



CATHERINE MCAULEY
SERVICES LIMITED

Catherine McAuley Services Limited

Annual Report

2019 – 2020

Report from the Chair

Maureen Sexton RSM

I am pleased to present my second Annual Report to the members of Catherine McAuley Services Ltd (CMSL) along reports from the program Managers The Theology Program PNG & SI and Cookhouses 'n Tanks A lot (CTAL) Sr Annette Schneider and Sr Margaret Ryan.

The Report demonstrates evidence of the board transitioning from a simple structure motivated by the founding director of the Theology Program PNG and SI to a shift to expand oversight of other CMSL projects or program operating in PNG. This has led to a deliberate attempt to strengthen the CMSL Board - governance and planning, overseeing funds, organisational accountability and creating a more formal structure e.g., standing committees. We call it a 'living project' one requiring significant collaboration with the Program Managers of the two programs.

There is no financial report because accounts are held within ISMAPNG, due to the effects of Covid 19 the annual audit has been delayed and the report is not available.

The first six months of this year were quite challenging as we worked towards rebuilding the CMSL Board after the decision by the Members in July '19 to expand the scope of projects CMSL could oversee. Sr Bev Strong was appointed to the Board in Nov '19 and appointed Company Secretary by the Board in Feb '20. It took some time to identify new board members currently living in PNG this was done in consultation with Srs Mariska Kua, Maryanne Kolkia and Theresia Tina. Sr Mariska Kua was appointed in Feb 2020, Fiona Hukula and Diane Unagi in Jun 2020.

Given the nature of an evolving structure like CMSL the initial focus has been:

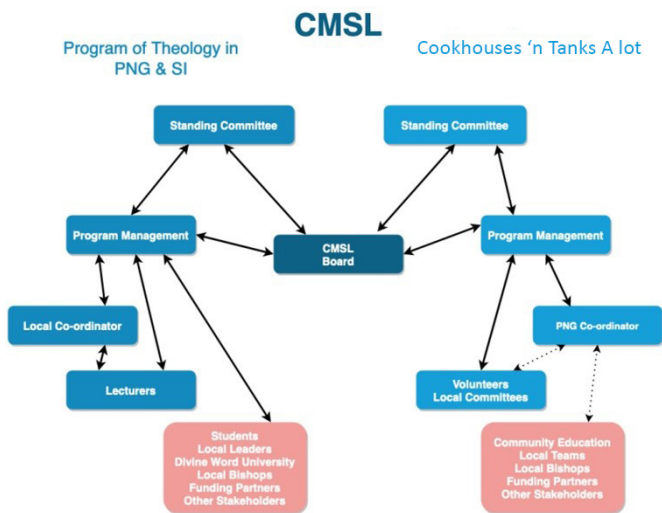
- Availing ourselves of governance formation opportunities for example the module for Company Secretaries and Minute Takers.
- Engaging with Program staff of the Theology Program PNG & SI to deepen our understanding of all aspects of the Program. In Feb 2020 the Board had their first briefing from Sr Margaret Ryan about the CTAL project
- Securing Board membership which reflected our commitment to PNG
- Identifying the roles and responsibilities of the Board and of the Program Managers. We chose a

collaborative approach. For example the Board meetings have two aspects - a formal Board meeting followed a more open meeting with Program Managers and staff.

Board meetings were held in November 2019, February 2020, April 2020 (our first zoom meeting) and in June 2020. In June, Fiona Hukula and Diane Unagi were welcomed to their first Board meeting. As part of their induction process, Jonathan Campton and Sr Annette Schneider were invited to facilitate two sessions - ISMAPNG Structure, Governance formation and its function. The following day Nicki Patten facilitated a session on the pending Safeguarding Audit which CMSL is required. These extended meetings provided opportunities to get to know each other, enhanced the induction process and strengthened our understanding of CMSL and the programs it currently oversees.

Understanding the fiduciary responsibility of the Board has taken time. Both programs have bank accounts which are held in ISMAPNG, here in Australia and in PNG. In consultation with David Penny and Darren Schutz consideration is being given to a more transparent and accountable means of exercising the Board's responsibilities re finance i.e., have all bank accounts held within CMSL. This will be an ongoing goal in 2020-2021. The Board, and Program Managers have done budgets but it doesn't mean much in the current set-up. As stated earlier in this report it has not been possible to have a financial report available to accompany this narrative report.

In a steady consistent way a formal structure has been established along with appropriate Ministry Agreements for RSMs and Position Descriptions for lay staff. The diagram below demonstrates the current structure. Note the existence of a Standing Committee for each Program and the relationships between the CMSL Board, the Standing Committees and the Program Managers. Until the governance scope of the CMSL expands and requires a managerial position between the Board and the Program Managers there will be necessary overlapping of operational roles. This has been clearly seen in the preparation for the Safeguarding Audit. This has worked well and helped the Board members and the Program Managers to appreciate their role and the role of the other.



Earlier in this report it was mentioned that board meetings are divided into two separate sections each with its own purpose. Initially the board meets and deals with matters pertaining to its governance role. The 2nd session is inclusive of the Program Management staff where there is significant evidence of a growing understanding, collaboration and cross fertilisation happening. There is a generosity in sharing information, learning from the others experience and building networks. It is becoming clear that both Fiona Hukula and Diane Unagi will make a valuable contribution to the networking.

The Standing Committees were established with a designated board director as chair. The Standing

Committees are advisory in nature. The primary role of both committees is to ensure professional integrity and development of program activities, albeit in different ways given the different nature of the programs. CTAL has been able to engage two PNG women on their Standing Committee who are also able to provide practical support to Theresia Tina e.g., accompany her to remote places.

The intentional focus for 2020 2021 is to:

- Complete the Safeguarding audit and ensure there is compliance with Safeguarding training
- Vision and mission statement and strategic planning
- Continue to explore an appropriate finance structure that allows the Board to exercise its fiduciary function

In conclusion, as Chair, I would like to thank David Penny, ISMAPNG Executive Officer, Jonathan Campton, Ministry Governance Officer, Nicki Patten, Legal Counsel and Catherine Smith, Operations Manager for the advice and assistance they have given the Board in these early days of a major transition. I am also grateful to Sr Gaye Lennon, ILT Representative, and the ILT as members for their ongoing support. The spirit of cooperation experienced between the Board and the two programs is a blessing. Significant achievements are noted in the two Program Reports which follow.

Maureen Sexton RSM
Chair CMSL



Program of Theology

in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands

Annette Schneider RSM

The Program offers two courses, both awarded by Divine Word University (DWU). Since its approval in 2016, 32 students have graduated with the Diploma in Pastoral Ministry. The Advanced Diploma in Theology and Pastoral Ministry (AdvDipTheol&PastMin) was approved by DWU in early 2020.

Lecturers comment that the classes reflect great co-operation, where Sisters from 21 different Orders are enjoying high-quality education and friendship and the opportunity to study together.

On October 18 and 19, the 11 Program staff and lecturers met in Melbourne for their 2019 annual gathering. Ongoing professional learning, sharing of resources and collaborative planning are among the significant features of these meetings.

- The new MOA was signed in March 2020 between DWU and ISMAPNG. Pictured here (L to R) are Maureen Sexton rsm, Institute Councillor; DWU President Dr Cecilia Nembou; Dr/Sr Kathleen Williams rsm and Faculty Dean A/Prof Sr Miriam Dlugosz.



- Unfortunately, the early emergence of COVID-19 impacted travel to PNG and Dr/Sr Kathleen Williams rsm was unable to obtain a visa in time to attend the February 2020 biennial meeting of the Forum of Religious of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. This forum provides an ideal opportunity to engage with the women religious in person about the Program.
- The Program of Theology aims to offer one Diploma unit and one AdvDip unit per semester

in Wewak and Mt Hagen. As they are new locations, we are aiming for one Diploma unit only per semester in Port Moresby and Honiara. Due to the impact of COVID-19, classes due to be held in June 2020 were cancelled. Planning for January 2021 continues, contingent on travel bans being lifted between Australia and PNG/ SI, and on the safety interests of our staff and students.

Student Registrations in the DipPastMin and AdvDipTheol&PastMin

- There are 77 students officially registered in the DipPastMin, 69 of whom are currently active.
- At least twelve (12) new students are preparing for registration, with four (4) students from the Solomon Islands already registered.
- We have recently registered eight (8) students in the AdvDipTheol&PastMin.

During the past nine months, Elissa Roper (Program Coordinator) and Kathleen Williams rsm (Program Manager) have been mentoring Annette Schneider rsm who will assume the role of Program Manager on July 1, 2020. We are grateful to the Chair, Maureen Sexton rsm, and the Board of CMSL for their support and encouragement during what has been a very challenging year.

The photo below, of Graduation at DWU Madang, in March 2020, captures the essence of this ministry, empowering the religious women of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to take their rightful place ministering in a variety of ways within the Church.



Cookhouses 'n Tanks A lot

Margaret Ryan RSM

Pandemic pandemonium, supermarket shelves stripped bare, surreal stillness, empty expressways and vacant trains. COVID 19 hit Melbourne in early March, lockdowns intermediate and radical happened. Fundraising? Forget it. But counting our blessings, we survived alive to shake down the office cobwebs and sweep the dust from the floor. Now we begin again in 2021 as fundraising friends of our earnest “sweat equity” partners and neighbours in Papua New Guinea.

Our Melanesian neighbours awaited the silent viral enemy in fear and trepidation. Intensive care beds-a handful. Ventilators- forget it. Regional hospital beds-full house always. National and provincial borders closed as leaders stood poised on high alert for the first cases and acted swiftly. Somehow they saved the day. As they must. A developing economy cannot embark on wages subsidy nor pay benefits to the unemployed or retired.

Through the crisis, Cookhouses survived and thrived to our delight. In Goglime, the construction team and young volunteers completed the adjacent youth centre and began a kitchen extension to the original cookhouse. It will stay as a social dining room and activities centre for the women. In Oamug, the women expressed their desire to keep the cookhouse smoke-free and have a smaller annexe for the wood-fire stove, now completed. In Pumakos, the stove remains in the cookhouse.

The most important achievements for 2020 were two-fold. The Cookhouses project was accepted by the Catherine McAuley Services Ltd (CMSL) Company from July 1, 2020. (Catherine was the woman who founded the lay Society of Mercy and the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin almost two centuries ago). The Company is registered in Australia and Papua New Guinea and is tax-exempt in both jurisdictions. It will take more time to achieve tax-deductibility.

The second robust step forward was the appointment of Sr Theresia Tina to the role of PNG local coordinator for the Cookhouses project and the appointment of a working sub-committee. Theresia has extensive experience in leadership and holds qualifications in education and community development, so is ideally poised to develop learning programs with the women in each cookhouse, who have elected their leaders and nominated the areas of adult learning that interest them. Theresia is also the local liaison person for the construction of the Posulim cookhouse in the Southern Highlands. Thanks to our faithful donors, we have sufficient funds to begin there. That development, the consolidation of the four cookhouse learning programs and the resurrection of the Melbourne volunteer fundraising program will be our major goals for 2021. We welcome enthusiastically new members of the CTAL team, as volunteers or donors and value each and every contribution for somewhere a young mother's life may be saved.



Celebrations in Oamug



The opening of the Goglime Cookhouse



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