

Historic Moments for Sisters of Mercy Brisbane

On 23 April, 2013, I was privileged to witness and participate in rituals to celebrate and acknowledge two significant, if not historic milestones in the continuing journey of the Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane and their institutional works of Mercy. The Congregation Leadership Team, joined by many Sisters of Mercy, partners in Ministry, invited guests and friends, took what can only be described as a courageous and visionary step to secure the future of two iconic Brisbane Mercy Ministries within the Catholic Church.

The canonical sponsorship and civil membership of Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane Ltd, its associated entities of Mater Medial Research Institute and Mater Foundation Ltd and All Hallows' School Ltd were transferred from the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation to Mercy Partners.

In speeches filled with joy, hope and optimism for the future, yet I am sure tinged with a little sadness, Sr Sandra Lupi, Congregation Leader, acknowledged with gratitude to God over 100 years of ministry in health care and 150 years of ministry in catholic education within the canonical responsibility of the Brisbane Sisters of Mercy.

Sr Sandra reassured the gatherings, transferring 'the Mater' as it is more commonly known and All Hallows' School to Mercy Partners, ensures each Ministry will *"continue to be conducted in the name of the Catholic Church and remain within mercy values that find expression in policy and practice. Through this ritual of transfer to Mercy Partners our commitment to God's mission of Mercy is expressed anew. Mater Health Services will continue to enable the healing, liberating and life-giving compassion of Christ the Healer to be experienced"* and through All Hallows' School the *"education, liberating and life-giving compassion of Christ the teacher continue to be experienced"*

During each Ritual a formal Transfer document was signed on behalf of the members of the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation by Sr Sandra and on behalf of Mercy Partners, by Sr Anne Hetherington, Chair of Mercy Partners Council. In receiving the Transfer document Sr Anne, acknowledged this momentous occasion, thanking the Sisters of Mercy for their canonical stewardship of the Ministries for so many years. On behalf of Mercy Partners, Sr Anne accepted the challenge to ensure the vision of Catherine McAuley, the many Sisters and lay partners who have been involved and continue to be involved in these Ministries will continue to be realised well into the future.

Mr Brian Flannery, Chair of the Board of Directors of Mater Misericordiae Health Services, Brisbane Ltd and Mr Graham Quinlivan, Acting Chair of the Board of Directors of All Hallows' School Ltd also acknowledged and thanked the Sisters of Mercy for their pioneering spirit and vision and for the positive working relationships experienced throughout the years. Each welcomed the transfer to Mercy Partners recognising this as another visionary and heroic step taken by the Sisters of Mercy and they look forward to continuing their respective Ministry journeys with Mercy Partners in a positive and life giving way.

Quite simply *Mercy Partners is a new way of doing or being Mercy.*



Sr Sandra Lupi, Congregation Leader and Sr Anne Hetherington, Chair Mercy Partners Council, proudly displaying the signed Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane Ritual Transfer document



Sr Sandra Lupi, Congregation Leader and Sr Anne Hetherington, Chair Mercy Partners Council (signing) with Sr Cath Reuter, Sr Mary Lawson, Sr Jean Gormley, Sr Margaret King, (L) and Mercy Partners Council Members Sr Moira Truelson, Sr Marie Melville, Mr Garry Everett, Mr Ray Campbell, Professor Peter Sheehan (R)