



# Karanga Atawhai

A newsletter for Sisters of Mercy and partners in mission

No 7. March 2020

## Launch for PJP naming and vision

Plans for a ceremony hosted by the Leadership Team of Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand, to celebrate the naming of its proposed ministerial Public Juridic Person (PJP) and the entity's statement of purpose, will need to be changed by restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 virus.

The choice of name and a final version of the vision statement follow a broad consultation conducted last month among stakeholders including Sisters of Mercy and their partners in ministry.

"The statement of purpose is intended to answer the crucial questions of who we are and why we exist," stakeholders were told. "This draft aims to capture the qualities of the ministerial PJP and its ministries which are unmistakably Mercy in spirit and intent. Your thoughtful assessment will help to ensure that what we say about ourselves is authentic and true."

The responses were sent to PJP project facilitator Marg Endicott rsm who told Karanga Atawhai that the feedback had been extensive. "Around 30 different names were submitted."



Sisters of Mercy NZ Leadership Team (from left) Judith Moroney, Leader Sue France, Raylene Dwyer, Tina Vaeatangitau and Mary Wood.

PHOTO NGĀ WHAEA ATAWHAI O AOTEAROA © 2019

Original plans were for an event in Auckland on Earth Day, April 22, a coincidence to highlight Mercy's commitment to care for the environment. But limits to gatherings during the Covid-19 crisis will see these plans changed. In any event, it is hoped that the occasion may be live streamed for those unable to attend and that a video will be posted later on the websites of the Sisters of Mercy NZ.

## Strengthening the 'Mercy thing' in all ministries

By DENNIS HORTON

**Just over 13 years ago, Mercy Hospice Auckland moved from the familiar surroundings where it had grown over a span of more than half a century at Mercy (formerly Mater) Hospital in Epsom to a newly renovated**

**site in Ponsonby. Staff took with them their expertise and experience in palliative care and some familiar symbols, like the stained-glass windows from the small chapel. But they wondered if they would succeed in carrying with them the special Mercy quality that distinguished their care for the very sick and the dying.**

### Happy to hear from you

Your responses to any items in this newsletter are welcome. If you have any questions or comments, you are invited to send these directly to either Astrid Lambert ([ALambert@somauck.org.nz](mailto:ALambert@somauck.org.nz)) or to Richard Kerr-Bell ([rkerrbell@somauck.org.nz](mailto:rkerrbell@somauck.org.nz)).

Long-serving hospice staff found it hard to describe or name this quality. They called it "the thing", hoping that in the move from the site where the hospice had grown to the purpose-built facility within a building that had begun life as a novitiate where women trained to become Sisters of Mercy, "the thing" would travel with them.

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# Mission formation to strengthen 'Mercy thing' in all ministries

*\*from front page*

Today, as our Mercy ministries face a new life as part of a ministerial Public Juridic Person (PJP), many are wondering how "the thing" will survive and flourish, within an entity with which Sisters of Mercy may in time have no direct involvement. How can we ensure that the Mercy charism, which identifies and distinguishes the ministries in which we work, will be sustained in this unfolding venture?

The Sponsorship Committee, which has overall responsibility for this process, has created a Formation for Mission Group and entrusted it with the task of making sure that "the thing" - Mercy's defining values and vision - is not left to chance but is pursued with deliberate intention at all layers of the yet-to-be-formed PJP. The Formation for Mission Group is currently developing a three-tiered 'pathway', enabling all engaged in Mercy's ministries to deepen their understanding of how they help to sustain and strengthen the values at the heart of every Mercy organisation worth its salt.

The Formation for Mission group comprises Katrina Fabish rsm, former Congregation Leader of the Sisters of Mercy New Zealand, Richard Kerr-Bell who is Kaihautū Wairua or mission administrator of Tiaki Manatū, our ministries Trust, and Lorraine McArthur, a member of the Tiaki Manatū board

and a past principal of a Mercy college.

Richard Kerr-Bell has described the three layers of the Mercy entity in terms of sky, sea and land, each an integral component of a single universe. The sky, te ngākau atawhai or heart of mercy, includes the Sponsorship Committee and the members of the Tiaki Manatū board. The sea, te hā atawhai or the breath of mercy, moves between sky and land. This includes members of Mercy boards, CEOs and managers of Mercy ministries, principals of Mercy colleges, and mission personnel in Te Waka Tiaki (the Trust's mission team) and in our various ministries. The land, ngā ringa atawhai or the hands of mercy, embraces staff and volunteers in those ministries.

The Formation for Mission Group is putting the finishing touches to programmes for 2020 for each of these three groups. The Formation for Mission Group expects that the formation process will develop over time. The group has expressed appreciation for the foundational work done by the PJP Mission Working Party; 'this has provided us with an excellent platform on which to build,' the group agreed.

It is anticipated that everyone involved in Mercy ministries will be involved in the formation process over a two-year time frame. The initial focus will be on the land layer, to reach staff and volunteers in all Mercy ministries.

## PJP 'a gift from the Sisters' to carry Mercy into the future

Astrid Lambert is one of four lay people on the Sponsorship Committee, charged with overseeing the process of creating a ministerial PJP for the Sisters of Mercy in New Zealand. The most positive outcome she foresees is certainty and clarity for the Congregation's ministries.

The PJP will provide "a clear pathway for the future of Mercy ministries that will enable the long-term growth of mission and continue to build on the charism of the Sisters of Mercy into the next century," she says.

Astrid has been impressed by the Congregation's foresight in establishing a structure in which their work can continue. She admires the enormous contribution of Mercy board members towards this work and the diversity of knowledge, skills and experience that has been shared.

Currently serving as group administrator for Tiaki Manatū Ministries Trust in Auckland, Astrid has a particular responsibility for ensuring governance on Mercy boards. She sees a solid foundation for the future of Mercy ministries in the commitment to mission

at board level and "the embracing of the principles of Whānau Mercy, whilst carefully balancing the books."

The strength of these ministries "lies in functioning as a family with unity of purpose and mission at its heart, having the ability to respond to change with prudent but visionary financial management," says Astrid.



She anticipates that the writing of statutes that will require approval from Rome will provide certainty that the works of Mercy will continue. "Formation for Mission programmes for the PJP and its ministries will offer a solid foundation, grounded in mission and supporting our Treaty partnership across the group. These mission formation programmes will galvanise ministries to respond to the call for the works of Mercy."

She describes the PJP as "a gift from the Sisters" that will ensure that "the wonderful work that takes place today and which has changed the lives of so many people will continue tomorrow and into the future."

*Astrid Lambert. PHOTO BY TIAKI MANATŪ*