

Chairperson's Report

I am pleased to present this ninth Annual Report as I approach the end of my current term as Chairperson of MacKillop Family Services. Once again, it has been a year highlighted with significant achievements while maintaining our wide range of vital services to the community.

I reflect on the tremendous work being achieved by the hundreds of staff and volunteers working for our community and more specifically the children, young people and families who have been in our care. The numerous success stories are clear examples of the enormous commitment by both the staff and volunteers. Countless stories of the successful works of MacKillop are conveyed at various forums by both clients and staff as was the case at MacKillop's 2005 Annual Public Meeting. These stories invariably stir the hearts of the audience and engender a sense of pride in all stakeholders. I have always been personally taken by the work of MacKillop and the sense of ownership of both staff and volunteers.

From these stories, it is obvious that many children, young people and families need immediate help. This point was highlighted in a maxim stated by Catherine McAuley: "The poor need help today, not next week."

This thought is always uppermost in the minds of Board members, staff and volunteers.

At present, a successful capital appeal is in progress to fund a major refurbishment program of MacKillop Family Services facilities. Both the Whittington and North Geelong sites have undergone some refurbishment twelve months ago and the rebuilding of St. Anthony's Family Centre started earlier this year. This new centre, which is located in the heart of City of Maribyrnong, will provide a purpose built facility to ensure MacKillop Family Services is able to reach out to the needs of the community. It will provide a Community room to seat 60 people, a

kitchen in which to teach independent living skills, a home like environment, courtyards, parenting library, educational centre and other functional rooms. This facility, which will cost \$4.5m, will provide over 20 different services for 1,000 children and families. The current rebuilding and refurbishment program ensures that future services of MacKillop have the facilities needed to continue the work begun by the founding agencies under the leadership of the Christian Brothers, Josephites and Mercy Sisters.

This report gives me the opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in MacKillop Family Services over the past twelve months. It has been a team effort of all stakeholders, together providing a much needed service to our community. My thanks to the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Linossier, for their work over the past twelve months; especially Sr. Marie Hanger rsj, and Mr. John Stevens who retired at last years Annual General Meeting and to Mrs Maria Minto Cahill and Mrs Barbara Hingston who retire at the 2006 Annual General Meeting.



Maria Minto Cahill's contribution warrants particular mention. Maria has served MacKillop Family Services as a Director since late 1996 and been an energetic and committed member. Her values-centred approach, passion and wise counsel will be sorely missed.

Finally, to ensure the on-going work of MacKillop, I ask for your continued support, assistance and prayers for this most valuable service.

Yours sincerely

John D. Hurren
Chairperson
MacKillop Family Services



Andy* - Angry

Andy's artwork is about his anger and how it wells up like liquid in a jug. Sometimes his anger over takes him and like the liquid it overflows out of the jug. He is a student at St Vincents school.