



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Mary MacKillop Today Announces New Chair of the Board

Mary MacKillop Today is pleased to announce the appointment of Hilary Johnston-Croke as the new Chair of the Board, following the conclusion of Kieran Gleeson's tenure after two full terms.

Kieran has served as Chair for six years, guiding the organisation through a period of extensive growth and transformation. Beginning his appointment just before the onset of COVID-19, he oversaw Mary MacKillop Today at a time when the organisation was still in its infancy. Under his leadership, the organisation strengthened its governance, expanded its international development programs in Timor-Leste, Fiji, Peru and Australia, and more recently achieved a successful reaccreditation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

During his time as Chair, the Board also broadened its skills and diversity, ensuring strong, future-focused stewardship of the organisation's mission.

Mary MacKillop Today warmly welcomes Hilary Johnston-Croke as the newly appointed Chair. Hilary has served on the Board since 2020 and brings extensive experience across education, corporate governance, and leadership.

Hilary has built a distinguished career as a respected educator and business leader. A scientist by training, she has held senior leadership roles including Principal and CEO of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart, one of Australia's leading independent schools, as well as Principal of Catherine McAuley, Westmead. She is currently a member of the Board of the University of Notre Dame Australia and has been a member of several Boards.

In October this year, Hilary travelled to Timor-Leste with Mary MacKillop Today CEO, Jane Woolford, visiting the organisation's local field team working on the Livelihood Program. Community members showcased family gardens and crops developed through a thriving cooperative model that now supports farmers growing and marketing coffee, vanilla, and other agricultural products. She also met with Mary MacKillop employees who support the education projects.

Speaking on her appointment as Chair, Hilary said: **"It's a privilege to lead an organisation that empowers communities to create lasting change through education"**.

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