

Karanga Atawhai

A newsletter for Sisters of Mercy and partners in mission

No 17. August 2021

Mercy ministries - present and future realities

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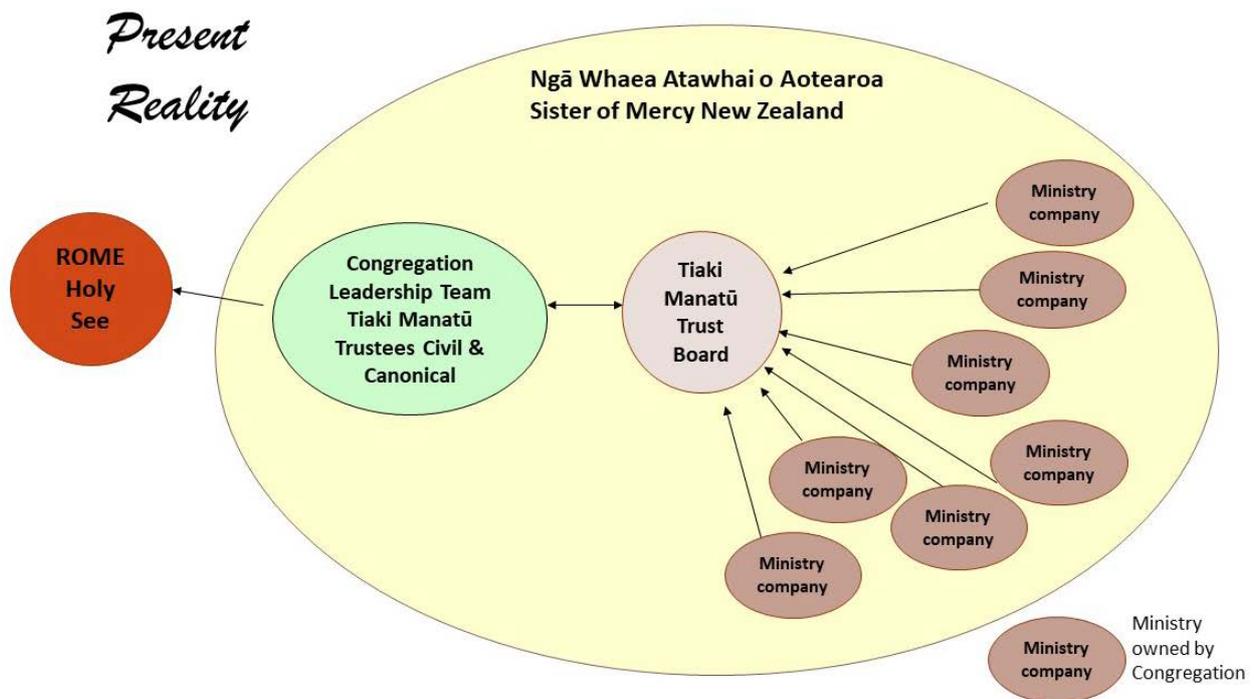
This feature with its accompanying graphics provides an outline of how Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand (the Congregation) is currently organised and how the Congregation will look after its ministries once the Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP) has been created and approved by the Holy See.

According to its current Constitutions approved by the Vatican in 2015, the Congregation is an apostolic religious institute of pontifical right, dedicated to the works of mercy. In simple terms, this means that the Sisters of Mercy in New Zealand, Samoa and Tonga are recognised by and accountable to the Holy See, unlike some Congregations which are diocesan entities authorised by the local bishop.

The Congregation has a direct link to the Holy See through the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and it is to the CICALSAL that the Congregation reports, usually in conjunction with its five-yearly Chapter. It is the CICALSAL in Rome which will handle the application from the Congregation to approve its creation of a Ministerial PJP.

Since 2008, the overall care of the larger ministries of the Congregation has come from Tiaki Manatū, the Trust set up by the Sisters of Mercy in this country to provide oversight, guidance and support for their incorporated ministries. There are at present 12 of these, involved in health, education, social and community development. Some, such as Mercy Hospital and each of the five Mercy colleges, have a board of their own which reports to Tiaki Manatū; others, such as Mercy Hospice Auckland and Waiatarua Mercy Parklands, share a healthcare board which reports to Tiaki Manatū on their behalf.

**continued overleaf*



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*from front page

The existing structure of governance within the Congregation reflects the gradual process which has occurred over recent years, as more lay partners have become involved in the staffing and management of Mercy's ministries. The larger of these have become incorporated companies with governance provided by boards; the coordination of these boards has been strengthened and unified by the creation of Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Tiaki Manatū Sisters of Mercy Ministries New Zealand Trust.

At present, the ministries of Tiaki Manatū are limited liability companies owned by the Congregation. The ministries report to the Congregation at an annual general meeting overseen by Tiaki Manatū through its Trust board, and by regular contact with the Trust's two kaihautū or administrators, who have particular responsibility for governance and mission.

Critical to the success of the structure is Mercy mission and the development of a sense of whānau or family, drawn from the Congregation's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reflected in its adoption of Tikanga Mercy as a way of living Mercy's charism within the context of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. Three core values are seen as key to Mercy mission: whānau (enabling oneness and inclusion), aroha (experiencing love and compassion, both given and received) and kaitiakitanga (guarding and enhancing the wellbeing of Earth and its peoples).

With the establishment of Whānau Mercy Ministries as a Ministerial Public Juridic Person, ownership of the ministries at present administered by Tiaki Manatū Trust will pass from the Congregation to the new PJP.

Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust will report each year directly to Rome on its health, education, social and community development ministries. Its relationship with the Congregation will be maintained through the Sponsor's Council, whose members will be appointed by the Congregation's Leadership Team. The annual report to Rome will be received by the Sponsor's Council before it is sent to the Vatican's CICALSAL in Rome.

The Congregation will maintain its own relationship to the Holy See through the same Vatican Congregation and will report on its affairs as it presently does, usually at the time of its Chapter.

The trustees of the MPJP, appointed by the Sponsor's Council, will be responsible in both canon (church) and civil law for the conduct of Whānau Mercy Ministries and the companies which belong to it. The trustees will function as a body corporate to be known as the Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust Board.

