MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia's Governor-General recognises the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and their Foundation

Sydney, NSW | 17 November 2026

Australia's Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, has recorded a special video message recognising the ministries of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, their Foundation and community of supporters.

As Patron of the Good Sams Foundation, the Governor-General acknowledges the collective contribution of the Sisters, volunteers, donors, schools and community partners who are helping women and children build safer, more secure futures.

The Sisters deliver ministries in Australia, the Philippines and Kiribati focused on three essentials: education and work skills, regular nutritious meals, and safety and practical support during times of crisis. The Good Sams Foundation shares the stories of these ministries, reflects the Sisters' Good Samaritan and Benedictine charism, and engages donors and supporters to raise the funds that help sustain this work.

Education, safety and opportunity

Education has long been central to the Sisters' work, giving children and young people the opportunity to develop their abilities, continue their studies and pursue employment.

In the Philippines, the Sisters provide early childhood education, school and university scholarships, community development projects and regular meals for children and families experiencing hardship.

In Australia, scholarships help students remain connected to their school communities, while accommodation and practical support assist women and children – victim survivors of family violence.

In Kiribati, early childhood education and community programs provide opportunities for children to learn and develop, while strengthening connections and support within local communities.

The Sisters work with communities to develop practical solutions to local challenges, with a commitment to staying involved for as long as the need remains.

A community built on compassion

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan have a long history of responding to the needs of their communities, guided by the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Benedictine values of hospitality, compassion and respect for each person.

The Foundation helps carry this tradition forward by sharing the Sisters' stories and connecting their ministries with the generosity of donors, volunteers, schools and community partners.

Good Sams Foundation Executive Director Sonya Mears said the Governor-General's message was a welcome recognition of this shared commitment.

"It means a great deal to have Her Excellency, as our Patron, recognise the people and communities at the heart of our work.

"The Sisters have always understood that responding to someone's immediate circumstances is important, but so too is staying committed over time and recognising each person's potential to shape their own future.

"That might mean helping a child stay in school, providing regular meals for a family, or supporting a woman and her children to find safety after experiencing family violence.

"None of this happens without the commitment and generosity of our supporters, volunteers, schools and community partners. The Governor-General's message is a wonderful acknowledgement of what people can achieve together."

Watch the Governor-General's message

The Foundation invites Australians to watch the Governor-General's video message and learn more about the Sisters' ministries and the communities they support.

Watch the Governor-General's message here>>>

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Hope and independence for women and children

For over 25 years, the Good Sams Foundation has been supported by a compassionate community of staff, donors and volunteers, united in their commitment to creating a safer future for vulnerable women and children in Australia, Kiribati and the Philippines. Through our three core programs - education, regular meals and safety in times of emergency - we offer independence and hope to people who need it most.