



# St Mary's College

## Charitable Purpose Statement

Australian Business Number (ABN) ABN 80 142 108 161

Other Unincorporated Entity

### 1. Preamble

St Mary's College for the deaf was established by the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia at "Delgany" Portsea in 1948. At the time, there were no Catholic schools for deaf children in Victoria. It was founded as the first oral school to be opened in Victoria, with the Sisters committed to supporting the development of listening, lip reading and spoken English to children experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability due to deafness related language barriers. In 1984, the school moved to Wantirna South in Melbourne and has since expanded to include several satellite units known as 'campuses' so that deaf, hard of hearing and deaf children with multiple disabilities can access an education with the support required to experience success.

Whilst the school is no longer under the governance of the Dominican Sisters having moved to the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Dominican traditions and values very much inform the holistic environment in which these children flourish. Each child is created in the Image of God and is a potent and curious learner with capacity to contribute greatly to their community. St Mary's enables this through provision of specialist teachers of the deaf, speech therapy, Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT), live captioning of spoken teaching instruction, counselling support and the latest listening technology and devices.

### 2. Governance Structure

As a Diocesan college, St Mary's College comes under the direct jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Melbourne. The Archbishop of Melbourne established, by decree, an Association of Delegated Canonical Administrators (DCA). The DCA of St Mary's consists of lay people and has an appointed Chair. A Model Statute for the Association of Canonical Administrators sets out the powers that are reserved to the Association of Canonical Administrators as distinct from those that are delegated to the college board.

The St Mary's College board is critical for the welfare of the college and achievement of its aims. The board is the peak organisation in which a parent or a friend of the college may seek to be involved. It is responsible for ensuring that the college is faithful to its charter as a Catholic school, developing policies to enable the college to function and overseeing the financial arrangements that underpin the college. In undertaking these responsibilities, the board is advisory to the principal of the college and the Association of Canonical Administrators. The

board meets with the principal and DCA approximately 8 times per year and reviews the constitution every 4 years. The principal, as Chief Executive Officer, is delegated the responsibility of the operations of the College and ensures that board members are kept informed of educational developments and financial position of the college and the broader educational community.

St Mary's College DCA and board have a strong commitment to ensuring any deaf or hard of hearing child in need of specialist services can access an education free of barriers regardless of social or financial capacity to contribute. To enable this mission, St Mary's is a registered Public Benevolent Institution, with the highest tax deductibility status.

### **3. Charitable purpose and not-for-profit status**

St Mary's College pursues the following charitable purposes:

- Individualised specialist programs designed to build communication in deaf and hard of hearing children
- Provision of technology into classrooms to enable access to spoken language for deaf and hard of hearing children
- Social and emotional support services to deaf and hard of hearing children designed to build friendships and positive mental health

Additional purpose pursued through specific bequests & donations:

#### **John Patterson Bursary (Funded from the Marjorie Oman Power Bequest)**

- Bursary provision for training of teachers in qualifying as a Teacher of the Deaf
- Continuing professional education to develop the capacity of St Mary's Teachers of the Deaf

#### **Clare Winter Scholarship (Dominican Sisters)**

- To annually assist a family of a deaf child experiencing financial hardship with any costs associated with their child's educational

#### **Beth Maclaren Smallwood Foundation**

- Provision of individualised speech therapy to deaf and hard of hearing children aged 3 to 14 living in the north of Melbourne.

### **4. Responsible persons and rules**

Current persons responsible include:

- Amanda Purcell (Principal & Director)
- Tony Tuohey (DCA & Chairperson)

4.1 St Mary's College may do all things that help it to achieve these purposes, in accordance with these rules.

- 4.2 St Mary's College may only do things and use the income and assets of St Mary's College (including those held on trust for the school or a specific purpose) for the stated purposes.
- 4.3 St Mary's College must operate consistently with the legal requirements for registered charities.
- 4.4 St Mary's College must not distribute any income or assets, directly or indirectly, to its members.
- 4.5 Rule 4.4 does not stop St Mary's College from doing the following things, provided they are done in good faith (fairly and honestly):
  - paying a member for goods or services they have provided or expenses they have properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates or rates more favourable to the St Mary's College, or
  - making a payment or providing a benefit to a member in carrying out the St Mary's College's charitable purposes.

## **5 Funds Management**

5.1. Funds received for charitable purposes are held in a managed fund (with the exception of funds being used on a recurrent basis such as the Beth Maclaren Smallwood and Clare Winter Scholarship). Any interest gained through the holding of such funds, is considered belonging to the total sum of funds available for the College's charitable purposes.

5.2 The managed fund is overseen by Hillross Financial Services, reviewed regularly by the DCA and Principal and requires a minimum of two signatories to authorise withdrawal.

5.3 The DCA makes the final decision on recommendation from the Principal regarding the use of such funds.

5.4 St Mary's College can receive funding from:

- i. donations & bequests
- ii. grants
- iii. fundraising
- iv. interest, and
- v. any other lawful sources approved by the board that are consistent with furthering the College's purposes.

5.5 St Mary's College must make and keep written financial records of charitable funds that:

- correctly record and explain St Mary's College transactions and financial position and performance, and
- enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and to be audited.