



INSTITUTE OF  
SISTERS *of* MERCY  
OF AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# Director Orientation Session 2021

Overview of current Governance of ISMAPNG and its ministries



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# Interplay between Civil and Canon Law

## A Snapshot of ISMAPNG

### ISMAPNG

### Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia & Papua New Guinea

Formed December 2011 from 14 Australian congregations & autonomous region PNG approximately 58 sisters who transferred from the 3 congregations which chose not to become part of the Institute

### ISMAPNG- Governance (ILT)

Institute Leader & 4 Councillors- elected for 6 years

### Sisters of Mercy (~700)

**Ministries-** employing over 11,000 staff and volunteers both in Australia & internationally

**A SNAPSHOT**  
of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy  
of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG)

**15,000+ people**

- 800 Sisters of Mercy
- 11,000 Ministry partners
- 350 Mercy Associates

- 225+ Institute staff members
- 3,000+ Ministry volunteers
- 32 Young Mercy Links

**ASSISTING 210,000+ PERSONS ANNUALLY**

We seek to advance the reign of God by engaging in the spiritual and corporal works of MERCY

- FEED THE HUNGRY
- GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY
- SHELTER THE HOMELESS
- CLOTHE THE NAKED

- VISIT THE SICK AND IMPRISONED
- BURY THE DEAD
- GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR
- CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

• INSTRUCT • ADVISE • CONSOLE • COMFORT • FORGIVE • BEAR WRONGS • PRAY

*"Whatever and whenever our ministry is...we are part of the one mercy mission, part of the ongoing mission of the compassionate Jesus."*

CONSTITUTIONS 4.03

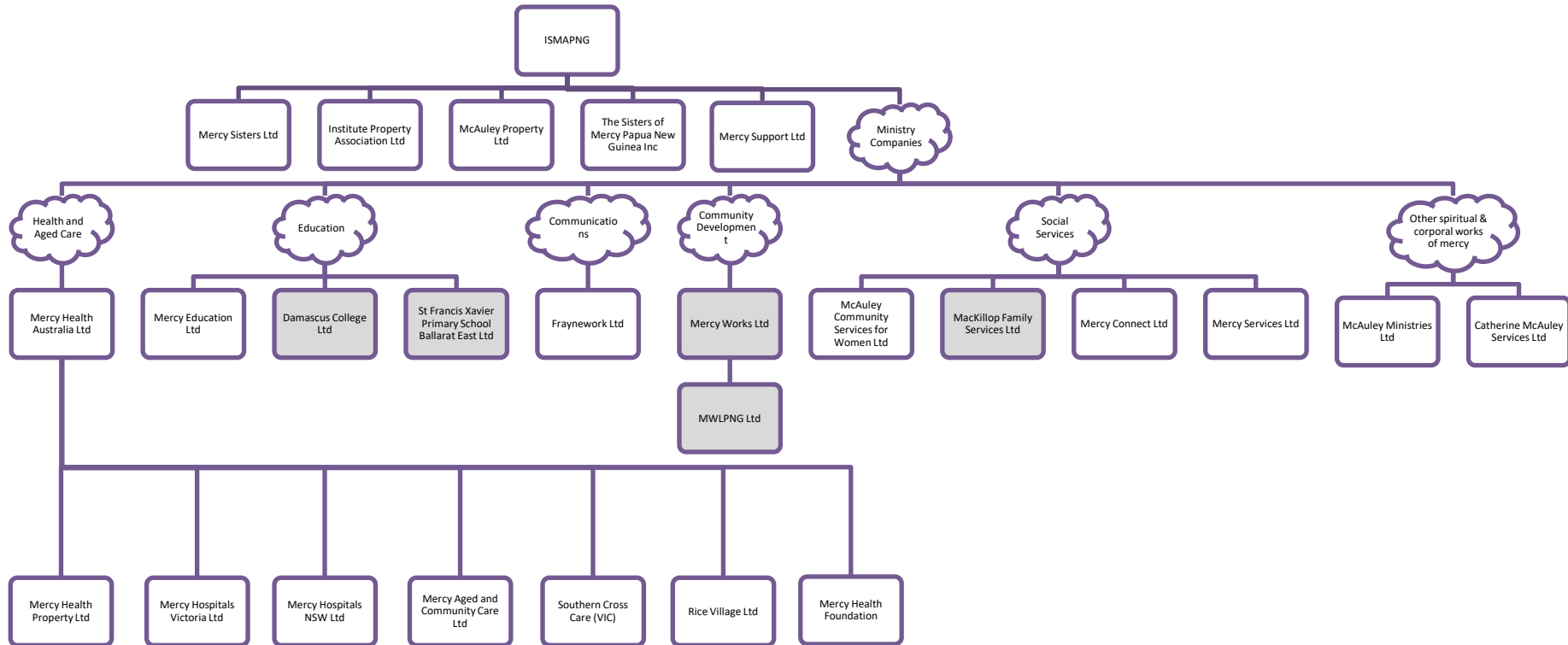
**COUNTRIES IN WHICH WE MINISTER**

AUSTRALIA PAPUA NEW GUINEA	KENYA SUDAN		TIMOR LESTE IRELAND	U.S.A PAKISTAN
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WWW.INSTITUTE.MERCY.ORG.AU  
JULY 2017

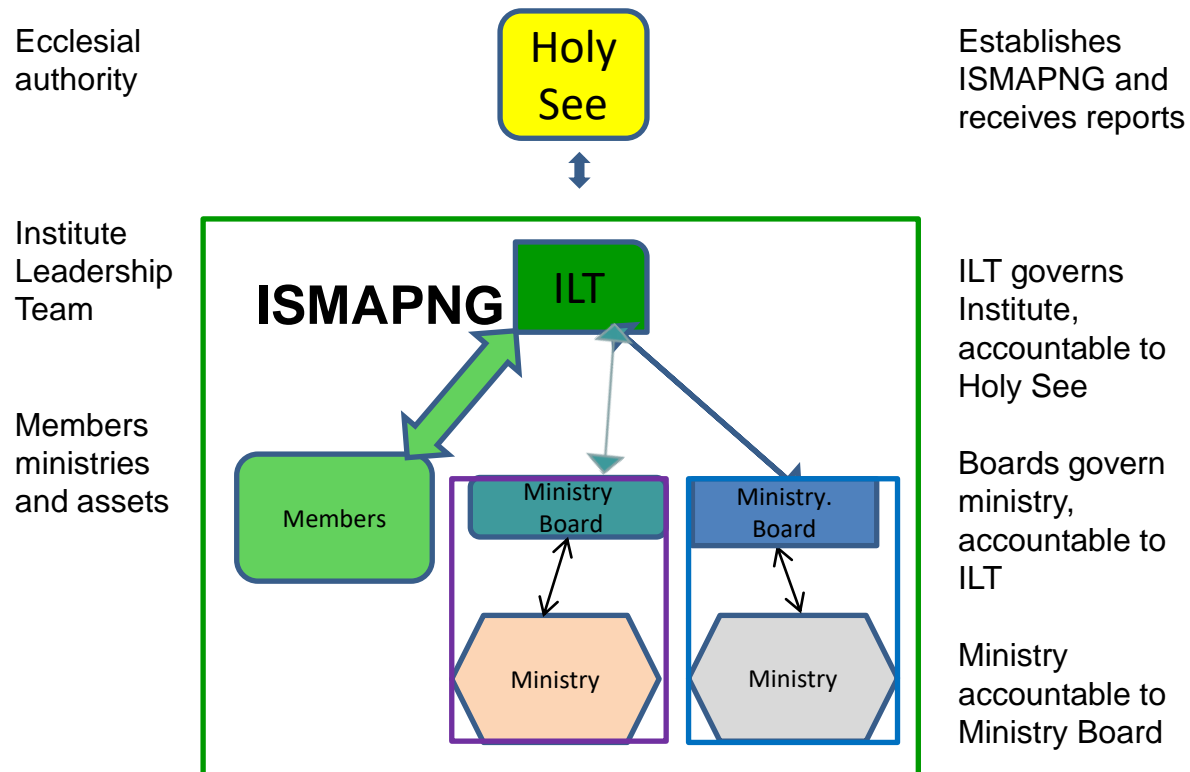


# The Institute and its Incorporated Ministries





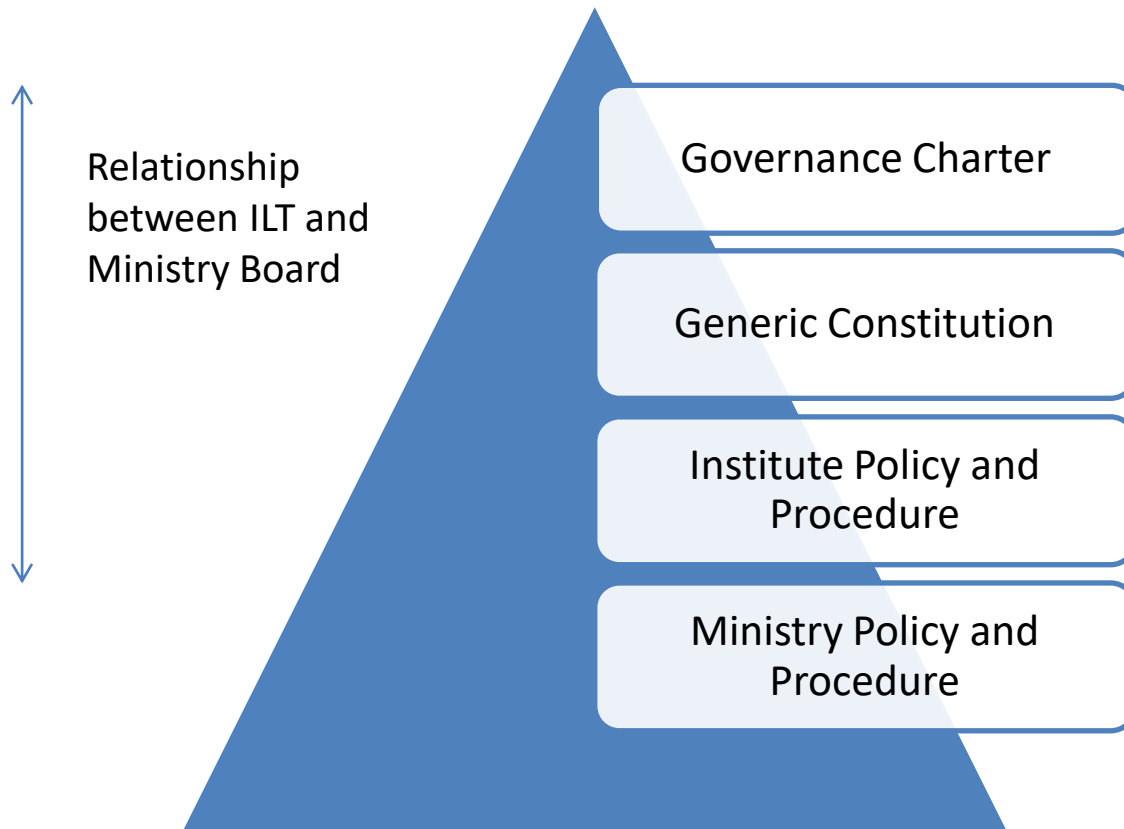
# The Institute from a canonical perspective



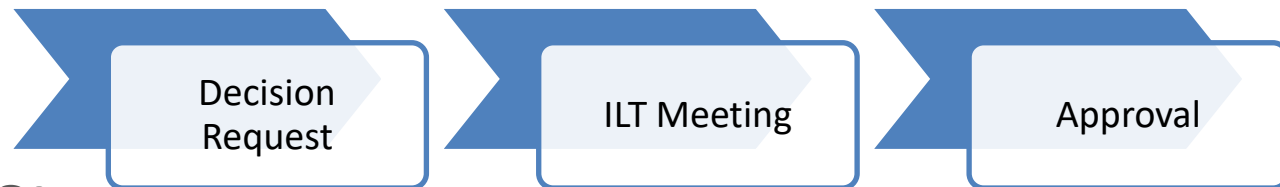
As presented by Mary Wright IBVM



# Reserve Powers and the Institute



- Reserve Powers – clause 5
- Decision Requests



## Variables:

- Prior consultation with ILT and Executive Officer Ministries
- Adherence to existing policy and procedures
- Meeting timeframes

# Reserve Powers

- People
  - Appointment of directors
  - Appointment of CEO and principals
- Paper (and purpose)
  - Constitutional amendments
  - Strategic Plans
  - Extend Ministry area
  - Logos and names of the Ministry

- Property
  - Acquisition and sale of properties
  - Borrowings
  - Property works
  - Capital expenditure and limits (financial)



# Case Study

The NT Government is tendering for the provision of mental health services as it responds to COVID 19. A separately incorporated Social Service Ministry has expressed interest in providing telehealth psychology and psychiatry services. The Ministry presently provides emergency accommodation for women in Western Sydney. The Board Chair, Vi Rush, has hastily called a video conference where it was announced that Vi had submitted a tender. Vi has a holiday house in Darwin and a growing interest in psychology. The Institute Leader is contacted by the Bishop of Darwin who has expressed concern about this matter and is seeking a meeting to discuss.

- What reserve powers are triggered?
- What would have been a better process within the Ministry?
- What information would be needed for the ILT to make a decision?



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# Director Orientation Session 2020

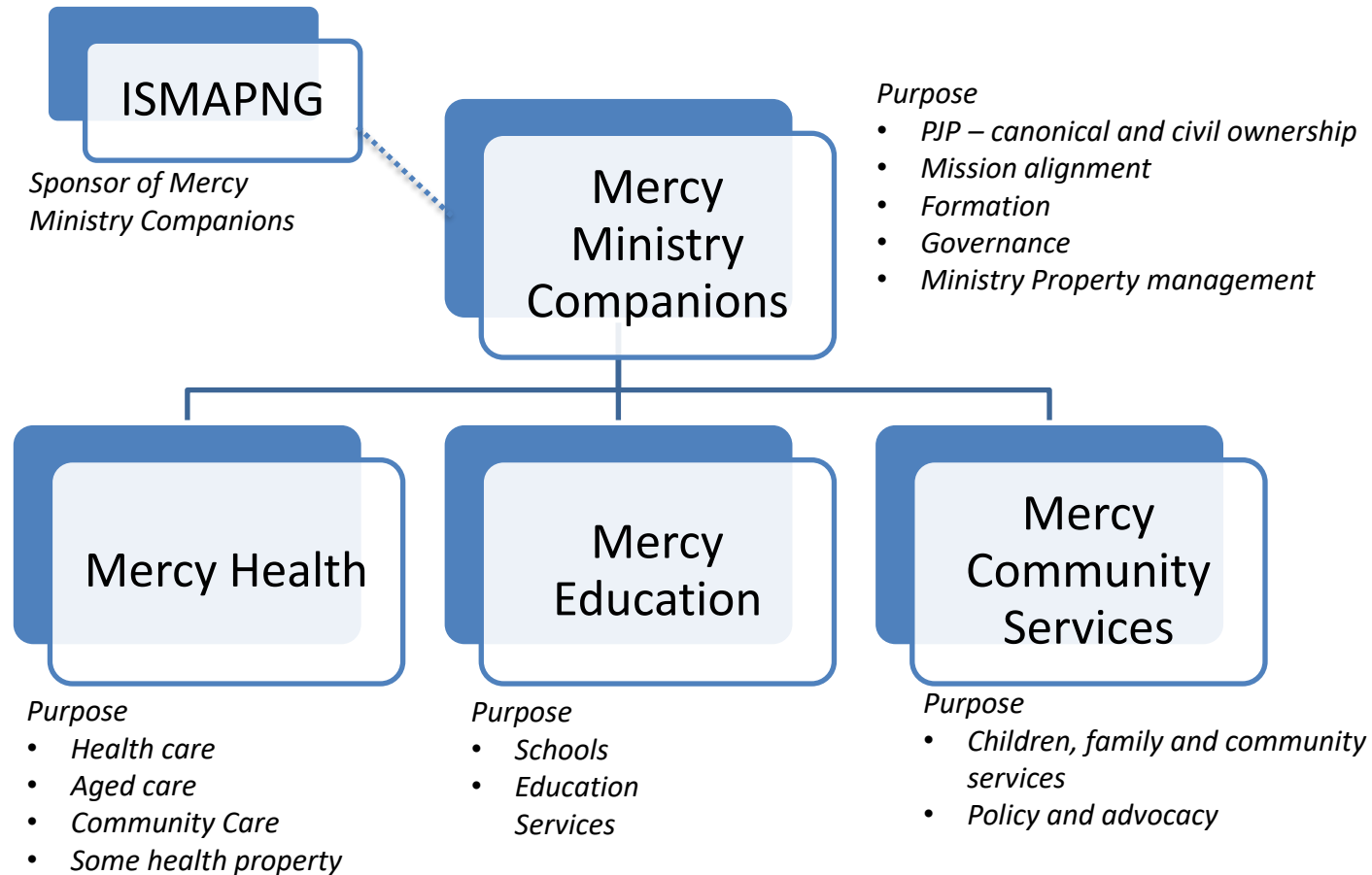
Update on the establishment of Mercy Ministry Companions

# Future Governance

- Reconfiguration gave renewed life to the governance of Ministries
- Direction from Chapter in 2017 to explore models of future governance so that the Institute's ministries may flourish into the future
- FGWP established in Oct 2018
- Report provided to ILT in December 2019
- The ILT advised our Sisters and Ministries in February 2020 that it has formally agreed to the FGWP's principal recommendation that the Institute seek to form a new ministerial PJP to oversee the three groupings.
- The ILT established the Institute PJP Transition Group (IPTG).
- The Institute Leadership Team has decided to petition Rome for a new Ministerial Public Juridic Person (PJP) called Mercy Ministry Companions
- The Institute Leadership Team has agreed that Mercy Ministry Companions will govern ministries in three groupings of Health, Education and Social Services from 3 December 2021



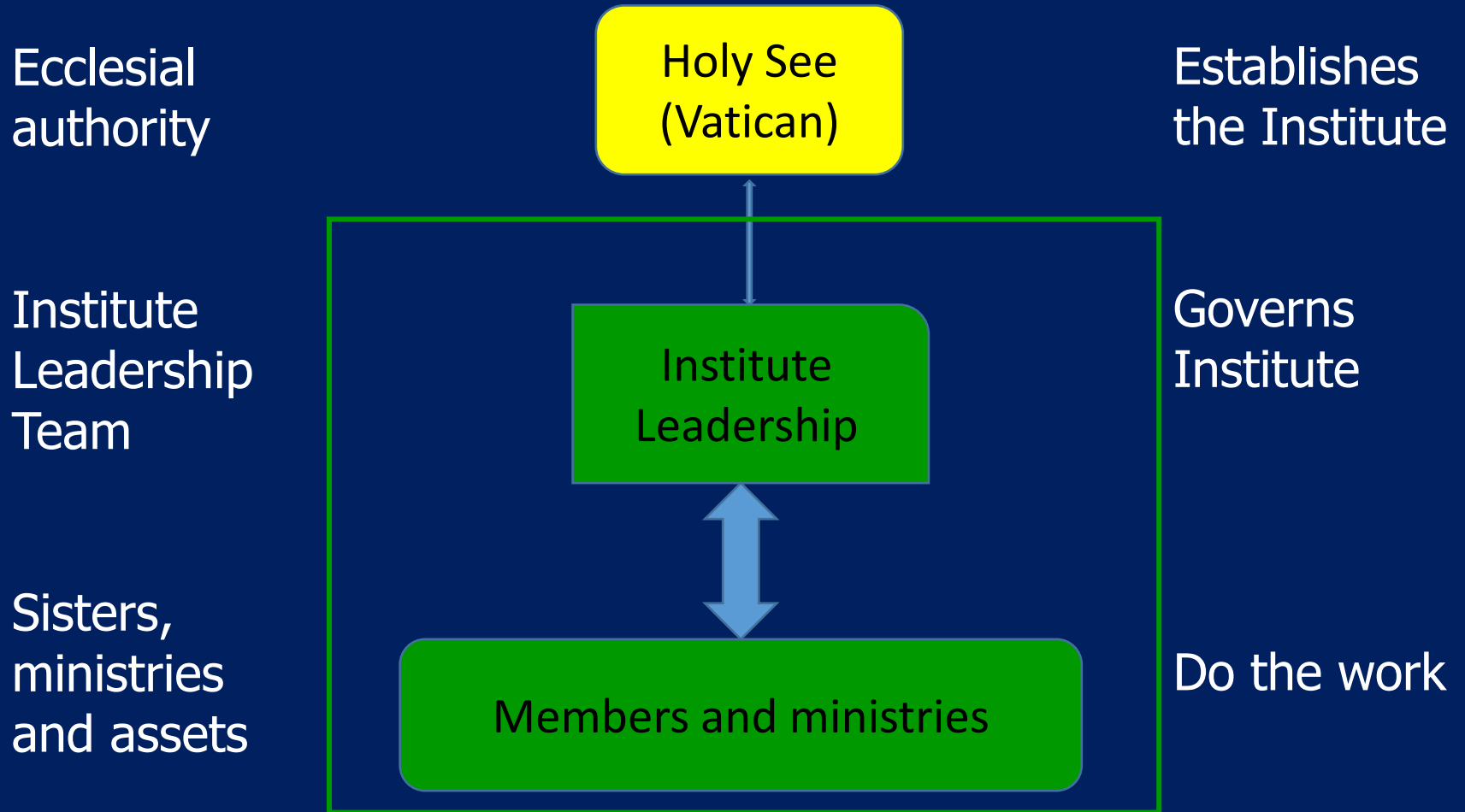
# Overview of the PJP Structure



# Future Governance

Question	Response
What is a PJP?	Church's canonical equivalent of a corporation. Ministerial PJP represents the Church in the same way as religious institutes previously with respect ministries.
What will it do?	Provide sponsorship and stewardship of ministries, in a similar way to the oversight currently provided by the Institute.
When will it start?	If the ILT determines to establish a PJP, a petition to the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life will take 12-18 months to be determined, suggesting a new PJP could commence in mid-2021.
Who will govern it?	A board of lay trustees would be appointed, initially by the Institute. Statutes would determine how subsequent appointments would be made.
What will change for the Institute?	The Institute would transfer ministries to the new entity to ensure their continuation as Catholic ministries.
What will change for ministries?	Instead of reporting to the Institute, ministries would report to the new PJP. The PJP would not involve itself in ministry operations, but would continue the Institute's current oversight of Catholic identity and mission fulfilment.
Who else uses lay-led PJPs?	Mercy Partners oversees schools, hospitals and aged care services, and former works of other Congregations in Queensland. St John of God Hospitals operate under a PJP. Sisters of Charity schools, hospitals and aged care operate under the Mary Aikenhead Ministries PJP. Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) provides Catholic education in all States and Territories.
Why should some ministries not transition?	A small number of ministries are suited to remaining under Institute supervision, particularly those primarily involving Institute members.

# ISMAPNG – PJP (association)



New ismapng  
Ministerial PJP

Ecclesial  
authority

Holy See

Establishes  
PJP

Institute  
Leaders

ISM  
APNG  
Sponsor

'Sponsors'  
the PJP

MPJP  
Trustees  
Board

MPJP  
Trustees

Governs the  
ministries  
and assets

MPJP  
assets

Ministries, assets

Do the work

## Reserve Powers of the Holy See cover:

- The establishment of the entity
- The Statutes which define it
- The alienation of its stable property
- Suppression





# Letter of Petition for Mercy Ministry Companions



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1. A short description of the history and charism of the Institute;
2. Reasons for the decision, and the process of discernment and consultation which led to the decision;
3. Minutes of the ISMAPNG general council meeting approving the petition;
4. Draft Statutes of Mercy Ministry Companions;
5. Civil constitutions of Mercy Ministry Companions Ltd;
6. The vota indicating the consent of Archbishops and Bishops;
7. Attestation from an independent expert that the Institute will be financially secure and will not suffer privation from the properties being transferred;
8. A list of the properties, their technical descriptions and approximate values; and
9. A summary of the formation policies and programs which will support the canonical leaders and executives of the new entity.

# Future timeline

## Key Dates

**Late April 2021**      ILT as future sponsors of Mercy Ministry Companions will announce the first Trustee Directors

**1 July 2021**      Trustee Directors begin acting as civil directors of the civil entity without Governance responsibility for ministries

Ministries remain in the civil and canonical governance of ISMAPNG

**3 December 2021\***      Trustee Directors begin acting as canonical and civil authority with responsibility for ministries

\*subject to approval by CICSAL

Thank you