

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA | 2022



Making Change Happen on a Global Scale

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) is the Australian and international development organisation of the Loreto Australia & South East Asia Province. Through providing much-needed resources, we support the Loreto Sisters and those in our broader community around the world assisting where the need is greatest.

Inspired by Loreto's founder, Mary Ward, **MWIA is committed to working towards a just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.**

MWIA's approach to development is rigorous, community-led and sustainable. Its work is grounded in a history of collaboration, listening, and sharing knowledge, ideas and challenges – and importantly, Loreto values.

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Mary Ward International Australia respectfully acknowledges all Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, and young leaders of today and the future.

Cover Image: Solar Laterns, Sundarbans, India | MWIA

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

MWIA is a full member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, managing our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. MWIA is an approved organisation under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

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MEMBER



Our Vision

A just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.

OUR PURPOSE

Creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of Jesus and Mary Ward, we support Loreto Sisters and the broader MWIA network as we work with women and communities to transform unjust structures and reduce poverty and oppression, primarily through formal and non-formal education.

OUR VALUES

Verity | Freedom | Justice | Sincerity | Felicity

Message from the Chair

Welcome! This Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) annual report for 2022 is written as an Impact Report, highlighting the progress made against our 2021-2024 Strategy. As you read through the report, I trust that you will agree that much has been accomplished. In this message, however, I focus particularly on the role of the Board in its task of governance, guiding and supporting the operations of MWIA.

Governance serves a two-fold purpose: clarifying and focusing on the mission or purpose of the organisation; and clarifying the values of the organisation and ensuring that the culture of the organisation reflects those values.

Our strategy process in 2020 refined the Board's understanding of the mission of MWIA and provided a clear direction for 2021-2024. Good strategy is nevertheless an organic process and must adapt to changing external circumstances as well as the evolving understanding of mission and purpose. Effective strategy also includes finance. As the Board has often heard me say, 'no money, no mission'. To support the women and communities that MWIA serves we need funds. A special thank you to all who have donated to MWIA over the past year.

As for our organisational values and culture, we are blessed in having the Mary Ward values of Justice, Freedom, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity, and the lived example of the many Loreto Sisters across the world, to inspire and guide the work of MWIA. The MWIA staff and volunteers, notably the Board and its Committees, work with commitment, dedication, and good humour. I am confident that MWIA has a clear sense of purpose and direction and that the Mary Ward values are at the heart of what we do and how we do it.

Throughout 2022, the MWIA Board had its full complement of nine directors. In August, Sr Wendy Hildebrand ibvm left the Board. Her place was filled by Emma Lawler in September.

The 2022 Board review resulted in the streamlining of committees from four to two, enabling more efficient decision-making processes and enhanced collaboration among Board members. It also highlighted the need to simplify MWIA's legal and financial structures. While this process is proving to be complex, the aim is to improve transparency and efficiency, allowing more resources to be directed to our mission and goals.

For me it is a privilege to be part of Mary Ward International Australia. While there is always so much more that could be done, I hope that you will find the achievements of 2022 progressing towards our vision of 'A just world where women influence, children thrive and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.'



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'L. Degenhardt'.

Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM
Chair, Mary Ward International Australia

Executive Officer Report

Mary Ward International Australia, through the passion and spirit of its founder and all those that follow, works with women in communities of need to provide the essential building blocks for their growth: through focused and purposeful education, health and community development programs.

In 2022 we worked with women in Australia, India, Kenya, Peru, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Vietnam and Zambia to build skills, networks and education, employment and income opportunities within and outside their communities. We do this knowing the transformational impact that women can have on their communities – because strong women equal strong communities.

This work contributed to shifting mindsets, boosting the confidence and self-esteem of young people, reducing family violence and creating safety nets against increasing migration issues such as human trafficking and forced marriage. Women have shared with us that they are now able to support their families financially and that school dropouts and migration is reducing.

Headlining our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan is our intent to partner in collaborative, diverse and exploratory projects that support women's leadership and community ownership. Underlying this is ensuring we actively listen, with open minds and hearts, to the women, children and wider communities we walk alongside.

In 2022, through open, regular dialogue with our partners, we gained deeper understanding of the importance of local collaborations, learning that informal relationships of trust were foundational to success. This expanded our own organisational capacity as we too gained strength when working together.

Mary Ward International Australia aims to build solid, meaningful partnerships where knowledge, ideas and resources are shared to deliver quality, sustainable services that transform lives for good.

We are conscious that it is the communities we aim to serve that are at the heart of the change and solutions required to redress enduring economic inequality. Our role is to help make things a little bit more equal by sourcing much-needed funds, resources and opportunities to assist them in doing so.

In 2022, we continued to engage with Loreto schools across Australia to raise awareness about our purpose and vision, increase financial support from students and the wider school community and motivate them to champion positive change.

Financially, we had a strong 2022, thanks to our extended network of schools, individual donors, family foundations and bequestors.

Thank you to all of you for your continued trust in Mary Ward International Australia and our Loreto friends around the world.

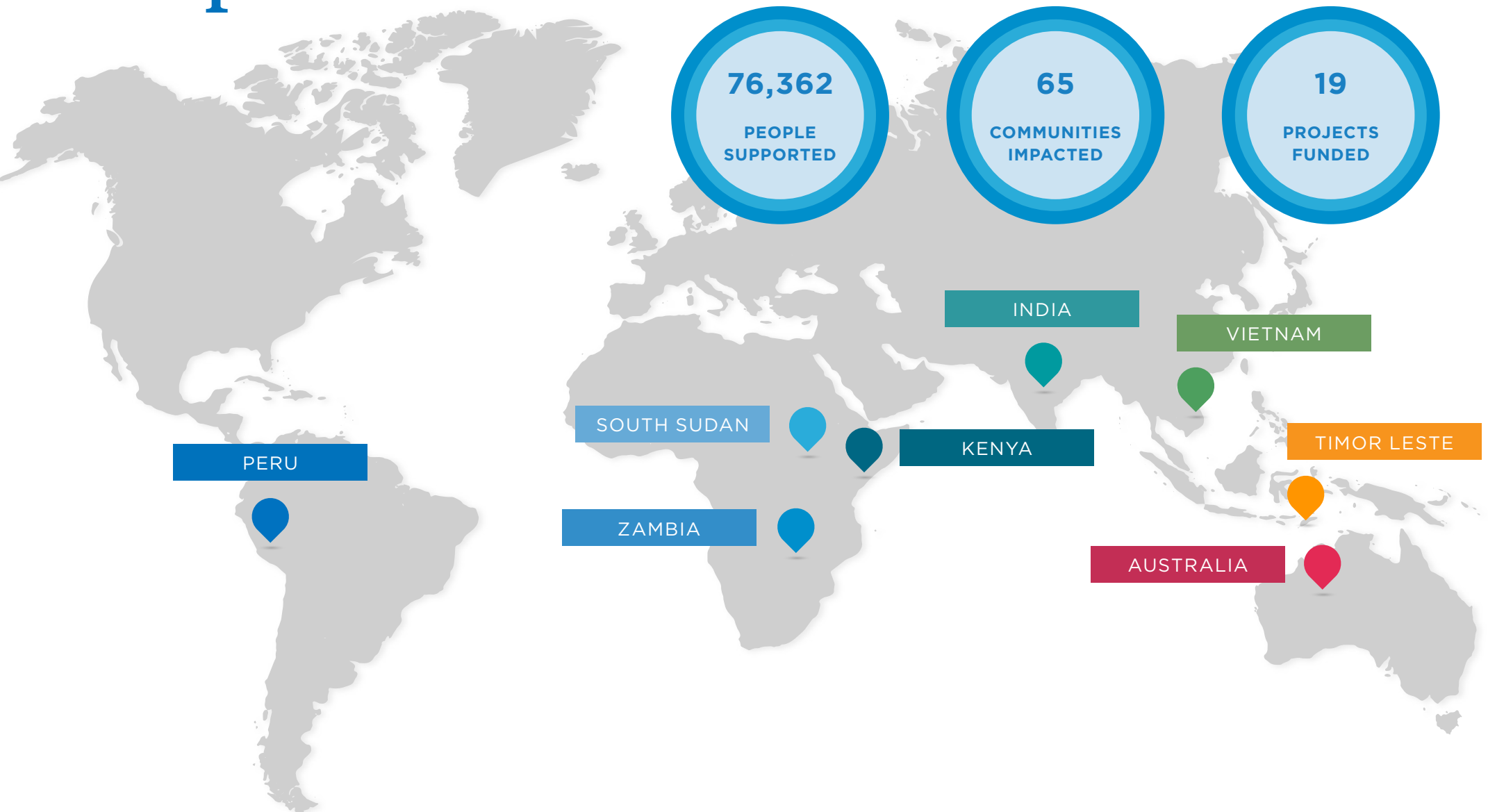


Hannah George
Executive Officer
Mary Ward International Australia



IMPACT

Global Impact Snapshot 2022





FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

MWIA works with the Loreto Sisters and other partners to implement projects that promote women's rights and gender equity in all aspects of life. Initiatives include promoting women's roles in decision-making and leadership, advancing women's economic empowerment through income generation activities, financial and legal literacy, and ending violence against women and girls.

PIRIWA OP SHOP AND ENTERPRISE HUB BALGO, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Enterprise Partnerships Western Australia

The Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub helped overcome social and environmental barriers to education, training, and employment faced by women in Balgo through culturally-based enterprise development and nurturing connection to country. The project improved well-being by providing a safe place for women to come together and learn new skills.

In 2022, the facility was permanently housed in two refurbished shipping containers. The Op Shop provided affordable clothing to community members, which was particularly important during COVID-19 because of the biosecurity restrictions placed on remote communities. Due to significant food security issues caused by inflation, profits from sales were redirected to purchase fuel, enabling people to go hunting and provide food for their families.

Seven enterprise workshops were run by Enterprise Partnerships WA, providing hands-on learning opportunities for women to develop business and entrepreneurship skills, and 32 women participated in enterprise learning workshops, expanding their skills, and building confidence and job readiness.

WILCANNIA MARKETPLACE HAIR SALON WILCANNIA, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with CatholicCare Wilcannia Forbes

In September 2022, Cooee for Cuts opened, and a fully qualified hairdresser (Juliann) was employed. The hair salon is part of the larger Wilcannia Marketplace, a social enterprise hub designed to create employment opportunities and fill service gaps within the local community. The salon has generated a new buzz in town and has become a hub for engagement and community building.

The salon has created employment opportunities uncommon in the area, particularly for the local First Nations community. Whilst cutting hair, Juliann engaged with women in the community who may be interested in work or a career in the industry.

Other community members have had the opportunity to put learned hairdressing skills into practice through work experience at the Cooee for Cuts hair salon. An additional six local women have completed a Certificate III in Hairdressing and are excited by the prospect of putting their skills to use in the coming months.

Monica Njamma, Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub,
Balgo, Australia | *Piriwa*



Kathyrn Njamme, Monica Njamma, Leah Sims, and Mary Njamme, Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub, Balgo, Australia | *Piriwa*



WOMEN'S SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with the House of Welcome

The House of Welcome's (HoW) Women's Supported Accommodation project provides safe and secure accommodation and wraparound support for vulnerable women seeking asylum who would otherwise be at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The project integrates several services to provide a holistic, person-centred approach.

Through this project, HoW provided transitional housing and wraparound support for seven women and two children.

The financial assistance program aided women in securing employment, and case worker support continued until women were well-prepared to exit the program. The project's case workers created case plans for each woman, helping them to set goals and develop a clear path to becoming independent, minimising the need for further assistance from HoW or other agencies.

Providing safe housing and wraparound support has allowed these women to focus on securing employment, obtaining financial independence, and transitioning safely back into society.

EDUCATING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FORCED MARRIAGE

AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)

This project, led by ACRATH, raised awareness amongst key groups particularly vulnerable to forced marriage. The project delivered school presentations, engaged with key networks, established communication with community hubs, updated the ACRATH curriculum for secondary students, and intensively supported three young women facing forced marriage.

The project successfully delivered forced marriage awareness-raising sessions to over 1,100 students and staff across 20 schools and tertiary institutions. The updated ACRATH curriculum was made available on the Melbourne Archdiocesan Catholic Schools (MACS) Teacher Resource website for broader use.

The project further delivered presentations to over 65 community organisations and approximately 500 organisational members and attendees across Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia. Organisations included the Australian Federal Police, other NGOs, and departmental officers. ACRATH also delivered awareness-raising activities across various community hubs, including six parishes and an Adelaide Mosque.

ACRATH's representation on the Federal Government advisory body advocating for Forced Marriage Protection Orders continued throughout the year, as did efforts advocating for an additional pathway to assist forced marriage victims via a place on the National Roundtable.





Panighatta Sewing Project, West Bengal, India | MW/A

ETHICAL ENTERPRISES INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG WOMEN PANIGHATTA SEWING PROJECT WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre

The Sewing Project, implemented by the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre in Panighatta, seeks to address vulnerability to trafficking and unsafe migration for young women in the tea plantations by providing them with transferrable skills and vocational opportunities.

The project has created employment opportunities within the community, reducing the migration rate as young women can support their families financially. The project has further boosted the confidence of young women, and as a result, many now have decision-making power in their families.

In addition to training in embroidery and tailoring, more than 100 women were trained in marketing and communication skills. Subsequently, over ten participants

have purchased their own sewing machines and are practicing tailoring at home, two work at a tailoring shop in their village, and others have started their own tailoring businesses, improving their financial conditions. High attendance rates, increases in rights awareness, and low school dropout rates are successful outcomes of this project.

With the skills acquired in this program, vulnerable youth and women have become equipped to sustain their economic income through entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.

ETHICAL ENTERPRISES INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

SUKNA JUTE PRODUCTS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre (DMWSC)

The Ethical Enterprise Initiative aims to empower at-risk young women with the education, skills, and tools to become strong, independent, and financially self-sufficient. Through vocational training and workshops, young women are exposed to various employment opportunities, curbing migration rates, reducing trafficking, and enhancing their skills and self-confidence.

As a result of the Sukna Jute Product project, five girls now prepare and sell their own jute products in their local communities. Many girls over 18 secured Artisan Cards through the government, allowing them to sell their products at government fairs, while other participants secured jobs as trainers. The current three trainers were once trainees in the program.

The project has contributed to the creation of a strong network, which serves as a safety net against increasing migration issues. Through workshops focused on entrepreneurship, the project has helped create market opportunities within and outside the community. There has been a drastic decrease in the number of school dropouts since the introduction of the project and an increase in awareness amongst girls of their rights and important social issues.



COLLECTIVE VOICES TOWARDS ATTAINING LIVELIHOOD AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre (DMWSC)

This project supports marginalised Indigenous communities to understand, enact, and promote their rights in four key areas: education, protection, health, and nutrition. Participants network by forming self-help groups and linking with hospitals, health clinics, child development offices, and government bodies.

30 self-help groups worked actively on microfinance and creating their own income generation sources. Groups met regularly to discuss micro-finance, child protection, domestic violence, health, and other social problems and raise awareness around these issues. Hundreds of others attended workshops on child rights, gender equality, legal awareness, and Agri training.

Several Child Vigilance Committees were formed and met monthly to discuss critical issues, including child marriage, school attendance, and child labour. In these sessions, they worked on sustainable resolutions to create a better environment for children.

The Children's Parliament effectively identified drop-out students, child labour victims, and migrants. Children in the Parliament are gaining self-confidence and leadership skills, fostering brighter futures.



Collective Voices, West Bengal, India | MW/A

LANDING PAD WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC)

Landing Pad educates and supports women from informal settlements, the Sonagachi Red Light district, and several other villages in West Bengal to find their voice and stand up against the social stigma of menstruation.

Landing Pad has positively impacted whole communities, educating women on the use and disposal of sanitary pads in addition to menstrual hygiene practices. The project has facilitated free access to sanitary pads for women and girls, ensuring they are available when needed.

Landing Pad has shifted mindsets and boosted female confidence. Adolescent girls miss fewer school days during their menstrual cycles and have become more confident and outgoing, interacting with both male and female members of their peer groups.

In 2022, the project produced 1,400 packets (14,000 pads) and distributed 13,040 free pads. Free pads were provided to women from economically and socially disadvantaged areas, tribal communities, mothers and their adolescent daughters in Sonagachi, and teenage girls employed as migrant workers.

Landing Pads, West Bengal, India | MWIA





SOLAR LANTERNS IN THE SUNDARBANS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC)

The Sundarbans region of West Bengal, India, is home to some of the most disadvantaged families in the world, living far below the poverty line. The Solar Lanterns initiative provided comprehensive support to these families, distributing 268 solar lanterns to those affected by Cyclone Yaas and lacking access to electricity. With the help of the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC), field staff travelled from island to island, delivering light to those most in need, enabling children to study, women to sew, and men to fish. Two solar groups were formed, and members trained to monitor charging issues, repairs and distribution of the lanterns.

In addition, 240 people were made aware of the importance of solar lanterns, livelihood opportunities, health and hygiene issues, early marriage-related issues, human trafficking, and the procurement of legal documents. Six stakeholder meetings were held to address deprived housing issues in remote parts of the Sundarbans.

The Solar Lanterns project further implemented various income-generating initiatives to support marginalised families. Almost 2,000 baby chicks were distributed to 45 women to raise and sell for a profit once grown. Additionally, training in paper bag-making helped mothers with money every month. A tailoring course was established with 20 female participants who were trained in the skills required and resources needed to sew and create garments, allowing them to earn money to support their families.

Furthermore, staff members went door-to-door and visited 730 families not registered for government schemes. They informed them about various government social welfare schemes while also educating them about COVID-19 precautions and safety measures. Field staff assisted with filling forms at the local administrative office and followed up until families received their documentation. As a result, 64 families received Adhar Cards, which entitles them to receive benefits from the government, and 74 families received Ration Cards, allowing them to receive food and groceries from the government free of cost every month.

This project supported the empowerment of people from the Sundarbans by equipping them with knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their livelihoods and access to basic necessities.



Solar Lanterns, Sundarbans, India | MWIA

SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE MARY WARD RETREAT CENTRE – WATER ACCESS

NAIROBI, KENYA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

This project strengthened the financial self-sufficiency of the Mary Ward Retreat Centre in Kenya, established an alternative water supply for the centre and farm, and provided employment and training opportunities for women working on the farm.

The implementation of an underground water tank, pump, and guttering system increased the water supply for use on the farm and reduced the strain on the solar borehole pump, ensuring a more reliable water supply. The increased water availability has supported the centre in becoming self-sufficient and contributed to improved food security. Twenty-nine permanent and casual staff received training on using and maintaining the new water tank system, covering areas such as silt filtration, water storage and delivery, overflow management, pressure regulation and maintenance.

The produce from the farm contributed to the reduction in catering costs for retreats and events held at the centre, and extra produce was sold to people from neighbouring communities, agri-business firms and local businesses, generating income to cover some of the centre's overhead expenses.

The project provided employment opportunities and a source of income to local young women and men, contributing to family expenses and improving their overall well-being.

Water Access, Nairobi, Kenya | *Riccardo Lennart Niels*



EDUCATION

MWIA is dedicated to ensuring children and women receive the education, skills and support they need to transform their lives and the world around them. In true Mary Ward spirit, it believes helping them reach their full potential is one of the single best investments we can make to end poverty.



CHILD RIGHTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION HUAYCAN, PERU

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Peru

Ensuring that children can live with dignity and free from violence and fear is fundamental to international development. However, in vulnerable communities like Huaycán in Peru, many children face daily threats of violence, often from trusted adults within their family, society, or school. Despite government child protection services acknowledging the issue, they are understaffed and unable to provide adequate protection.

The Child Rights Community Education project supported by MWIA focuses on preventing violence against children through education and accessing care and recovery services for those who have experienced violence. It seeks to reduce social tolerance for violence and promote community-wide awareness of critical issues.

The project's educational modules use a rights-based and gender approach that considers the cultural and socio-emotional needs of children between 9 and 11. It also conducts family workshops to strengthen parenting skills, teach positive discipline, and promote awareness of children's rights.

In 2022, more than 60 students participated in the classes. Of those students, 80% were able to identify trustworthy people in their lives and 83% of girls and boys were able to identify their right to physical privacy. Additionally, 43% of families reflected on the adverse effects of violence in parenting, 100% of the teachers were sensitised to promoting safe environments, and 50% of educational institution directors identified their protection role and the importance of coordinating work with local protection institutions.

Vital projects such as these fulfil the mission of MWIA and further work towards the elimination of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and any other forms of violence against children.

BRICKFIELD SCHOOLS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC)

In India, the brickfield industry relies on the manual labour of migrant and itinerant workers, including children, to minimise production costs for clay bricks. Unfortunately, for families of the brickfields, children's education is viewed as a distraction from much-needed earnings. This project operated ten open-air schools in West Bengal's Brickfields, educating 579 children from 376 migrant families.

In addition, a resource centre was established to cater for adolescents who work in the brickfields with their parents. Along with regular lessons, the adolescents received education on vital topics like child protection, child abuse, and child rights. The education provided at the schools and resource centre has boosted confidence and self-esteem, preparing children to be mainstreamed in Government schools. Across 2021-2022, one hundred and six children were mainstreamed to Government schools in their home villages.

The project further employed 23 teachers who received training in teaching methodology, teaching in brickfields, child psychology, data collection and advocacy with government and education departments. Additionally, health check-ups were provided to hundreds of women, men and children, and 30 health awareness sessions discussed the importance of nutritious food, healthy habits, the immunisation of children and the prevention of disease.

As a result of this project, many have reported higher awareness of rights to education, health, and prevention of child marriage, child labour and safe migration.





LORETO OSTICO COMMUNITY CENTRE OSTICO, TIMOR LESTE

In partnership with Fundacao Loreto Timor Leste

The construction of the Loreto Ostico Community Centre will make a lasting contribution to the educational, economic and human development of Ostico and the surrounding community. The centre will support the empowerment of individuals, provide employment opportunities and encourage community-wide economic growth through accessible education and training.

The intricacies of building in a remote area with limited infrastructure can be complex. Although there were setbacks earlier in the year due to supply chain delays and severe storms, construction progressed well. The roof was installed, and internal works continued, despite the wet season.

Once completed, the centre will offer inclusive and equitable learning opportunities and serve as a hub for meetings and community events. Investing in education will ensure the people of Ostico reach their full potential and lead to transformative change in the community for years to come.

Thank you to the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation for their generous support of this project.

EDUCATION FOR CHANGE VIETNAM

In partnership with Loreto Vietnam

In 2022, the Loreto Province of Australia and South East Asia announced the decision to put the Loreto Vietnam program on hold from mid-year, while the Loreto Sisters living in Vietnam continued to support local and disadvantaged communities.

In the 12 months prior to closing, the dedicated staff of Loreto Vietnam renovated the run-down toilet blocks of 15 primary schools in Cà Mau and An Giang provinces, supporting more than 7,500 students and 600 teachers. The upgraded facilities were painted with colourful murals conveying positive messages of a clean, green and healthy environment. School staff were assigned the responsibility of maintaining the facilities, guiding students on the use of the facilities and personal hygiene.

Loreto Vietnam also worked with local authorities in An Giang and Phu Yen provinces to identify the students most in need of a bicycle to get to school. 250 students who had previously walked 1.5 to 2 hours a day to attend classes were provided with bicycles, helmets and road safety lessons.

In addition, five schools educating 1,200 students with special needs were provided nutritional support, travel expenses and teaching and learning resources.

Over 25 years, Loreto Vietnam positively impacted the lives of more than 90,000 children and their families across impoverished, rural regions of Southern Vietnam through the provision of inclusive and equitable education. School graduations, steady employment, and tertiary studies were all made possible through the projects designed and implemented by the Loreto Vietnam program.

The program successfully increased capacity and sustainability within local communities through partnerships with schools and the government. Children in poverty-stricken communities of focus had their educational opportunities reshaped through the construction of new school buildings, renovation of toilet blocks, opening of libraries, teacher training and student well-being programs, and the provision of books, computers, and bicycles. Improved educational outcomes for children resulted in the realisation of dreams and aspirations for countless families.



Education for Change, Vietnam | Loreto Vietnam

2022 | ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

Throughout 2022, the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery made significant strides. Two dormitories were constructed, each with 20 rooms, three staff houses were renovated, a college bus was acquired, and the old hospital buildings were repaired and repainted. A new classroom block was completed at the end of 2022, further expanding the college's capacity to offer tertiary and professional training to young people who would otherwise not have access to it.

The project had positive impacts beyond its primary beneficiaries by creating employment and income opportunities for contractors, tradespeople, and women involved in sewing and cleaning. It further boosted business for local suppliers, strengthening small businesses and promoting increased income and equity.

Ultimately, this project will result in more skilled staff providing quality healthcare services to marginalised areas of the country.

Thank you to the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation and Philippa Cahill for their generous support of this project.



TEACHER TRAINING

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

The teacher training program at Mongu College of Education has profoundly impacted the lives of students and communities in Zambia's Lukulu and Mitete Districts.

Through the program, nine graduates were successfully employed in rural villages, reducing student-teacher ratios and improving the quality of education for children. Six students passed in 2021, graduated in October 2022, and now volunteer as teachers while they await deployment by the government, which is fulfilling its promise to increase the number of teachers across Zambia.

The program also provided basic teaching materials, books, and equipment to 27 community schools, supporting their teaching capacity. The employment of 800 teachers in 2022 has further enhanced the program's impact, lifting the hopes of entire communities and promoting economic growth.

The program has provided a sense of security and hope for those who participated, enabling them to assume their rightful role as responsible citizens of Zambia. Since the program began, 28 students have benefited from the support of MWIA.



Teacher Training, Lukulu, Zambia | Loreto Sisters

HEALTH

MWIA works with the Loreto Sisters to ensure those most in need have access to vital healthcare, nutrition, and clean water, as well as opportunities to develop their own skills through tertiary training and infrastructure development.

SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SUPPORT PROGRAM

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

The Integrated Health Care Support Program relies heavily on a vehicle to provide critical transport for its operations across the districts of Lukulu and Mitete in Zambia. The vehicle is essential for delivering home-based care (HBC) services, distributing milk to vulnerable infants, and producing and distributing high-energy protein supplements (HEPS) to those needing nutritional support. The vehicle further transports nurses to villages to administer medicine and provides access to life-saving medical attention by transporting vulnerable and marginalised patients for specialist orthopedic treatment at the Chitokoloki Hospital.

Throughout 2021 and 2022, the vehicle transported over 60 HBC clients, delivered medicine and medical attention to over 150 HBC clients in their home villages and transported 36 people for specialist treatment at Chitokoloki Hospital. It further assisted in five emergency situations and collected eight major consignments of milk, soybeans for the production of HEPS, and supplies for the HBC tuckshop.

This program has been integral in providing basic primary health care to impoverished communities and vulnerable people in remote and undeveloped areas of Zambia.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

The School Lunch Program provides daily nutritious meals for students at St Columba's Secondary School. Of the 450 students enrolled at the school, many are classified as being disadvantaged or experiencing long-term vulnerability.

In 2022, the program provided a nutritious meal each day for 60-80 students who come from families with food security issues or who live a long way from the school and can't walk home and back in time for more classes in the afternoons. For many, it is their only meal for the day, and without it, they would have to choose between school or eating. The School Lunch Program has helped keep students at school throughout the day and vastly improved their concentration levels, particularly in afternoon lessons. Those who received a meal performed better academically.

Meals consist of a maize meal porridge and a tomato/onion-based soup, along with a different special food each day of the week, such as an egg, brown or white beans, or various green vegetables.

Support for the Integrated Health Care Support Program,
Lukulu, Zambia | Loreto Sisters





BABY MILK

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

In 2022, the Baby Milk program provided milk and nutrition support to 37 orphaned and malnourished babies in the impoverished district of Lukulu, Zambia. Beyond just providing milk, the program offered essential mentoring and information from healthcare workers to mothers and guardians seeking milk support, helping them with vital aspects of care for their babies, such as nutrition, hygiene, vaccinations, and birth registration. The program further supported mothers in knowing their rights and the rights of their babies in a patriarchal, male-dominated society where their rights are often disregarded.

Over the past years, the program has encountered various obstacles and successfully implemented solutions. Getting health educators has been difficult throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, so the program trained volunteers to engage with guardians and provide the necessary mentoring and ongoing support to mothers and guardians. The high cost of formula is always a concern in Zambia, yet the program overcame this through careful attention to needs, stockpiling, and improving the health of mothers, allowing for early discharge. Many mothers came alone with their babies as the fathers had abandoned them or denied the pregnancy. The program referred these mothers to the local victim support unit at the police station, enabling them to claim their rights.

Further to this, the program provided formula to the under-resourced hospital to feed babies in need and supported with breastfeeding technique training not offered in the hospital.

Despite facing challenges, the program has significantly impacted the lives of many mothers and their babies, providing essential nutritional milk formula and vital support to hundreds of vulnerable or orphaned babies and their mothers or guardians.



Improving Health and Wellbeing, Rumbek, South Sudan | *Loreto Sisters*

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING RUMBEK, SOUTH SUDAN

In partnership with Loreto Rumbek

This project supports the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre and has contributed to making healthcare more accessible to community members in the remote villages of Maker Kuei in Rumbek, South Sudan. Those who live in this area face significant challenges in accessing quality healthcare due to the lack of qualified medical practitioners and long distances to health facilities. The vehicle is used to deliver medical supplies, provide ambulance services, and serves as a mobile clinic.

In just four months, the mobile clinic served four villages with an estimated population of 10,000 people and made 3,569 medical consultations, 2,143 with children under five. This has positively impacted the community's general and long-term health, particularly children, who are often at high risk of severe illness. Throughout the wet season, malaria infections can be fatal for children under the age of four whose parents or caregivers cannot access healthcare facilities and are a major cause of death for children in this age group. This project gave children and their caregivers a life-changing opportunity to access improved health and well-being services.

The project also included health, hygiene, and sanitation training, which was used to promote knowledge and sustain the gains made in healthcare.

Through this project, the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre has tripled its reach to the community, providing regular and much-needed care.

BOURKE MEN'S CENTRE

BOURKE, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with CatholicCare Wilcannia Forbes

The Bourke Men's Centre and the work of the Men of Bourke group have had a significant impact on the well-being of the Aboriginal men and boys in the Bourke community. Through the dedicated space and support of the project coordinator, men have reconnected with their culture, spirituality, and community, and become positive role models for the younger men and boys. The Men of Bourke group has provided a platform for men to discuss social and emotional well-being, cultural identity, and community issues, leading to tangible outcomes such as the addition of a yarning circle and fire pit to the healing space, the development of a Men's Shed, and recreational space for young and old.

The employment of a Men's Hub Coordinator has transformed the hub into a vibrant centre of activity for men and boys, where they can build networks of support, engage in solutions-focused conversation about issues affecting men, their families and their community, and become part of the solution through community-capacity building projects.

This project has provided a space for Aboriginal men to gain a sense of connection, build trust, feel safe, and engage in activities towards change and healing.



Bourke Men's Centre, Bourke, Australia | *CatholicCare Wilcannia Forbes*

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

The Value of Partnership

In 2022 we continued to build and strengthen our primary partnerships; those with organisations that both manage and implement our projects in-country. However, we also took time throughout the year to explore the value of partnerships and collaborations that these partners develop within their communities, as well as those that expand our own organisational capacity and learning.

We found that regular informal conversation between ourselves and our in-country partners resulted in active and open engagement about the partnership itself and how we could support each other. Through mutual listening, we heard more about their successes and failures, and the reality they experienced while delivering MWIA-supported projects. Our partners came to trust in our role to walk alongside them in true partnership, and regularly offered feedback about how we could help them during project implementation.

Recognising the effectiveness of open-ended dialogue as a way of exploring issues with our partners, we added a regular informal update to our monitoring and evaluation schedule, complementing the partner's written report submitted each year.

Open dialogue with our partners gave us a deeper understanding of the importance they placed on local collaborations. We learnt that local partnerships were the foundation of any project success. Many of these collaborations were formalised through contracts such as those with construction companies, schools or health providers, but our partners stressed the equal importance of their informal relationships. As is often the case, informal collaborations were based on trust and local understanding, and ranged from accessing community resources to relying on respected community leaders to get involved when issues arose during project delivery.

Scarcity of resources and time were the major reasons given for partnership formation and collaboration. Many of our partners also recognised that there was strength in working together, particularly when it came to advocating for the rights of project participants.

To recognise all partner collaborations, we updated our evaluation process to reflect our new understanding of partnership and acknowledge the expansive network of which we are a part.

While we have previously co-funded various projects with other organisations across the global Mary Ward International network, in 2022 we implemented new processes to reduce the administrative burden placed on our joint project partners. We also began developing other ways in which the MWI network could work with joint partners to strengthen their ability to deliver effective development outcomes.

Sharing resources and knowledge throughout the MWI network, from Ireland to Timor-Leste and beyond, will also help us realise our own strategic goal of delivering *women and community-led, sustainable programs transforming unjust structures and reducing poverty and oppression*.

As a small organisation, partnerships in local communities and with likeminded entities are central to our work, and we are grateful to all our partners, formally acknowledged or otherwise. Ultimately, we know that sustainable, systemic change only happens through effective, respectful collaborations and partnerships and we acknowledge the positive impact our partners have on the lives of all project participants.



FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & POSITION

This financial year, Mary Ward International Australia reported a consolidated operating surplus of \$0.79 million compared to a deficit of \$0.33 million for the previous year.

MWIA remains in a healthy financial position, with positive net assets at the year's end of \$3.94 million. This included:

- \$0.3 million comprising donations and grants received for future specific activities or programs;
- \$0.4 million comprising funds set aside to deliver committed future contracts or multi-year project agreements;
- \$0.7 million to maintain MWIA's ability to trade solvent in the event of the sudden loss of a major source of funding; and
- \$0.7 million provided by the Loreto Sisters/Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and MWIA founders on establishment of MWIA as a capital base to be invested to generate income for projects.

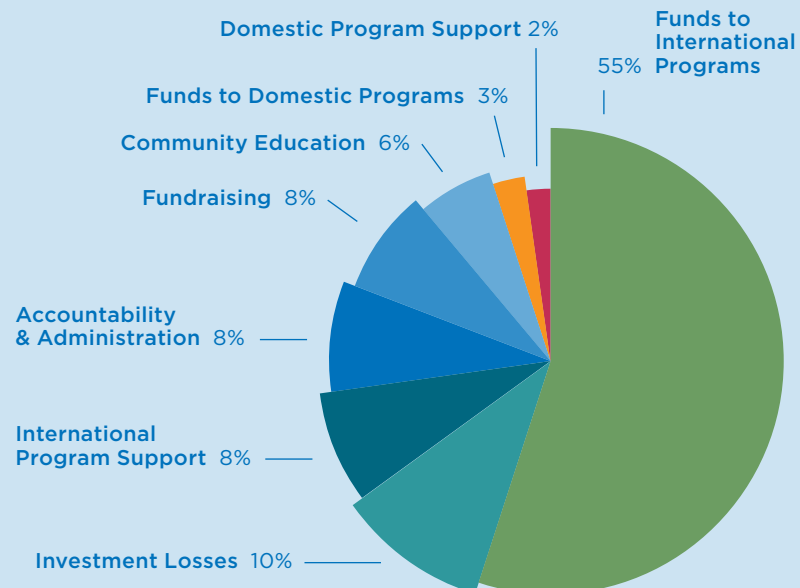
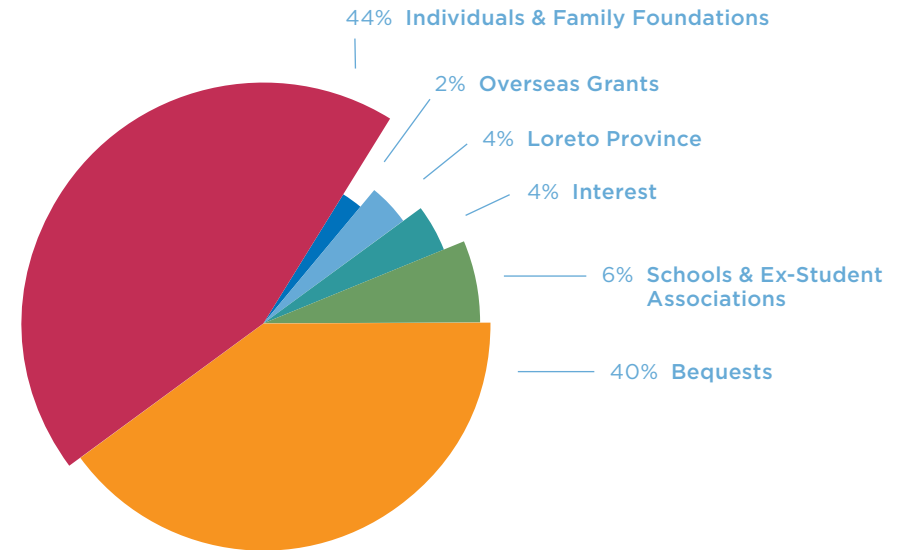
2022 INCOME

Our consolidated income for 2022 was \$2.85 million, compared to \$1.84 million over the prior year.

Donations from individuals and family foundations in Australia made up our most significant income in 2022, contributing \$1.26 million, followed by bequests with \$1.11 million.

Schools and related parent and ex-student associations contributed \$0.18 million, the Loreto Province of Australia and South East Asia contributed \$0.12 million, and overseas foundations \$0.05 million. The Loreto Province also provided in-kind support in the form of rent, utilities and other services.

Interest income provided \$0.12 million, however we also incurred investment losses of \$0.21 million.



2022 EXPENDITURE

Over 2022 we contributed \$1.12 million to the Loreto Sisters' work with women and communities overseas. We also provided \$0.05 million to partners in Australia.

Expenses incurred in 2022 comprised: \$0.21 million to support international and domestic programs; \$0.3 million to promote MWIA and its supported programs in schools and across the broader community as well as raise funds; and \$0.16 million to meet governance, compliance and regulatory requirements.

DIRECTORS DECLARATION

Mary Ward International Australia Limited administers and acts as trustee of three charitable trust funds:

- Mary Ward International Australia Charitable Trust
- Mary Ward International Australia
- Mary Ward International Australia Overseas Development Fund

The following summary financial statements reflect the results and financial position of the trustee company and the three trusts that it controls, referred to as 'the group', for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022. The comparatives are for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021. The consolidated special purpose financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited was approved by the Board on 13 May 2023.

This Summary Financial Report is derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited for the year ended 31 December 2022. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 of the audited financial report and as set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au

This Summary Financial Report is approved on behalf of the MWIA Board.[1]



Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM
Chair, Mary Ward International Australia

2 June 2023

[1] Copies of our audited financial reports can be obtained by writing to the Executive Officer, PO Box 4082, Auburn South, VIC 3122, Australia, or by visiting mwia.org.au

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

REVENUE		
	2022	2021
Donations and gifts - monetary	\$550,793	\$619,988
Grants - Australian	\$889,737	\$950,000
Grants - Overseas	\$54,490	\$31,327
Investment income	\$120,159	\$39,951
Gain on investments	-	\$79,916
Loreto Province contribution	\$122,000	\$117,000
Bequest	\$1,115,574	-
Other	\$2,091	-
Total Revenue	\$2,854,844	\$1,838,182

EXPENDITURE		
	2022	2021
International aid and development programs		
Funds to international programs	\$1,124,500	\$1,518,205
Program support costs	\$170,020	\$73,786
Community education	\$132,291	\$63,963
Fundraising costs	\$166,449	\$139,359
Accountability and administration	\$161,841	\$172,276
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	\$1,755,101	\$1,967,589
Domestic programs		
Funds to domestic programs	\$50,000	\$177,194
Programs support costs	\$42,373	\$27,501
Loss from investments	\$212,018	-
Total Expenditure	\$2,059,492	\$2,172,284
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$795,352	(\$334,102)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$795,352	(\$334,102)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

ASSETS		
	2022	2021
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,247,610	\$1,102,319
Other receivables	\$8,640	\$21,964
Financial assets	\$1,754,943	\$2,069,795
Total Current Assets	\$4,011,193	\$3,194,078
Non-Current Assets		
Computer & IT Equipment	\$6,675	\$7,000
Total Non-Current Assets	\$6,675	\$7,000
Total Assets	\$4,017,868	\$3,201,078

LIABILITIES		
	2022	2021
Current Liabilities		
Other payables	\$76,526	\$55,088
Total Current Liabilities	\$76,526	\$55,088
Total Liabilities	\$76,526	\$55,088
NET ASSETS	\$3,941,342	\$3,145,990
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	\$3,941,342	\$3,145,990
TOTAL EQUITY	\$3,941,342	\$3,145,990

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Accumulated Surplus	Total
Balance as at 31 December 2020	\$3,480,092	\$3,480,092
Loss for the period	(\$334,102)	(\$334,102)
Balance as at 31 December 2021	\$3,145,990	\$3,145,990
Surplus for the period	\$795,352	\$795,352
Balance as at 31 December 2022	\$3,941,342	\$3,941,342

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2022 (the "Audited Financial Report"). The accounting policies relating to recognition and measurement applied in the preparation of a summary financial statements are the same as those adopted in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report.

MWIA AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022



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Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of Mary Ward International Australia Ltd

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the summary consolidated income statement and the summary consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended and the related notes (the "summary financial statements"), are derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2022 (the "Audited Financial Report").

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, on the basis described on in the basis of preparation summary.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 18 May 2023.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises commentary and graphs of the financial performance, 2022 income and 2022 expenditure, but does not include the summary financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the summary financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the summary financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the summary financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the ACFID financial reporting requirements.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.
Member of Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited and the Deloitte organisation.



Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Isabelle Lefevre
Partner
Chartered Accountants
Melbourne, 8 June 2023

GOVERNANCE

MWIA is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors with unique skills and experience, united by the purpose of creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities.

Meet the Board



Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM
Board Chair

Board member since 2019
Board Chair since January 2020



Nicole Gibson
Deputy Chair

Board member since 2017
MWIA Projects and Operations
Committee Chair



Sr Libby Rogerson ibvm
Board Member

Board member since 2017
Board Chair until December 2019



Sr Wendy Hildebrand ibvm
Board Member

Board member since 2015, completed
term in August 2022
Province Leader, Loreto Australia
and South East Asia



Kelly Morrison
Board Member

Board member since 2018
MWIA Audit, Risk and Finance
Committee Chair



Rebecca Walker
Board Member

Board member since 2018
MWIA Projects and Operations
Committee member



Mary Cook
Board Member

Board member since 2019
MWIA Fundraising and
Communications Committee Chair



Chris Dureau
Board Member

Board member since 2019
MWIA Projects and Operations
Committee Member



David Ballhausen
Board Member

Board member since November 2021
MWIA Audit, Risk and Finance
Committee Member



Emma Lawler
Board Member

Board member since September 2022
MWIA Audit, Risk and Finance
Committee Member

THANK YOU



www.mwia.org.au



[@mary_ward_international_australia](https://www.instagram.com/mary_ward_international_australia)



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[Mary Ward International Australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MaryWardInternationalAustralia)