

Our Mission, Vision and Core Values

Our Mission

MacKillop Family Services is a Catholic welfare agency which builds on the ethos and spirituality of the Sisters of Mercy, the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph. In the spirit of the Gospel, we work together to foster hope in every person by awakening them to an appreciation of their self-worth. Through a diversity of creative programs we resource children, young people and families who have particular needs, to empower them to achieve their full potential within the wider community. We stand with those who struggle for justice, peace and hope; and, in partnership with those on the margins, advocate for positive social change and a just society.

Our Vision

Our vision is for an organisation where our values are evident in our process, relationships and practice, and where inclusiveness and common purpose build a cohesive organisational identity and sense of community. Our model of practice will be strongly client centred and will operate in the context of strategies which build and strengthen communities. Our commitment to teamwork, creativity and quality services will challenge us to develop innovative programs, effective advocacy and a unique blend of education and community programs.

Our Core Values

Affirmation	Naming and acknowledging what we do well
Collaboration	Working with other groups and communities to achieve common goals
Commitment	Staying with difficult issues and circumstances until positive change is evident
Compassion	Openness to others and their circumstances – an attitude of heart
Excellence	Those we serve deserve the best
Hope	Working in the spirit that good shall prevail
Justice	Right and fair relations between people, and between people and institutions
Respect	Accepting the unique dignity of each person

How We Operate

MacKillop Family Services was formed in 1997 with the refounding of seven Victorian child welfare agencies of the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph.

We are one of the largest providers of specialist support services to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and their families through five core areas of service:

- » Supporting families experiencing disadvantage and crisis;
- » Supporting families raising a child with a disability;
- » Education and training services for children and young people;
- » Services for children and young people who are not able to live at home; and
- » Services for the former residents of our founding agencies.

Our services are clustered in twelve Programs which are in turn grouped into three Divisions. The three Divisions are Barwon Services, Community Programs and Alternate Care. Some 400 staff and 400 volunteers are involved each fortnight in our services across Melbourne and Geelong.

Our organisation's Core Values – affirmation, collaboration, commitment, compassion, excellence, hope, justice and respect – underpin our services. The work we do is also shaped by a number of priorities:

- » client and family centred services
- » innovative programs that are flexible enough to suit changing needs
- » a unique blend of education and residential services
- » a commitment to work through difficult issues to bring about change
- » strategies that strengthen families and communities
- » respecting cultural diversity
- » shaped by practice-based research and quality frameworks
- » advocating with the most marginalised
- » in partnership with groups and organisations with common goals.



Barwon Services Division conducts four programs:

MacKillop Youth Services Barwon provides a continuum of placements (residential, home based care and lead tenant) for young people with high needs and outreach services for young people at risk of homelessness.

Bayview Disability Services provides a range of services to assist families caring for children with moderate to severe disabilities in Geelong and surrounding areas.

Mercy Children's Services provides foster care and specialized home based care for children and young people in the Barwon region. The service extends from the Geelong to Colac in the western district of Victoria.

St Augustine's Education & Training provides a range of specialist education services for children and young people under the age of 16 years who are at risk of leaving mainstream school or who are already disconnected from mainstream education.

Community Programs Division conducts five programs:

Disability Services (Metro) works with families to assist them in caring for a child with a disability in Melbourne's west and includes a residential care option for young adults.

Family & Community Services provides a range of family support and parenting programs, drug and alcohol services and education support services. It operates from two sites in Melbourne's Western Suburbs.

Rice Education & Youth Services is a specialist and intensive state-wide program providing education, residential care and case management for young people at significant risk.

Family Relationship Services – Broadmeadows is a source of information and confidential advice for families at all stages in their life. There is a wide range of services available to help families, whether together or separated, to build better relationships.

Heritage & Information Service assists former residents in learning about their personal history through record and family searches, reunions and gatherings.

Alternate Care Division conducts three programs:

MacKillop Alternate Care North West provides respite, short term and long term home based (foster) care, long term specialised residential care and lead tenant placements, and case management support, for children and young people in Melbourne's Northern and Western metropolitan region.

MacKillop Youth Services North West provides adolescent residential care and case management support for young people with high and complex needs, and a therapeutically oriented program for young people in protective placements in Melbourne's Northern and Western metropolitan region.

Southern Services provides respite, short term and long term home based (foster) care, long term residential care and case management support, leaving care options and a mentoring service for young people in Melbourne's Southern suburbs.

Our Services and Work in the Community

MacKillop's core focus is to promote the wellbeing of, and life opportunities for, disadvantaged children, young people, families and their communities, by providing a range of services which creatively and effectively engage them, and by advocating with them for a more inclusive society.

We provide a range of specialist services in 'out-of-home care' (for children and young people unable to live with their families), disability services, education, family support and support for former residents and their families. We employ different 'best practice' models within each of these areas of specialisation, and each program may take a different focus in response to local needs and circumstances. At the same time, we take a common approach to our work, based on MacKillop's mission and values.

Our services are broadly identified under the following categories:

Home-based and residential care

- » Foster care, respite and specialised home-based care for babies, children and young people
- » Temporary and longer term accommodation for homeless, neglected and at risk children and young people
- » Adolescent residential services
- » Supportive accommodation options for young people about to move into independent living.

Training, education and youth support programs

- » Integrated residential and education programs for at risk young people
- » Specialised education support programs for young people who have dropped out, or are at risk of dropping out, of school
- » Behaviour management programs
- » School support services
- » Occupational training programs.

Disability services

- » Residential care for young people with a disability and high support needs
- » Assistance for families with a moderate to severely disabled child
- » Respite care options to give families some time away from their responsibilities
- » Support and assistance for young people with disabilities who are moving into independent living.



Our Services and Work in the Community

Family support services

- » Both long and short term intensive support for at risk families
- » Support for families where parents have substance abuse issues
- » Parenting information and support groups
- » Accommodation and outreach support for pregnant women
- » Family relationship advice.

Heritage and Information services

- » Archival and records searches for former residents of orphanages and homes associated with our founding congregations
- » Assistance with family reunifications
- » Support for former residents.

A Rich Heritage

MacKillop Family Services derives a rich heritage from the founders of three Catholic Religious Orders – the Sisters of Mercy, the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph. These Congregations were founded by dynamic leaders motivated by the needs of the vulnerable and poor, particularly children and their families. These common links characterise the work of MacKillop Family Services today.

The Founders



"The proof of love is deed." — Catherine McAuley

Catherine McAuley – Founder of the Sisters of Mercy

With a fortune left to her by her adoptive parents, Catherine McAuley built and opened the first House of Mercy in Ireland in 1827.

From here, she began an extensive range of works to assist the poor, particularly women and children. The Sisters of Mercy came to Australia in 1846, and under the leadership of Ursula Frayne came to Fitzroy in Victoria in 1857.



"When someone asks you for something give it to him, when someone wants to borrow something, lend it to him." — Matthew 5v42 marked in Edmund Rice's Bible.

Edmund Rice – Founder of the Christian Brothers

Edmund Rice, born in Ireland in 1762, was a businessman who used his wealth for the service of the poor, particularly through education. He trained teachers who dedicated their lives to poor children whose families could not afford education for them. He founded the Christian Brothers in 1802. The Brothers came to Victoria in 1868.



"Never see a need without trying to do something about it." — Mary MacKillop

Mary MacKillop – Founder of the Sisters of St Joseph

Mary MacKillop was born in 1842, and founded the Sisters of St Joseph with Fr Julian Tenison Woods in Penola, South Australia, in 1866. Mary's concern was for the children of impoverished families in isolated areas, and her Congregation began many innovative services in education, social work, pastoral and indigenous ministries throughout Australia. The Sisters of St Joseph came to Victoria in 1889.

"What I love about working with young people in care, is that against all the odds, the horrors, the pain, the struggles and the hurts, they each have such great qualities to offer"

Youth Services Case Manager

"I never cease to be surprised and moved when we find information, photographs or perhaps a living relative, at the healing that follows when people find some answers in their search for identity and understanding"

Heritage staff member

"I give to support your work because I know that my money really makes a difference"

From a donor

How You Can Support Our Work

MacKillop Family Services relies on the generosity of individuals and organisations to provide innovative services to meet the needs of the disadvantaged children, young people and families we support. There are many ways of showing your support:

- » Making a financial contribution
- » Becoming a regular donor
- » Making a bequest
- » Supporting our capital works
- » Through in-kind donations
- » Becoming a volunteer
- » Becoming a MacKillop Champion
- » Supporting our Beyond Words events

Contact our Development Unit on (03) 9699 9177 to discuss your preferred option. **Your support makes a difference.**



The Symbol Within our Logo

In our symbol you see:

- » a tree providing shelter and protection
- » a person reaching out, seeking compassion and hope
- » the Cross of Life.

The circles represent:

- » The three Congregations from which we were formed
- » The seven founding agencies of MacKillop Family Services
- » The children, adults and families we support
- » The fruitfulness and growth which results from the empowerment of those we serve.



How to contact us

You can contact MacKillop Family Services at:

Registered Office ABN 79 078 299 288
Level 1, 123 Paisley Street, Footscray, VIC 3011
Telephone: (03) 9687 7166

Office of the Chief Executive
22 Pin Oak Crescent, Flemington, VIC 3031
Telephone: (03) 9381 6999

Development Unit; Heritage & Information Service; Southern Services
237 Cecil Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3205
Telephone: (03) 9699 9177

St Anthony's Family Centre
Family and Community Services & Disability Services (Metro)
118 Commercial Road, Footscray, VIC 3011
Telephone: (03) 9680 8444

Victoria Street
(MacKillop Home Based Care and MacKillop Youth Services)
9 Victoria Street, Footscray, VIC 3011
Telephone: (03) 8398 6800

Rice Education & Youth Services
10-12 Gilda Street, Maidstone, VIC 3012
Telephone: (03) 9317 6200

Barwon Regional Office
(Mercy Children's Services, Bayview Disability Services, MacKillop Youth Services Barwon)
Helen Street, North Geelong, VIC 3215
Telephone: (03) 5278 9211

St Augustine's Education & Training
27-33 Oxford Street, Whittington, VIC 3220
Telephone: (03) 5248 2557

www.mackillop.org.au

