's policies, procedures, working templates and fund guidelines as found Australian Mercy's 166-page Policy and Procedures Manual.

Third Changes to Australian Mercy's corporate and financial structure is almost fully completed, as communicated in the Board Chair's report. Additionally, all redundant accounts have been closed, so that Australian Mercy is now operating almost entirely out of one bank account. Of course, modern software and good accounting practise keeps all designated funds and different pots of money separate, even when the money comes and goes from just one account.

We did decide to open one new bank account, however – an interest-bearing business account. Now all funds can temporarily earn interest instead of sitting around doing nothing before being dispatched.

Fourth Last year's review of Australian Mercy's three largest costs that represent 65% of our corporate expenditure – the financial audit, membership dues and company insurance – led to the following changes this year.

- a. Australian Mercy decided to remain with our same insurance provider, but we re-negotiated some minor changes to our coverage that resulted in a small annual savings.
- b. The Australian Mercy Board of Directors decided not to renew membership with ACFID (the Australian Council for International Development) for the following reasons:
 - I. Australian Mercy benefitted in our early years from ACFID accreditation as it provided donors and others assurance we operated according to best practice. However, Australian Mercy today has a highly regarded reputation and a 36-year history of organizational integrity, therefore ACFID vouching for us is no longer necessary.
 - II. The Board determined that ACFID did not serve Australian Mercy significantly and that the membership cost was high (it mostly funded ACFID operations), therefore, membership did not represent value for money.
 - III. ACNC was established in 2012 as the Federal government regulator. Australian Mercy fulfils the Governance Standards as a charity, and the External Conduct Standards, as an international development organization. Once complying with ACNC, there was no benefit in additional ACFID compliance.
- c. The Australian Mercy Board of Directors decided not to renew membership with Missions Interlink (MI).
 - I. Australian Mercy fully supports the purpose of Missions Interlink and the service they provide to church and mission agencies. Nevertheless, Australian Mercy rarely utilised the services offered. As a member of YWAM Australia, Australian Mercy finds the support and services we desire, and require, through our YWAM Australia network of relationships, conferences, support and services. Therefore, it was determined that the Missions Interlink membership dues was not money well spent.
- d. The Australian Mercy Board of Directors decided a financial review, instead of a financial audit was sufficient and represented no increased risk.
 - I. Australian Mercy was classified as a large charity until 2022, when ACNC reclassified large charities as entities with over 3 million in annual income. This reclassified Australian Mercy as a medium-sized charity. As a medium-sized charity, Australian Mercy is no longer required to conduct a full financial Audit. Instead, ACNC requires an independent financial review.
 - i. The Australian Mercy Board of Directors decided a financial review is more than adequate because Australian Mercy has no employees, few income generating activities to monitor other than donations and almost no material assets such as buildings, vehicles etc. The financial review can be completed faster, it saves money yet is still conducted by an independent third party.

Lastly Australian Mercy was informed that a former supporter had designated a percentage of their estate to Australian Mercy in their will. We were contacted by the company

Willed because this supporter made an online bequest to Australian Mercy in the online will created and managed by **Willed**. I did not know this, but online bequests are the new normal! I guess everything else is online, why not writing your will. Through this unexpected blessing Australian Mercy decided to form a partnership with Willed (<https://www.willed.com.au>) for this very purpose. I have found Willed to be a simple, affordable and convenient way of writing your Will and, of course, it is legally sound. If you wish to investigate this, click on the link above. Australian Mercy can be chosen should you wish to leave a legacy gift to the project you have long supported.

Blessings,

Kent Truehl

Australian Mercy Managing Director



Australian Mercy Projects

Project list

Organization / Project name	Location	Project Focus
1. Ark International	Thailand	Protecting Children at risk
2. Buzz Off Malaria Campaign	Burma /Thailand / PNG/	Malaria, Dengue, Zika etc
3. Equal Access Education	Indonesia	Social Religious Reconciliation
4. Home of the Open Heart	Thailand / Myanmar	HIV / AIDS
5. iCare4U	PNG	Women & Children with HIV
6. Burma IDPs and Refugees	Thailand / Burma	Thai Burma Border Refugees
7. Kids Ark	Timor Leste	Education, Health and Disability
8. Pacific Island Development	Vanuatu	Various
9. Redefined Ministries	Democratic Republic of Congo,	Community Development
10. Teouma Christian Academy	Vanuatu, Pacific	Education
11. Vanitashray	India	Women and Children at risk
12. G'day Farmer	Australia (NSW,QLD)	Australian Farmers in need
13. Perth Community Care	Australia (Perth)	Families in need
14. Emergency Relief Campaigns	Various	Feb 2024 Tanzania bus crash crisis June 2024 Home building in Ukraine

People who care (all of us) *helping people in need* (the beneficiaries of Australian Mercy projects). This is the heart of the matter, which is why the Australian Mercy projects are the heart of what and why we do what we do. The projects have many expressions, such as emergency relief, medical care, primary health, child sponsorships, community development, empowering women, training, economic development, school education and the provision of disability care.



YWAM MERCY VIETNAM
EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS
POVERTY THROUGH SPECIFIC, SUSTAINABLE,
COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Serving Children in Difficult Circumstances Vietnam

We contribute to developing healthy and flourishing communities, paying particular attention to those in poverty and to children in difficult circumstances.

We provide a consistent, safe and caring environment for children in the most difficult situations. We ensure access to education, safe shelter, food & clothing.

Our focus is that children become productive members of their communities.

We work in the areas of Education and Housing as well as Health and Wellbeing.

🕶️ *Enhancing Children's Wellbeing Through Life-Skills Training* 🏆

YWAM Mercy Vietnam collaborated with our three Children's Homes to organize a training session on the topic of *Life Values*. This training session was designed based on the characteristics, psychology, and age of the children. The activities sought to minimize attitudes of rejection, opposition, and inferiority, helping the children gain self-awareness and confidence in sharing, thereby practicing their communication skills and the ability to express their thoughts in front of others.

[I want to help children continue in school !](#)



NO LONGER ORPHANS

The vision behind our home is to model and provide a family-style environment for children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

Our goal is to be a family for children who find themselves without parents or relatives to care for them. We confront this massive need by prioritising quality of our care for children over quantity.

Our mission is to assist and enable adults, children and babies by providing education, orphan care, both in our home and in our community. Currently our focus is on community work, empowering families affected by HIV in our community.

And we are focusing on “being family” to the children in our care who all came to us as infants, providing family and opportunity to be “NO LONGER ORPHANS”.

DONATE HERE

[Open Your Heart to Home of the Open Heart](#)

PEACE CAMPS INDONESIA



Equal Access is actively involved with Peace & Community initiatives.

These include Education Programs of the Associations Asian Partners who hold to similar values, involving Muslim and non-Muslim communities. Some of our current initiatives are listed below.

These camps are inter-faith, inter-cultural, and international, where diversity is celebrated, and first steps are taken towards better relations and healthier communities. This ultimately empowers and equips the local community with all the tools they need for multiplying peace and conflict transformation. Each Peace Camp involves up to 100 young leaders from Muslim, Christian and other religious communities in an interactive environment.

This project reaches out to young people who have been entrusted to rural religious schools in low socio-economic areas throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Generally, poverty exists within these schools, as well as a vulnerability to extreme teaching.

[Bring Reconciliation - Equal Access Indonesia/](#)

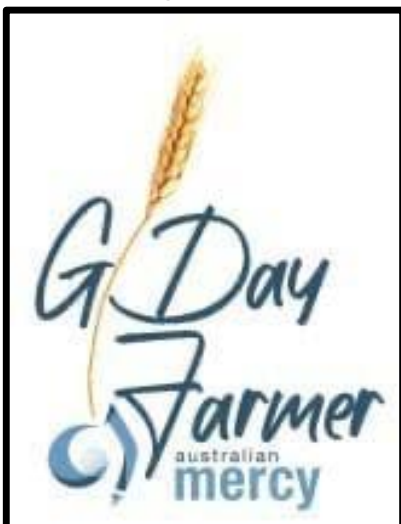
G'Day Farmer

Helping the Farmers who are doing it tough



Australia is a wonderful country with a broad expanse of farming land from the fertile coastal plains to the dry and arid regions further inland. The land presents minor and major challenges to our farmers droughts, floods, fires and plagues. Australian farmers are a tough breed who soldier on through the challenges they face but there are times when they require help.

G'day Farmer endeavours to provide relief to farmers who are in adverse circumstances due to health, financial or practical difficulties; by providing volunteer assistance including machine operation, stock work, maintenance, general farm activities and farm-sitting.



Having spent years on the land ourselves we understand these challenges and so we want to assist farmers who are struggling and doing it tough for whatever reason.

Therefore, if you know of any farmers who could use a helping hand or if you're in that situation, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

[G'day Farmer](http://australianmercy.org/gdayfarmer)



Education in Vanuatu is not compulsory, the biggest challenge in Vanuatu is access and affordability for many families.

- **22.1% of children are not attending Kindergarten (ECCE)**
- **8.3% of children are not attending Primary School (Year 1-6)**
- **57.6% of children are not attending Secondary School (Year 7+)**

Teouma Christian Academy addresses the needs for local schooling capacity and quality education by providing a high-quality education to the children of Teouma Valley in a fully equipped school.

Teouma Christian Academy has been established in response to a request from the local community to operate a local school. We will fill the gap in the Teouma Valley region for educational needs. Teouma Christian Academy provides Kindergarten and Primary Education for children up to Year 7.

To provide education through to Year 13, we are adding a new class group each year to see our eldest students through to completion of Secondary school by 2028 and cater for approximately 336 students.



This will ultimately provide Vanuatu with additional resources of skilled and experienced individuals for every aspect of society to aid in Vanuatu's development.

In doing so, the students entering university and the Vanuatu workforce will have a high level of confidence, learning capability and language skills.

[Donate Now](#)

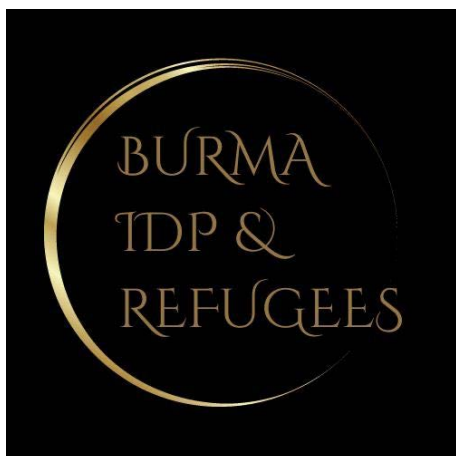
Internally Displaced People (IDP) and Refugees



Burma IDP is about caring for refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs). Many people are shocked when they hear that in Myanmar a war raged for more than 30 years that displaced more than 2 million people. Some of these people live in refugee camps in Thailand close to the Thai / Burmese border. The largest of these camps is Mae-la about 55km north of the Thai border city of Mae Sot.

We provide educational and medical support, training and emergency relief to the refugees inside the Mae-la refugee camp and general relief to the IDPs living close to the Thai/Burmese Border.

[DONATE NOW](#)



The Mae La refugee camp is filling up because of the war. New additions to the camp will put even more pressure on the few resources available to all refugees in Mae-la.

TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Mission

We are an international body defending the rights of children at risk in South-East Asia with a specific mandate to network, train and provide specialized programs so that children can be restored, equipped and transformed for their unique contribution to the world.

Vision

- Develop specialized programs identifying needs of children at risk and providing ways to meet these target needs
- Partner and network with other organizations to maximize the influence and effectiveness in assessing need and sustaining growth of programs that focus on the needs of children at risk.
- Train and educate by providing educational opportunities for those directly/indirectly working with children at risk and by providing educational opportunities for children at risk themselves.

Values

Commitment - Our mission is to impact the lives of under-privileged youth through intentional encouragement, discipleship, and mentorship to positively influence and better their future.

Excellence - We desire to go beyond the status quo standards in relation to what we demand of ourselves, the operation of our programs, and our communication.

Coalition - We believe in multiplying our efforts by collaborating with other programs and organizations to increase our outreach and our effectiveness in impacting young lives.

Accountability - We understand that resources have been entrusted to us to carry out the work we do at the highest of standards and we are fully committed to absolute efficiency in all we endeavour.

Family - We are deeply committed to one another as team members, and this allows us work together in unity toward the same goal.

Christ-Centered - ARK International is founded on biblically based principles and we will uphold our Christian identity while remaining sensitive to the beliefs and backgrounds of those we collaborate with.

Purpose

- Restore children – through education, life skill training, discipleship and love
- Advocate – a real and effective commitment to the principle of children's rights and mobilizing individuals, families, communities, churches and governments to action
- Resource – gather the necessary resources for children at risk
- Train/Educate – provide training that is versatile and flexible in various nations with a commitment to equip workers and locals in specific areas of need as well as providing tangible educational opportunities for children/youth themselves
- Network – we aim to work alongside those organisations, individuals and churches who work with children at risk. By working with a global network, we are able to share resources and create a stronger, united force to impact the lives of children
- Prayer and Intercession – fight the battle of freedom and wholeness for children at risk in prayer, intercession, spiritual warfare and worship

Webpage: <https://arkintl.org/>

Donate: <https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/ark-international/>

Papua New Guinea

iCare4U is a Home and Respite Community in Papua New Guinea which supports and empowers women, children, and the communities they live in.



Mission – Restoring Dignity. Rebuilding Identity. Releasing Hope.

Nurture

Working to provide caring homes to nurture children who have been neglected, abandoned or orphaned due to the impacts of HIV

Rehabilitate

Providing a 3-month rehabilitation programme to care for women suffering from the impacts and isolation of HIV

Engage

Engaging communities in order to eliminate the social stigma associated with HIV, empowering the community to take greater responsibility in accepting and caring for their people.



Donate Now: [iCare4u Papua New Guinea](#)

Kids Ark – East Timor

Education at Kids Ark

Kids Ark runs two pre-schools and one primary school. Pre-schoolers graduate after two years and continue through our primary school to Grade 6. We use the national curriculum, teaching in Tetun and Portuguese. All our teachers are Timorese, assisted at times by our other full-time staff.

Mission Statement

To be a centre of teaching so that ALPHA primary school and KIDS ARK Pre-school will provide excellent education through innovative teaching to inspire and empower each individual for a better future, and to be released in their potential to serve.



In 2003 we were asked by the local community to start a pre-school in Hera. There was a need for school, and they came to us. We started with a small class of 30 kids in a small, rented room. The community was so blessed by the start of the school that very soon we had to look for another location. After 3 years, we started grade 1 and land was given to us....now we have 300 kids from pre-school to grade 6 and a beautiful school and 23 local staff working with us.

The Medical Clinic

Kids Ark runs a registered medical clinic in the village of Sidara. Branca (nurse) oversees a team of volunteer doctors from Dili. The clinic is open five days a week with Branca being on-call at any time for emergencies. On occasions, mobile clinics travel to the remoter hill areas. Today we also have the Rehabilitation Centre and Maternity Centre. We also educate people in how to live a healthy life and also bring dignity to a group of people that because of their disabilities were

destined to live hiding inside the house. Today through the Centre they can study , play and be part of the community.

Birthing Centre

Nearby the clinic is a birthing centre. Births are assisted by one trained and one traditional midwife. A close watch is given to first time mums and those with a history of problems. Kids Ark assists with transport to hospital. Mothers can stay at the centre post-natal and are given food, milk and babies supplies to take home. Pre-natal classes are run every Wednesday morning. alongside the Mothers with young children program.

Donate to Kids Ark today - [Kids Ark](#)

Pacific Village Projects

Pacific Village projects previously operated under the name of Volunteer Vanuatu until 2023. It began when a small team of Volunteers from Townsville, QLD, Australia visited Vanuatu working with the communities of Pango Village, Erakor and Eratap Villages completing small help projects in each village. Since these small beginnings, through word of mouth, websites, and Facebook, 100's of volunteers from Australia and New Zealand have worked alongside villages, assisting with the development goals of the nation.

To date, both Ni-Vanuatu and international volunteers have partnered with communities and funded the following projects:

Water and Sanitation

- 53 Water Tanks have been built in villages on Efate and off-shore Islands.
- 2 Septic Tanks built in Eratap
- 3 Homes of Hope built in Prima area of Port Vila and Pango village
- Various help projects such as house and roof repairs, small engine repairs.

Health

- Simple Health Care -Train the Trainer project in Blacksands
- Clinical help in Blacksands, Eratap and Pango Villages
- Repair of Clinic Water Tank in Lelepa
- Hookworm prevention and eradication in Blacksands.
- Distribution of mosquito nets, protective foot-ware, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lice shampoo, soap bars, secondhand clothing to the outer islands.

Education

- Community Development Seminar held at USP in partnership with Habitat for Humanity
- TESOL/English Training held in Pango Village
- Quickbooks accounting Training Pango Village
- Education Seminar held in Luganville and Port Vila
- Preschool Teacher Training held for Seaside and Pango village preschool teachers
- Homes of Hope Construction Training – Pango Village
- Water Tank Construction Training – Pango Village
- Help with English teaching at various schools around Port Vila
- Leadership training

- Donations of school supplies and reading books to various schools.

To donate to Pacific Village Projects: <https://australianmercy.org/projects/>

Buzzoff International

Buzzoff Malaria Campaign Project

Running seminars in remote districts, distributing mosquito nets to those struggling to purchase them, creating awareness of the issues of mosquito born illnesses or selling mosquito repellents are some of the ways Buzzoff works. The team in Burma continues to do malaria work in local communities. Despite the internal difficulties because of the war, the team is managing to do effective outreach into small communities with minimum risk to the in-country Buzzoff team members. The team also responded to the typhoon that struck the country and provided a limited amount of disaster relief assistance in areas affected by flooding.

The international Buzzoff team completed the Buzzoff training manual, and the accompanying videos. It is titled **A World without Malaria – Seminar Series**. This series uses an animation approach rather than recording real people as this more effective in cross-cultural and multiple language adaptation. **A World Without Malaria** is a comprehensive short video series featuring 23 episodes, each 10-15 minutes long, focused on understanding, diagnosing, preventing, and treating malaria. The videos also consider topics like mosquito management, community health and hygiene, and how conditions like anaemia, TB and HIV relate to malaria.



To see more information about Buzzoff, the video series, or to buy Buzzoff products before you travel, go to their website at: <https://buzzoff.org/>

To make a donation to Buzzoff you can click here: [Buzz-off](#)

Perth Community Care

The mission of ARMS Perth is “Assisting families through times of crisis by providing practical help and mobilising others to do the same.”

The ARMS Perth objectives are:

1. To keep families together by providing practical assistance
2. Connecting with social workers to bridge a gap for families.
3. To help families access proper resources for their situation.
4. More volunteers through local church participation and neighbour care.

Social workers refer a family in need. Australian Mercy volunteer Perth Community Care workers visit and help, by being in the home and helping with practical needs. This gives strength and hope to the family and promotes a pathway toward independence.

Through simple assistance like cleaning a house, weeding a lawn or assisting with errands, we show people they are not alone and not forgotten. Through a listening ear and practical help, we provide the relief that people need to help them manage their crisis situations.

We also equip local church volunteers to demonstrate care for their community. We do this through our neighbour care program which trains church members how to reach out and care for families. We have managed to help many families and individuals involved in high crisis level situations like domestic violence and child protection issues. We had opportunities to not just practically help them but also managed to build a supportive relationship with them in the process.

You can donate through this webpage: [ARMS Perth](#)

Congo Redefined Ministry

Redefined Ministries International DRC is a registered organisation in Ituri Province, Mahagi Territory of Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This area is very close to the border with Kenya.

Redefined Ministries International is working to rebuild lives and communities after the damage caused by war and continues to invest in projects like tailoring and sewing that generate money in the community because the community uses the services provided. Those trained developed a real sense of self-worth and for some, uncovered creative talent. The valuable skills and knowledge learned enables them to gain employment and/or carry out tailoring tasks for their own family and friends. Most of the students are mothers.



Redefined Ministries International continues its partnership with Birthing Kits Foundation Australia (BKFA). They assist with a clean & safe birth to thousands of newborn babies. BKFA is a fantastic organisation which Redefined is proud to receive regular support from. The kits are always gratefully received by expectant mothers.

Finally, the Baking project helps people to learn valuable skills and knowledge that enabled them to gain employment and/or put their skills to good use when preparing meals for their family and friends.

To donate go to our webpage: <https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/redefined-ministries/>

Vanitashray – India

At Vanitashray we believe education is the passport to a child's future. Education is the single most important factor in breaking the cycle of poverty. Because of this Vanitashray has transitioned 134 children into schools, both Government and private. We believe Education is Every Child's Right. In safe and fun environment where Children can Thrive and Learn.

Also because of this fact, our Board has embarked on the largest project in our history. It is the Legacy Foundation building project of Vanitashray. As we stepped out in faith, to our great surprise and excitement, everyone in the process had agreed and supported the decision of buying a property that will cater to the needs of Family Sustainability instead of building an orphanage.

The land has been found and purchased already and detailed architectural drawings are complete. A brick wall has been built around the entire perimeter of the property and a deep well has been drilled and a pump house constructed. Because of these valuable assets, a security guard building has also been built and a security guard has been hired. And yes, we even have ALL Government approvals for the construction. All of this is nothing but absolute favour of God. Of course, this has been years in the making with substantial investment already given.

Now we are excited to announce that we are ready to start on the VANITASHRAY Christian School Legacy Foundation building. Below is an architect's impression drawing of the building.



The building project will serve many marginalized children from both the urban and rural areas. In addition to a school, there will be Early Childhood education, skill development and Women Empowerment programs. We strongly believe God is in this story!!

The VANITASHRAY Christian School Legacy Foundation building project will cost A\$469,680 for Phase 1 and Phase 2 will cost A\$379,620, a grand total of A\$849,300.

To give to the **Vanitashray Christian School Legacy Foundation building** click on this link:
<https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/vanitashray/>

Agency Agreements

Australian Mercy has decided to pursue an Agency Agreements, a type of Memorandum of Understanding, with the two organisations listed here. Australian Mercy serves these organisations by receiving and forwarding funds, because they are not legal entities in Australia, but have donors in Australia.

They are organisations in good standing in their nations. Importantly, we know them personally, and have worked together for some years already. These agencies serve like Australian Mercy does, as a service to projects that deliver services on the ground in Thailand, South-East Asia and the Middle East. The Australian Mercy Board of Directors is not responsible to them, or for them, as they have their own governing bodies.

Project L.I.F.E. Foundation – Thailand

Project L.I.F.E. is a registered Thai Foundation, under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government. Project L.I.F.E. Foundation is committed to giving the poor, the forgotten, the broken in Thai society the opportunity to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their families. These include food, clothing, shelter, education and gainful employment.

Project L.I.F.E. has over 100 full time staff in 14 projects spread over 12 provinces. We reach out hands of love to abandoned children, abused young girls, prostitutes, HIV babies, dying mothers, poor rural women, slum women. They're the most vulnerable people, and Project L.I.F.E. has been helping them since 1987 as a registered charity under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government.



It takes gas to run a car, wings to keep a bird aloft. In the same way, Project L.I.F.E. Office provides the uplift, the oil, that keeps the 13 programs of Project L.I.F.E. running. The people who work in the Project L.I.F.E. Office doing the administration aren't here for the money (there is very little!) or for the glory (who comes to take pictures of an accountant?). We're here for the same reason as the staff reaching out to a drug addict, the staff person holding a baby dying of Aids. We're here to help the poor, the needy, the broken, the wounded of this nation find a safe place. A new beginning. A future. If that means doing accounting, we do it. If that means getting visas and work permits for overseas volunteers, we do it. If it means working late, waiting for hours in government offices, doing research, finding funding, solving problems, we do it. Unseen. We do our part, so others can do their part. That's how L.I.F.E. comes to Thailand's poor and needy. That's what L.I.F.E. is about.

Donors in Australia give to the Project L.I.F.E. Foundation office through Australian Mercy here: [Project LIFE](#)

Partners Relief and Development

Chiang Mai, Thailand – The Office for Southeast Asia and Middle East projects

Partners Relief and Development acts by providing emergency relief during crisis events. Then, we join hands with local communities displaced by war to co-design sustainable development initiatives that transform community wellbeing, improve health and education, and provide a nurturing environment for children to reach their full potential.

Although the Partners Relief and Development governing board is based in the USA, most of the staff and project work is carried out in the Chiang Mai, Thailand office. The group of world-changers below, who are working to make our vision of free, full lives for children affected by conflict and oppression reality, are mostly based in Chiang Mai.



In this last financial year, Partners Relief and Development had 33 projects in 7 countries that assisted 711,649 people. The seven countries are all located in SE Asia and the Middle East. They are: Myanmar, Thailand, Bangladesh, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.

For more about them as an organisation and the projects they run go to their website: [Partners](#)
If an Australian wishes to donate to one of their projects and receive a tax-deductible receipt, you can do that through Australian Mercy here: <https://australianmercy.org/projects/>

Short Term Projects and Emergency Aid

Australian Christian Legal Society

Lawyers of Hope Women's rights legal education project out of Kigali, Rwanda is a short-term project supported by the Australian Christian Legal Society.

In 1999 the Rwandan government enacted its first gendered land rights in Rwanda. The legislation was trying to overcome gender inequality supported by custom regarding matrimonial regimes and inheritance. However, there are still obstacles that prevent women in Rwanda from claiming or fully enjoying their rights over land. These obstacles are mostly related to the lack of awareness of laws providing those rights. Gender inequality is found in inter-generational inter-vivos land-transfers which were traditionally gifts of land given to male children, but which, through law, should also be accessible to women.

The purpose of Women's rights legal education project is to provide education to Rwandans regarding women's rights and amendments to the law through which women are now entitled to own property given to them through a Will. Given the influence of faith-based organisation structures on Rwandan Communities, this project will be implemented through Churches. The aim of the project is to educate pastors, local leaders and community members on the new laws, with an aim to advise women to know their rights, for example: register their marriage, register land, etc. Educating church pastors is a priority so that they may be able to assist and advise women and families who find themselves impoverished due to unjust and unlawful succession practices.

Subject to available resources, our aim is that information kits and education resources, including template wills, may be developed into local dialects, and distributed by local church and community leaders. A team of Australian Lawyers may travel to Rwanda to assist in this training and to train the trainers. Without effective community awareness on the substance and legal pathways of the Law No 22/99, many widows and children are continuing to be left homeless and destitute after the death of the man of the house.

Waves of Hope Ukraine

Australian Mercy received a donation of \$1,000 from Villawood Properties, a large property developer with developments in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. The Villawood Foundation, the formal body overseeing Villawood Properties' philanthropy program, normally assists community groups and causes around Australia. On this occasion, however, they supported the "Waves of Hope" project in Ukraine run by the Christian mission YWAM Ukraine. Australian Mercy sent this donation with our friend and former colleague who went to the Mykolaiv region in south Ukraine, with an international team of seven people. He wrote the following:

Ukraine is a very Christian country so "Waves of Hope" is not just about building homes, but building hope into the communities through the Love of Jesus. As homes were being built, there were children's day camps running and a Christian team visiting people. All together:

- 15 Nations came together to build
- 160 People were involved
- 35 People decided to follow Jesus
- 20 Homes were built
- 1 Community Centre was built
- 65 Kids came to our camps
- 1 House group formed in the village Kvitneve

For the first week we worked together with local YWAM staff and students in distributing building panels and materials to all the sites in the villages. In the second week we built two homes in the village of Zelenyi Hai. Our team got assigned a "special case" - a 80 m2 double house for a family of seven as our first build. The second home we built for a lady called Inna who had recently lost her husband, and her only son was injured in the shelling, resulting in permanent disability. It was such a blessing to be able to present God's practical Love to these people who had lost so much and hear their stories and see how they were touched by this Love. Handing of the keys along with the Word of God and prayer were emotional occasions and definitely was the highlight.

With thankfulness,

I. M.

Projects in transition

War is a terrible thing.

The ongoing war in Myanmar has caused one of our projects to close and the recapture of Afghanistan by the Taliban has caused a second project to close. We do our best to labour in these troubled fields, as do those on the ground in these locations, but sometimes it just becomes too much or becomes too risky.

Afghan Hope Afghanistan

The Youth Empowerment & Peacebuilding Project meets the needs/issues of a lack of peace education, mental health education, and leadership training for young people in Afghanistan by offering peacemaking and leadership development training, and mental health education. Afghan Hope ran a “Peace Starts with Me” (PSWM) program with 100 participants, one leadership training program for new facilitators to run PSWM programs (which was 6 women), and we ran one “Flourishing Program” with 30 women.

The situation on the ground, with the Taliban banning girls from school, has stopped this project from running. The six girls we trained through the leadership program have received warnings from the Taliban to stop all programs with women and to stay home. One of the girls and her family had to go into hiding. We found a way for her and her sister to escape to Pakistan. Our project leader also had to flee to Pakistan for his safety. We would like to bring them all to Australia, but the time and process required for receiving refugee status and then to apply for a visa to Australia is huge. The financial costs are also huge.

Your prayer is appreciated. And if you wish to contribute towards those mentioned leaving Afghanistan you can designate that here: <https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/afghan-hope/>

ABCD Network

The Australia Burma Community Development (ABCD) Network Humanitarian Relief for Myanmar Project

The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar worsened in the last financial year as armed conflicts continued and the Myanmar military took further actions to restrict humanitarian aid. According to the UN, an estimated 1,844,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were reported across the country as of 12 June 2023. One-in-three, or 17.6 million people, are now in humanitarian need, up from 1 million people at the start of 2021. We had hoped that the ABCD Network and our Australian Mercy networks could get money into the country to help but all this year no solution was found. The project management group of ABCD Network decided therefore to close the project and requested that they be removed from the Australian Mercy website.

Financial Statements

In accordance with the financial reporting requirements set out in section 60 of the Australian Charities and Non Profits Act 2012, Australian Mercy undergoes an independent review of its finances annually. The full copy of our accounts review can be viewed on the ACNC website. Attached here is the *Profit / Loss Statement* and the *Statement of Financial Position*.

Profit / Loss Statement

Australian Mercy Limited ABN 84 008 643 258 Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2024			
	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue			
Donations and Gifts			
- Monetary		418,268.46	747,238.00
- Non-Monetary		-	-
- Bequest and Legacies Grants		-	-
- Other Australian		-	-
- Other Overseas		-	-
Investment Income - Interest Received		8,896.82	8,116.16
Other Income		45,203.81	113,985.55
Profit on Sale of Assets		3,142.00	-
Admin Fees Received		21,802.28	37,921.88
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence		-	-
Total Revenue	2	497,313.37	907,261.59
Expenditure			
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure			
- International Programs			
- Funds to International Programs		375,629.47	353,489.63
- Fundraising Costs			
- Public	3	-	-
- Accountability and Administration	4	20,514.84	26,709.12
- Non-Monetary Expenditure		-	-
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		396,144.31	380,198.75
International Political/Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		-	-
Domestic Programs Expenditure		140,267.33	342,566.83
Total Expenditure		536,411.64	722,765.58
Surplus/(Deficit)		(39,098.27)	184,496.01
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(39,098.27)	184,496.01

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Australian Mercy Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Statement of Financial Position
As At 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	195,543.24	225,103.76
Other financial assets	6	614.00	1,879.71
Total Current Assets		196,157.24	226,983.47
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	878.50	5,748.55
Total Non-Current Assets		878.50	5,748.55
Total Assets		197,035.74	232,732.02
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	3,454.35	52.36
Total Current Liabilities		3,454.35	52.36
Total Liabilities		3,454.35	52.36
Net Assets		193,581.39	232,679.66
Equity			
Retained Earning		193,581.39	232,679.66
Total Equity		193,581.39	232,679.66

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Charitable Gift Funds

By structuring some of our giving we are strategically targeting a future and ongoing impact into the projects, communities and causes we care most about. Equity Trustees is our partner that supports Australian Mercy, and you, in philanthropy. Philanthropy is best done when shared, with you and your family, with Australian Mercy and with the communities and causes we love to give in to. Here are five charitable gift funds Australian Mercy set up for the people and causes special to us

Name of Fund	Equity Trustee No	Beneficiary
Australian Mercy Disaster Relief Charitable Gift	CH002155 ID 10126	AM – Disaster relief efforts
Australian Mercy Charitable Gift	CH002309 ID 10172	The Australian Mercy Fund
Australian Mercy International Women's Charitable Gift	CH002310 ID 10173	Donna McDermid Memorial Fund
Australian Mercy 3 Diseases Charitable Gift	CH002440 ID 10190	Malaria, TB and HIV Projects
Australian Mercy Medical & Training Charitable Gift	CH002441 ID 10191	The Vicki Project

These Charitable Gift funds are held and invested by Equity Trustees, who is a reputable superannuation and wealth management company. The Trustee Services department of their Wealth Management & Investments Division has a Charitable Trusts group that specialises in structured philanthropy as a way for a benefactor(s) to contribute to cause areas they are passionate about.

Donations to these charitable gifts are tax-deductible

To make a direct deposit, email Equity Trustees at (dcheng@eqt.com.au) with the amount that you sent into the account below. Include the EFT Reference together with your name and address so that they can send you your Tax-Deductible receipt.

Account Name: Equity Trustees Limited

BSB: 083 092

Account Number: 57 080 8888

EFT Reference: CH00XXXX and ID XXXXX - use CH and ID No of fund in Table above

For bequests or donations by cheque or money order, mail to: **Equity Trustees, 575 Bourke St, Melbourne Vic 3001** and use the same account details above. You may also send your donation to Australian Mercy, outlining your donation preferences using the information above and we'll take care of the rest.

Australian Mercy Charitable Gift Policy

Australian Mercy's policy is to distribute the income earned through Equity Trustees investments according to the following formula:

- Australian Mercy Administration - 5%
- Re-invest into the Equity Trustees Charitable Gift funds - 20%
- Funds for distribution to the cause of the beneficiary - 75%