

Chairperson's Report

The past year marked a significant milestone in the life of MacKillop Family Services, namely the 150th Anniversary of providing support services to families and children who are marginalised or most vulnerable in our society. This milestone and cumulative experience provides a strong springboard into the future as MacKillop continues its important work.

The future is built on the enormous start that was given to MacKillop by the founding agencies under the leadership of the Christian Brothers, Josephites and Mercy Sisters. The services of MacKillop continue to strongly focus on the needs and aspirations of the children, young people and families who require support in difficult times.

"... people are our priority"

Looking to the future, MacKillop developed a Strategic Plan for the period 2005 – 2010. This plan challenges all stakeholders in MacKillop to achieve four goals:

- Develop our services and relationships with the people and communities served,
- Support and connect staff, carers and volunteers
- Simplify our management systems and practices and
- Develop our partnerships and profile.

At the dinner to celebrate MacKillop's 150th Anniversary,

the Acting Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Thwaites MLA, launched the publication of the history of MacKillop Family Services – "Holding onto Hope". This book, which was the result of considerable research, was written by Jill Barnard and Karen Twigg.

The next morning after the celebratory dinner, a moving ceremony took place at the former St. Vincent's Boys Home where over 260 former residents, clients, staff and professionals gathered to be present for the "Opening of the Archives" by the Minister for Community Services, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt MLA. This Archive now provides an anchoring point for former residents of the Founding Agencies and MacKillop Family Services.

The future services of MacKillop depend on the facilities of the organisation therefore a programme has begun where many facilities will be renovated or replaced over coming years. Works have been completed with the opening of Genevieve House and new administration area at St Augustine's in Geelong and the refurbishment of Barwon Regional Office in North Geelong. Also, a ceremony has been held to mark the rebuilding of the St Anthony's site in Footscray. Each of these three sites were locations of agencies of the Founding Orders.

The last year has been extremely busy and I take this opportunity to



thank everyone who has contributed to the invaluable work of MacKillop Family Services. I especially wish to thank a fellow board member Mrs Penny Noonan, who retired from the Board after serving since MacKillop's inception in 1997. I also wish to thank the staff, the management team and the Board for their contribution over the past twelve months. Finally, I thank Paul Linossier for his dedication and guidance in another year of service to our community.

The work of MacKillop with families and more specifically with marginalised children is paramount into the future therefore I ask for your assistance and prayers in order that MacKillop may help to relieve some of the pain and suffering of these children in our community.

Yours sincerely

John D. Hurren
Chairperson
MacKillop Family Services

Members of the Board

Pictured below

(Left to right)

Mr Paul Linossier (CEO),
Sr Judith Davey RSM,
Mr John Stevens,
Ms Maria Minto Cahill,
Ms Marilyn Webster,
Ms Patrice Scales,
Mr John Hurren (Chairperson),
Mr Lawrence Lavelle AM,
Mr Brian Lawrence.

Absent from photo:

Br Frank Hennessy CFC,
Sr Marie Hanger RSJ,
Ms Barbara Hingston.

*See pages 40 and 41 for
more information about
each Board Member.*

MacKillop Family Services is a shared ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph.

It continues the work of:

- St Vincent de Paul Children's and Family Services, Black Rock
- Mercy Family Care Centre, North Geelong
- St Augustine's Adolescent and Family Services, Geelong
- St Joseph's Homes for Children, Flemington
- St Vincent's Boys Home, South Melbourne
- St Anthony's Family Service, Footscray
- St Joseph's Babies and Family Services, Glenroy.

*MacKillop Family Services...
the second family for many Victorians.*



