Annual Report to the Santa Maria College Community from the Principal

2019

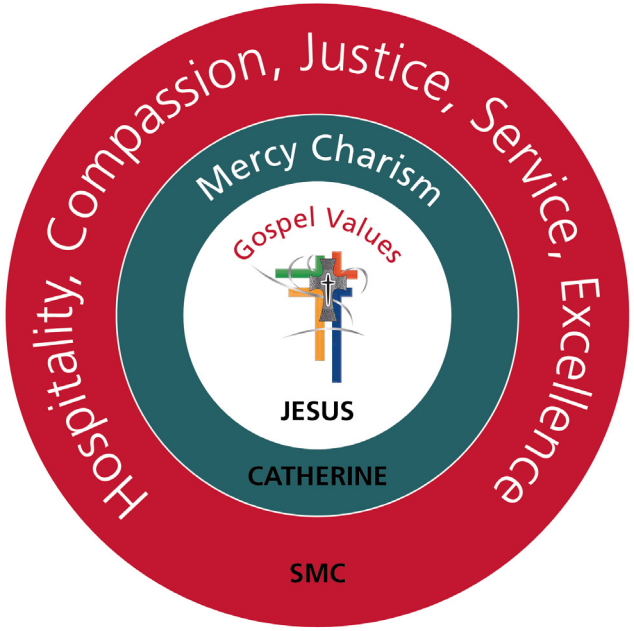
SMC
O'DONNELL

“Hospitality is valuing each person for who they are.”

INTRODUCTION

Hospitality is valuing each person for who they are. Not trying to change them but accepting them for who they are. It is about welcoming others and ensuring everyone is included. Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, showed incredible hospitality throughout her life. Our Mercy value of hospitality was our focus in 2019 our 81st year as a Mercy school.

As a Catholic school, Jesus and the Gospel values are central to all we do, and the link between these is clearly shown below.



COLLEGE ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMENTS FROM CHAIRPERSON - LIBBY WILKES

The Santa Maria College Advisory Council acknowledges the dedication of our Principal, Jennifer Oaten, the College Executive team and all staff in providing our students with a vibrant College life and a high standard of education in the Mercy tradition.
I am pleased to report that in 2019, all College benchmarks (spiritual/pastoral, academic, cultural and financial) are positive.

Following on from the extensive consultations that occurred in 2018, our Master Plan Project Committee worked energetically throughout 2019 to formulate and finalise a Master Plan and staged Capital Development Plan. The process undertaken was consultative (parents, students, staff, experts and local community), thorough, innovative and visionary. I congratulate the Master Plan Project Committee on the process and the final product.

During 2019, the College has also made significant progress in implementing the Strategic Plan (2018 - 2020) in other key areas of ethos, teaching & learning, community, students and staff. Some of those initiatives include an Innovative Schools' Award-Winning Mental Health strategy, Priest in Residence program; Evangelisation Plan and faith formation for staff, students and parents; Connecting Learning to Life initiatives and Parent Engagement activities, including a Future in Education panel presentation. We congratulate the College on all these initiatives and achievements.

We thank the Sisters of Mercy for being the strong, inspirational women who started the legacy of Santa Maria College. As we head into 2020, the Advisory Council will continue to be guided by our Catholic faith and the values of Excellence, Compassion, Justice, Hospitality and Service in promoting a truly Merciful and high standard of education for all our students.

GOVERNANCE

Mercy Education Limited (Mercy Education) is an incorporated ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG), charged with operating all educational ministries for which the Institute has sole sponsorship. Mercy Education is one of the many works operated by the Institute throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Mercy Education operates at all times as part of the mission of the Catholic Church in conformity with canon law and in strict conformity with the ethical framework of the Institute as determined by the Institute Leader and Council from time to time.

ISMAPNG is involved with twelve fully sponsored schools - eight in Victoria, three in Western Australia and one in South Australia. The governance role of the Board of Mercy Education is confined to the twelve ISMAPNG sponsored schools and sets policies, approves each school's strategic plan, appoints Principals, approves senior leadership positions and fulfils due diligence in the area of finance and audit management, capital development, risk management and litigation.

These schools are:

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy, Victoria

Catherine McAuley College Bendigo, Victoria

Mercedes College Perth, Western Australia

Mount Lillydale Mercy College Lillydale, Victoria

Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg, Victoria

Sacred Heart College Geelong, Victoria

Santa Maria College Attadale, Western Australia

Sacred Heart College Kyneton, Victoria

St Aloysius College Adelaide, South Australia

St Aloysius College North Melbourne, Victoria

St Brigid's College Lesmurdie, Western Australia

St Joseph's College Mildura, Victoria

STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2018 - 2020 Strategic Plan was launched in 2018 following consultation with staff, students and parents. The process involved seeking input, collating data, prioritising and determining actions and measures of success. Our Strategic Plan guides our ongoing improvement of what we offer our students, staff and parents.

This report is based on the six components of our Strategic Plan

- Ethos
- Learning
- Students
- Staff
- Community
- Resources

The following information shares what was achieved in each of these components of our Strategic Plan in 2019.

ETHOS

Our vision for reconciliation is to have a school that nurtures and values respectful relationships between all Australians, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. In 2019 we developed a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to guide us on this journey. As one part of our RAP, we unveiled an acknowledgement plaque, located at one of our main entrances to the College. This plaque displays our recognition of our First Australians and our commitment to reconciliation. Our Indigenous students designed a key part of the artwork, which tells the story of their culture and connection to the land on which our College was founded.

Other achievements in the Ethos component include:

- Development of a College Evangelisation Plan
- Increased visibility and awareness of our Mercy Heritage and our Founding Sisters
- Provision of a series of workshops for staff to share Pope Francis teachings from "The Francis Effect"
- A pilgrimage (formation day) for all staff based on Ursula Frayne's journey
- Planning and hosting an inaugural Priest in Residence program
- Implementation of a second immersion program to Punmu, a remote indigenous community and creation of the new co-curricular program, YARN working to broaden the effect of the Punmu Immersion in our community

LEARNING

Our 2019 academic focus was centred on ensuring the learning our girls had, both in and beyond the classroom, was connected to their lives both now and in the future. Staff developed a framework, called Connecting Learning to Life (CL2L), which outlined the attributes or skills we would hope our girls would develop by the time they graduate.

Four categories of attributes were developed through consultation with the final attributes being:

- Social Attributes
- Personal Attributes
- Thinking Attributes
- Technical Attributes

Learning Areas have based their development and refinement of programs on these attributes to ensure all opportunities are relevant to the attributes we want our girls to have for the future. Future 10 an excellent example of one of these programs which has focussed on the attribute of financial literacy and the response from students was very positive. Connecting Learning to Life will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

The Class of 2019 both ATAR and ACCESS students, again achieved strong results. We were placed 14th in the state of all WA secondary schools with a median ATAR of 87.45. We are proud of the achievements of all student, particularly those who achieved their personal best. Our key achievements for 2019 are seen on our academic infographic on the following page.

Santa Maria College

2019 Academic Results Snapshot

SANTA MARIA COLLEGE

Median ATAR

87.45

14th in WA
out of 189 Schools

68%
of students offered first preference
** excludes offers from The University of Notre Dame

1 student received a **General Exhibition Award**

6 students received a Certificate of Excellence

TOP 0.5% in the State
for WACE Exams in:

- English – 2 students
- Mathematics Applications – 2 students
- Religion & Life – 2 students

79%
of our Year 12 cohort gained an ATAR

31
students received a Certificate of Distinction

50
received a Certificate of Merit including 10 ACCESS students

88
SCSA Awards

44%
of students received an ATAR of **90+**

99+	3 students
98	7 students
97	7 students
96	9 students
95	7 students
90+	63 students

RECOGNISED AS A **TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL**
IN 10 COURSES

- Accounting & Finance
- Applied Information Technology
- Business Management & Enterprise
- Children, Family & Community
- Drama
- Economics
- English
- Materials Design & Technology
- Religion & Life
- Visual Arts

As part of the VET program
62 Certificates were achieved
Cert II – 10
Cert III – 23
Cert IV – 29

32 Early Offers to Notre Dame University

SCSA = School Curriculum and Standards Authority

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Other achievements in the Learning component include:

- Designed and implemented strategies to embed CL2L attributes into the curriculum and promoted these attributes in our community through our News Blogs
- A OneNote working party investigated the use of OneNote across the College and created guidelines for consistent use across Learning Areas to promote student learning
- Further development of our Years 5 and 6 Study Buddies mentoring program

STUDENTS

A highlight in 2019 was the Development and Launch of our Mental Health Strategy One of the key aims of our Mental Health Strategy is, "To work together to ensure that all Santa Maria College students have the skillset to manage their wellbeing, tackle challenges and thrive in school and life." By 'wellbeing', we mean their emotional, mental, physical, spiritual and social wellbeing. This statement, from our Mental Health Strategy, has driven the initiatives implemented at the College since our strategy was launched in August 2019.

Our Strategy has four focus areas:

- Culture and Values
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Support

Initiatives from the Strategy have focussed on students, staff and parents and have been driven by our Student Mental Health Ambassadors. We were delighted that our Mental Health Strategy received an Educator's annual Innovative Schools award for cutting edge innovation in Australia. Santa Maria College was one of 40 schools nation-wide to receive an award and one of only five Western Australian schools to be recognised. Our Mental health Strategy is a three-year plan.

Mental Health Strategy

Child Safety continued to be a priority in 2019, informed by CEWA's Child Safe Framework.
Our Health and PE staff have embedded the Keeping Safe Curriculum into our Health programs and our PCT programs, in Years 5-12 to develop knowledge and skills with the key focus being on respectful relationships.

Other areas that continue to be a focus to ensure child safety are:

- A focus on our Mercy values for all staff and students
- Induction processes conducted by our Head of Professional Learning
- Development and promotion of our Staff, Student and Parent Codes of Conduct
- Completion of MEL online modules related to Child Safety by all staff
- A Mandatory Reporting workshop for all staff

Other achievements in the Students component include:

- Review of Pastoral Care Time programs
- Development of an A-Z of Mental Health and a Mental Health Glossary
- Addition of two new Year 12 Portfolio Leadership Positions, Wellbeing Captain and Eco Justice Captain
- Themed assemblies aimed at sharing whole school messages regarding firstly Wellbeing and Inclusivity and secondly Diversity

STAFF

A key initiative involving staff in 2019 was the establishment of a One Note Working Party which developed guidelines for the implementation and use of One Note by staff to improve student learning.

Other achievements in the Staff component include:

- Learning Area-specific Professional Learning focussed on Connecting to Learning to Life
- Formation of a Staff Voice Group
- Further development of our GROW (Teacher Review) process and further implementation of our LEAD review process for College leaders.

COMMUNITY

Parent engagement activities in 2019 provided the following opportunities for parents: a Mental Health Panel, which included alumni and professionals, A Future of Education Panel with representatives from several organisations and Book Club based on ***Change Your Thinking*** by Sarah Edelman.

Building partnerships is a key purpose of our Community Relations team who have facilitated the development of these connections with our community through the following means:

- Parent Council events through Santa Ministry, Mozzies, Parent Network and the Boarding Network.
- OGA events for our alumni and providing opportunities for alumni to reconnect with the College.
- Our weekly News Blog shares good news stories with the community and beyond.
- Our fortnightly Knowing Girls blog provides evidence-based research and advice on raising young women.
- Our OGA Blog to share stories about the College and our alumni and with our alumni.
- Regular postings to our social media pages such as Facebook, Instagram, Linkedin, YouTube and Twitter

Other achievements in the Community component include:

- Delivery of the Life Lessons program where a selected group of 20 self-nominated students in a particular year group meet with an OGA who shares a life story over lunch.
- Establishment of a new online enrolment package to streamline enrolment processes

RESOURCES

A dedicated team worked very closely with our Architects EIW in a comprehensive process over 18 months to develop the College Master Plan 2019-2029. In developing the Master Plan 7 key considerations assisted in our decisions:

1. Preserving our History
2. Building Community
3. Embracing sustainable design practices
4. Empowering future learning directions
5. Re-visioning current buildings
6. Developing exemplary, multi-purpose new facilities
7. Enhancing the campus environment for all

The process included workshops and surveys for staff, students and parents to gather opinions and suggestions which resulted in a decision that the first development will be to refurbish the Chapel and to build a Performing Arts Community, which will include a Theatre and teaching spaces for Drama, Dance and Music. This development is planned to commence in 2022. This is the first of a number of builds that will occur in the next ten years. Our Master Plan will evolve, particularly in relation to available finances and needs of the College however the following two developments are likely to be a Years 5 - 7 Learning Community and revisioning of our heritage, McAuley Building.

Another significant project in 2019 was the refurbishment of the bedrooms of two Boarding Houses, Bertrand and Catherine. The rooms were gutted and built-in furniture remodelled with additional storage, a larger desk, better lighting, and painting and carpet. Courtyards in all four of our Boarding Houses were also refurbished.

Other achievements in the Resources component include:

- Implementation of Edval for subject selections, timetabling and daily organisation
- The use of a live One Note planner available to provide all staff with current College events

CONCLUSION

At Santa Maria College we have many things to be proud of:

- A strong and active faith community.
- Our Mercy values are central to all we do.
- Outstanding teachers and support staff with an embedded culture of respect.
- Our extensive Service Program enables students to demonstrate their faith through action.
- Our excellent academic results in both our ATAR and ACCESS pathways.
- The incredible co-curricular offerings
- An excellent reputation with strong enrolment numbers.
- A positive financial position which has provided an opportunity for the next stage of capital development.

In our year of Hospitality, I believe staff, students and parents felt welcomed, and all had a significant role to play in the success of the College. Our greatest strength in 2019 was the focus we had on building community and ensuring each person feels a sense of belonging and connection. This sense of belonging and connection is a key part of being a successful school.

SANTA MARIA
COLLEGE PERTH

18 Stoneham Road, Attadale WA 6156
Postal Address: Locked Bag 1, Melville WA 6956

T: +61 8 6330 0200 | **www.santamaria.wa.edu.au**

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