

The hand of friendship



We follow in the compassionate footsteps of the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Charity by extending a hand of friendship to those in need.

St Mary's House of Welcome provides assistance through referral services for housing, Centrelink, drug and alcohol issues, and caters for clients' physical and emotional wellbeing through community nursing and pastoral care services.

We assist St Mary's to build a sense of ownership and participation amongst those community members who feel powerless, by providing surplus supplies, annual financial support and more than 110 lunches each week.

Ozanam Community Centre enables homeless and marginalised people to participate in community life in a way that is suited to their distinctive lifestyles and circumstances.

Through ongoing donations of supplies and the provision of 180 lunches each week, we are assisting the Centre to build a community and foster a culture that respects the rights and dignity of all clients. Services offered include medical, dental and nursing clinics, meals, housing information, and drug and alcohol counselling to help homeless people get back on their feet.

The Victorian members and volunteers of **St Vincent de Paul Society** provide assistance to more than 660,000 people. The annual financial donation on behalf of staff and the Christmas hampers we provide to families in need, help the Society assist people within the local community by providing friendship and assistance with food, financial aid, budgeting advice, utility bills, and advocacy.

Caring for our environment



We are committed to a sustainable future and take our impact on the environment seriously. By implementing sustainable practices, we will minimise our environmental impact and achieve long-term benefits.

Water

- We will save 240,000 litres of water annually through modifications to fire hydrant testing.
- Washer and aerators installed on taps have reduced water usage by more than 50 per cent.
- More than half of all toilets have dual flushes.
- We are exploring the potential reuse of up to 600,000 litres of water a month by redirecting clean water from our sterilisation unit to the Fitzroy Gardens.

Power

- We are changing from electric to gas boilers at Mercy Private, installing long-life globes and have shifted from electronic to iron core transformers.
- If our current solar hot water system trial is successful, we will roll out the technology across all our auxiliary buildings.

Recycling

- We have an extensive recycling program, which incorporates office waste and toner cartridges, disposable scissors and theatre instruments, and computers.
- We purchase recycled material wherever possible.
- We have waste committee meetings, waste monitoring, newsletters, educational drives and 'green representatives' to ensure sustained staff awareness of recycling procedures.
- We will work with Replas to recycle the plastic used to sterilise equipment trays into park benches and bollards.



St Vincents Private 59-61 Victoria Parade Fitzroy 3065 t (03) 9411 7111
Mercy Private 159 Grey Street East Melbourne 3002 t (03) 9928 6555
Vimy Private 5 Studley Avenue Kew 3101 t (03) 9851 8888

St Vincents & Mercy Private
www.stvincentsmercy.com.au



St Vincents & Mercy Private

Our Social Accountability Report

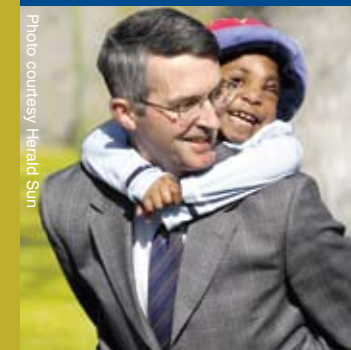


Photo courtesy Herald Sun



November 2008

We CARE

A proud history of caring and serving the community

We are proud to continue the traditions of our founders, the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Charity, by reaching out and supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community, including the poor and homeless.

Our community commitments and Social Accountability Program reflect the charitable and religious origins of both of our founding Congregations. In the Catholic tradition, our mission is to heal the sick and be compassionate to those in need.

St Vincents & Mercy Private Wurundjeri Nursing Scholarship – We are proud to launch a new scholarship for undergraduate nursing or midwifery students from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

Highlighting our commitment to the local indigenous community, the \$15,000 scholarship will give one student support to complete their undergraduate degree in nursing and participate in our division one nursing program.

The scholarship is being offered in partnership with the Australian Catholic University and begins in 2009.

Community Leave Policy – Each year, St Vincents & Mercy Private provides staff with the opportunity to volunteer for one week at a charity of their choice.

The volunteer work is fully funded by St Vincents & Mercy Private and is part of our longstanding commitment to the ‘Service of the Poor.’

The policy gives staff who are currently volunteering locally or overseas the opportunity to extend that commitment and have their volunteer work recognised by the hospital community.

Friday Night School – A program run by volunteers, Friday Night School is designed to help migrant and refugee children with their homework and English skills.

In 2009, St Vincents & Mercy Private will provide scholarships for two Friday Night School students to complete their education at Melbourne’s Xavier College.

We hope the scholarships will give these exceptional students the best education possible, and help to broaden opportunities for their future careers.

Providing a safe haven

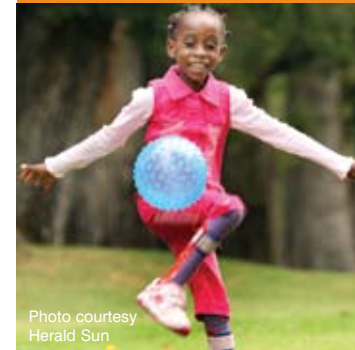


Photo courtesy Herald Sun

We continue to uphold a long-term commitment to providing care and support to those most in need.

Children First Foundation provides a rural home and loving environment for disadvantaged and at-risk Victorian children, and a safe haven for children brought here from around the world for life changing surgery. Long-term accommodation and care for foster children is also offered by this ecumenical organisation.

The International Medical Registry, established by Children First Foundation, has paved the way for children from war-torn countries and from areas suffering natural disaster to receive medical assistance.

Like Children First Foundation, we embrace the goal of caring for disadvantaged children and so donate staff time, theatre usage, supplies, pharmaceuticals and accommodation to help improve health outcomes for special children. We are proud that the generosity of doctors working in our hospital makes this outreach possible.

Mercy Care provides free supported accommodation for women and children who are victims of domestic violence and need emergency accommodation. Open seven days a week, Mercy Care empowers its clients, as well as those who volunteer their time.

During its 15 years of operation, more than 8,000 women and children have benefited from Mercy Care, which receives no government funding. We support Mercy Care with an annual financial donation and provide hampers throughout the year, so the people accommodated there have food, clothing and toiletries.

The Way is a volunteer-manned outreach and accommodation centre for homeless alcoholic men in the city of Melbourne. Located in Fitzroy, the organisation has accommodation for 10 people and relies on the generosity of volunteers, community and local businesses, as it receives no government financial support.

We fund a personal carer assistant to provide The Way residents with stability and improved quality of life.

Support for the most marginalised

We are compelled to assist those who struggle to enjoy the good things our society often takes for granted.

Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Ecumenical Migration Centre’s ‘Given the Chance’ refugee and asylum seeker employment program links refugees with mentors from business, community and government. The program provides work experience opportunities and job search training specifically for refugees, who strongly desire to work but sometimes struggle in the unfamiliar Australian job market.

We are helping to combat the high unemployment rates amongst refugees by giving long-term unemployed refugees work experience. We are delighted that every one of our program graduates has found full-time work within the hospital or elsewhere.

We assist Australia’s neighbours in the Pacific region by donating unused or surplus medical equipment through the **Pacific Island and PNG Medical Assistance program**.

By donating equipment including beds, IV poles and surgical equipment, we have the privilege of assisting hospitals in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea to upgrade their facilities and levels of care.

Blake Cottage is a Sisters of Charity initiative established to assist the families of inmates at the Castlemaine Men’s Prison. The cottage provides accommodation for families, allowing them to visit relatives in prison. As prisoners who are supported by their families are less likely to reoffend, our financial contribution towards running Blake Cottage benefits the wider community, as well as the families hosted there.



Sr Helen Monkivitch, Sister of Mercy and board member, and Sr Maria Cunningham, Sister of Charity and board member.

St Vincents & Mercy Private is a Catholic, not-for-profit hospital that has been dedicated to the care and wellbeing of our patients, staff and community for more than 10 years.

Prior to our merger, Mercy Private and St Vincents Private had separately been icons of health care in Melbourne for over 60 years.