

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### **ISMAPNG Policy and Practice in relation to Children and Vulnerable Adults**

#### **ISMAPNG Ministries known at time of foundation of Institute – Dec 2011**

##### **Mission of the Institute**

The mission of ISMAPNG is to advance the coming of God's reign of mercy and justice by conducting 'spiritual and corporal works of mercy' in the way of ministerial religious life which was established by Venerable Catherine McAuley in Dublin on December 12, 1831. Related to this is the considerable investment by ISMAPNG in ensuring that the many institutions (for example schools, health and welfare agencies) which were originated by the Sisters of Mercy throughout Australia are now led and administered by competent lay people who are committed to Gospel values and to an ethos of service directed by the Mercy tradition.

##### **History and Membership of the Institute**

ISMAPNG is a canonical and civil entity formed on December 12, 2011 by a union of 14 former autonomous congregations of Sisters of Mercy in Australia and the former autonomous region of Sisters of Mercy in Papua New Guinea. Subsequently, 39 sisters have transferred to ISMAPNG from the three Mercy congregations in Australia which have chosen to remain autonomous.

The current membership is approximately 940 sisters, at least half of whom are actively engaged in ministry.

Considering this present task of compliance, ISMAPNG is in a unique situation, given that it has been established for less than two years. As such, of itself it has little data for the TJHC. Therefore, in order to provide the required historic information it is necessary to refer to records of the former congregations from which ISMAPNG has evolved. These congregations were suppressed by the Holy See on December 11, 2011.

Each of the former congregations is detailed here in chronological order according to its date of foundation in Australia. As far as possible its profile will include relevant information about the various child-centred institutions which it conducted since 1950. It will also note any complaints of sexual abuse which have been made against personnel, that is, members of the congregation, employees or volunteers, as well as visitors to an institution, and the responses given to those complaints.

It is noteworthy that:

- where there have been allegations of sexual abuse, for the most part the subjects of complaint were not the direct and immediate responsibility of the particular institution, for example, there are instances of abuse by foster carers with whom children were placed from residential care facilities conducted by Sisters of Mercy;

- in all cases of sexual abuse, complainants have been advised to report their allegations to the police but generally have chosen not to do so;
- in the majority of instances, allegations of sexual abuse have been accepted by way of a pastoral response, however relative few have been substantiated;
- the hundreds of schools administered by Sisters of Mercy behalf of parishes or dioceses throughout the country are generally not included unless they had boarding facilities or are the subject of an allegation;
- where it may be relevant, congregationally owned schools are included;
- as this report is being prepared a number of complaints related to sexual abuse are currently being addressed within the Towards Healing Programme, so their outcome has not yet been determined.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Perth

**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1846 in Perth, Western Australia

**Founding Origin:** Dublin, Ireland

### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

#### ***Residential Facilities***

*Note: Today the area of Subiaco where the institutions were located is known as Wembley.*

- Saint Joseph's Girls' Orphanage, Subiaco, 1901-1971; absorbed into Catherine McAuley Residential Child Care, 1972.
- Saint Vincent's Foundling Home, Subiaco (boys and girls), 1914-1971; absorbed into Catherine McAuley Residential Child Care, 1972.
- Catherine McAuley Residential Child Care, Subiaco 1972-1989, became Catherine McAuley Family Centre, 1989; operated until 1997 with some residential services and a programme of foster care placements.
- St Margaret's Hostel, Subiaco (for unmarried mothers), Subiaco, 1918-1971

*Note: In 2003, the Catherine McAuley Family Centre (named in 1989), which was formed from all the child care services conducted by the Perth Congregation, was passed to MercyCare, a Public Juridic Person operating as a civil and canonical entity independent, b of the Sisters of Mercy.*

#### ***Schools***

- Mercedes College, Victoria Square, Perth, 1846 – continuing; boarding discontinued in 1980.
- St Anthony's Convent School (boarding), Coolgardie 1898-1979.
- St Patrick's Convent of Mercy, Bunbury, 1920-1969.

- St Philomena's School (boarding), Donnybrook, 1920-1993.
- St Aloysius High (boarding), Toodyay, 1928-1972.
- Santa Maria College (day and boarding students), Attadale, Perth, 1938 – continuing.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1857 in Melbourne, Victoria  
**Founding Origin:** Perth, Western Australia

### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

#### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Catherine's Girls' Orphanage, Geelong, 1862-1975 (became St Catherine's Children's Home, Highton, 1960-1975, then part of Mercy Family Care Centre, North Geelong, 1975-1997).
- St Vincent de Paul Girls' Orphanage, South Melbourne, 1863-1962 (became St Vincent de Paul Children's Home, Blackrock, 1962 -1992, then St Vincent de Paul Child and Family Service, Blackrock, until 1997).

*Note: In 1997 these facilities, along with others from the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph, became Mackillop Family Services which today operates on approximately forty-two sites in Melbourne and Geelong.*

- Santa Casa, Queenscliff, 1916-1937; 1939-1961, holiday house for orphans and boarders.

*Note: Melbourne Congregation also conducted holiday houses for orphanage children in Sorrento and Torquay – no details readily available.*

#### ***Schools***

- Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy, 1857- continuing (boarding discontinued 1971).
- Sacred heart College, Geelong, 1860–continuing (boarding discontinued c1975).
- St Anne's College, Warrnambool, 1872 (boarding discontinued 1977).
- St Joseph's College, Kilmore, 1877-c1972 (boarding discontinued 1966).
- St Mary's College, Bendigo, 1877– continuing as Catholic College, Bendigo (boarding discontinued 1973).
- Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, 1889-continuing (boarding discontinued c1972).
- Sacred Heart College, Yarrawonga, 1890-continuing (boarding discontinued 1967).
- Sacred Heart College, Mansfield, 1892-1972.

- St Augustine's College, Wodonga c 1897- continuing as Catholic College, Wodonga (boarding discontinued 1959).
- Padua House, Mornington, 1898-continuing as Padua College (boys' boarding discontinued 1960).
- Our Lady of Mercy College, Deloraine, Tasmania, 1898-continuing (boarding discontinued c1971).ear Colege, CastertonHear College, Casreton
- Mt Lilydale Mercy College, 1896- continuing (boarding discontinued 1972).
- Sacred Heart College, Casterton, 1902–1962, now parish primary school.
- St Mary's College, Tatura 1901 (no other detail readily available).
- Sacred Heart College, Shepparton, 1902 (no other detail readily available).
- Sacred Hear College, Seymour, 1903-1973 (boarders discontinued c1955).
- Stella Maris College, Burnie Tasmania, 1906 - continuing as Marist Regional College.
- St Joseph's College, Colac, 1907-continuing as Trinity College (boarding discontinued 1959).
- St Joseph's College, Mildura, 1911– continuing (boarding discontinued 1974).
- St Augustine's Primary School, Wodonga.
- St Matthew's Primary School, Fawkner North.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1859 in Goulburn, NSW  
**Founding Origin:** Westport, Co Mayo, Ireland

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Josph's Girls' Home, Kenmore, 1862–1974; replaced by cottage system under direction of Centacare, Archdiocese of Canberra- Goulburn. Cottages closed in 1987.
- St John's Orphanage for Girls, Thurguna, 1882-1977; transferred to Wagga Diocese, in care of Mother of God Brothers. Closed in 1986; replaced by cottage system known as St John's Family Care Centre Group Home. In 1989 developed into 10 independent living units for disabled young people. Today a work of ISMAPNG, known as Mercy Centre Inc, Thurguna.
- St John's Boys' Home, Goulburn, 1906-1979; replaced by cottage system under direction of Centacare, Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn. Cottages closed in 1987.

### **Schools**

*Note: Unless otherwise indicated, these schools were owned by the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn and conducted on its behalf by the Sisters of Mercy. Although the Goulburn Congregation conducted many schools, only those with boarding facilities are named here.*

- Our Lady of Mercy College, Goulburn, 1859-1977; amalgamated with Sisters of St Joseph, Goulburn to form Marian College which then amalgamated with St Patrick's College (Christian Brothers), to form Trinity College in 1998.
- St Joseph's School, Albury, 1870–1982; authority- Wagga Diocese; amalgamated with other Wagga diocesan schools to form Xavier High School.
- Mount Carmel College (boarding), Yass, 1876; boarding discontinued in 1992; day school authority given to Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn, 1994.
- St Joseph's School Deniliquin, 1887; authority was Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese until c1954 when Deniliquin became part of Wilcannia Forbes Diocese.
- St Lawrence's College (boarding), Galong, 1911-1970.
- St Malachy's Boarding School, Gooloogong, 1917-1971.
- Sacred Heart School (boarding), Stockinbingal, 1914-1961.
- Our Lady of the Snows Convent School Binda, 1924-1958.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Bathurst  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1866 in Bathurst, NSW  
**Founding Origin:** Charleville, Co Mayo, Ireland

### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

#### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Joseph's Orphanage, Bathurst, 1867-1975.
- Croagh Patrick Orphanage, Orange, 1969–1986 (1928- 1969, conducted by Daughters of Charity).
- St Agnes' Hostel, Bathurst, 1957- 1968.

### **Schools**

- St Mary's College (boarding), Bathurst, 1869-1980.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1872 in Ballarat, Victoria  
**Founding Origin:** Warrnambool, Victoria

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- Patrician House, Ballarat, 1963-1995 (accommodation for women in first year teacher training).

##### ***Schools***

- Sacred Heart College (boarding), Ballarat East, 1882-1994.
- St Francis Xavier's School (girls' boarding), St Arnaud, 1904-1975.
- St Francis Xavier's School (boys' boarding, preparatory-Year 6), Ballarat, 1905-1975.
- St Mary's School (girls' boarding), Warracknabeal, 1930-1974.
- Star of the Sea Convent (girls' boarding to Year 6), Apollo Bay, 1963-1972.
- St Martin's in the Pines, Mt Clear, 1967-1994.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Rockhampton  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1873 in Rockhampton, Queensland  
**Founding Origin:** Brisbane, Queensland

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Joseph's Home, Neerkol, 1880-1978. Children transferred to Family Group Homes (10 Ward Street, Rockhampton, 1977-1979; 74 Jessie Street, Rockhampton, 1978-1985).
- The Depot, Kent Street, Rockhampton, 1990-200 (residence for 'at risk' teenage girls).

##### ***Schools***

- Range Convent (boarding), 1895–1989 (transferred to Rockhampton Diocese 1989, now known as Cathedral College).

*The following were small rural boarding schools for primary boys and girls:*

- St Agnes' School, Emu Park, closed 1965.
- St Joseph's School, Biloela, closed 1967.

- St Joseph's School, Barcaldine, closed 1975.
- St John's School, Walkerston, closed 1976.
- St Patrick's Convent and School, Mackay, closed 1977.
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Springsure, closed 1982.

*Note: As St Joseph's Home, Neerkol, has been the subject of extensive complaints and related ongoing responses, following is a brief report about key issues prepared by the former Business Manager of the Sisters of Mercy Rockhampton who supervised much of the process for addressing allegations.*

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Singleton  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1875 in Singleton, NSW  
**Founding Origin:** Ennis. Co Clare, Ireland

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- Bishop Murray Memorial Girls' Home, Maitland, 1910-1960; became Monte Pio Orphanage, 1960-1973.

##### ***Schools***

- St Catherine's College (boarding), Singleton, 1875-1974; transferred to Diocese of Maitland, 1975; closed 2002.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Townsville  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1878 in Townsville, Queensland  
**Founding Origin:** Brisbane, Queensland

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Schools***

- St Patrick's College (boarding), North Ward, Townsville, 1878-continuing.
- Stella Maris Secondary School (boarding), Bowen, 1885-1971.
- Lourdes Convent Boarding School, Ingham, c1915- (closure unknown).
- St Therese's Convent Boarding School, Halifax, 1927-1968.
- Rosario Kindergarten, Townsville, c1930 – 1979.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Gunnedah  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1879 in Gunnedah, NSW  
**Founding Origin:** Singleton, NSW

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Patrick's Orphanage, Armidale, 1919- 1976.
- St Patrick's Group Homes, 1976-1984 (Merici House, The White Family Home, Murray Avenue Family Home). All these were located in Armidale and run by married couples.

##### ***Schools***

- St Mary's College (boarding), Gunnedah, 1879-1987; transferred to Diocese of Armidale, 2004.
- Convent of Mercy School (boarding), Inverell, 1900-1962.
- Convent of Mercy School (boarding), Moree, 1902-1968.
- Convent of Mercy School (boarding), Mungindi, 1924-1980.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Adelaide  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1880 in Adelaide, South Australia  
**Founding Origin:** Buenos Aires, Argentina

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Goodwood, 1866 – 1971 (conducted by Sisters of St Joseph, 1866 – 1890). Developed into St Vincent de Paul Group Homes 1971-1975 ('Bon Agor', Royston Park; 'Yoorana', Westbourne; 'Orana', Plympton).
- Waverley Hostel, Dulwich, 1972- 1980s (for older girls leaving group homes).

##### ***Schools***

- St Aloysius College, Adelaide, 1880-continuing (boarding students until 1953).
- Riverton Convent 1951-1970 (small school for weekly boarders, boys and girls).
- Mater Christi College, 1952 -1971 when merged with Marist Brothers to form Tension College. Boarding component closed in 1981.
- Mercedes College, Springfield, 1954 – continuing (boarding students until c 1975). School passed from Sisters of Mercy to Adelaide Diocese c2005.



**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Grafton  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1844 in Grafton, NSW  
**Founding Origin:** Bermondsey, London, United Kingdom

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- St Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper 1914–continuing as St Joseph's Homes.

##### ***Schools***

- St Mary's College, Grafton, 1885-continuing as McAuley Catholic Coeducational College (boarding discontinued c1990).
- St Mary's High School, Casino, c1910–continuing as St Mary's College (boarding discontinued c1972).
- St Brigid's Junior Secondary School, Kyogle, 1920-continuing as parish primary school (boarding discontinued c1960).
- St Philomena's School, West Kempsey, 1910, became St Pius X c1968– continuing as St Paul's Coeducational College.

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Cairns  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1888 in Cooktown, Queensland (relocated head house to Herberton in 1921 and then to Cairns in 1979)  
**Founding Origin:** Dungarvan, Co Waterford, Ireland

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Residential Facilities***

- Bethany Respite Care Centre, Atherton, 1990-1995 (disability services for children, passed to Tablelands Respite Care Association).

##### ***Schools***

- Mount St Bernard College, Herberton, 1921-2006 (gifted to Cairns Diocese, 2006).

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, West Perth  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1896 on West Perth, Western Australia  
**Founding Origin:** Perth, Western Australia

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Early Child-hood***

- Girrawheen Childcare Centre, Girrawheen, 1974-2005.
- Glendalough Neighbourhood Centre, Glendalough, 1981-1997.

##### ***Schools***

- St Brigid's Primary School, West Perth, 1896-1976.
- St Patrick's Primary School, Havelock Street, West Perth, 1938-1974.
- St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie, 1929-continuing (day and boarding).

**Name of Congregation:** Sisters of Mercy, Wilcannia-Forbes  
**Year and Place of Foundation:** 1932 In Broken Hill, NSW  
**Founding Origin:** This congregation resulted from several amalgamations of small, autonomous congregations in rural NSW which took place between 1891 and 1932.

#### **Child-centred Institutional Works after 1950**

##### ***Schools***

- St Canisius Boys' Boarding School, Wilcannia , 1890-c1957.
- St Joseph's College, Broken Hill, c1900 – 1978.
- St Scholastica's School, Mount Barker, South Australia, 1902–c1965 (boarding facilities continued until mid 1970s).
- St Catherine's School, Parkes, c1935-c1976.

*Note: Wilcannia-Forbes Congregation conducted some small convent schools in rural NSW - Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Deniliquin, Trundle - where students lived during the week. All these had closed by early 1970s.*