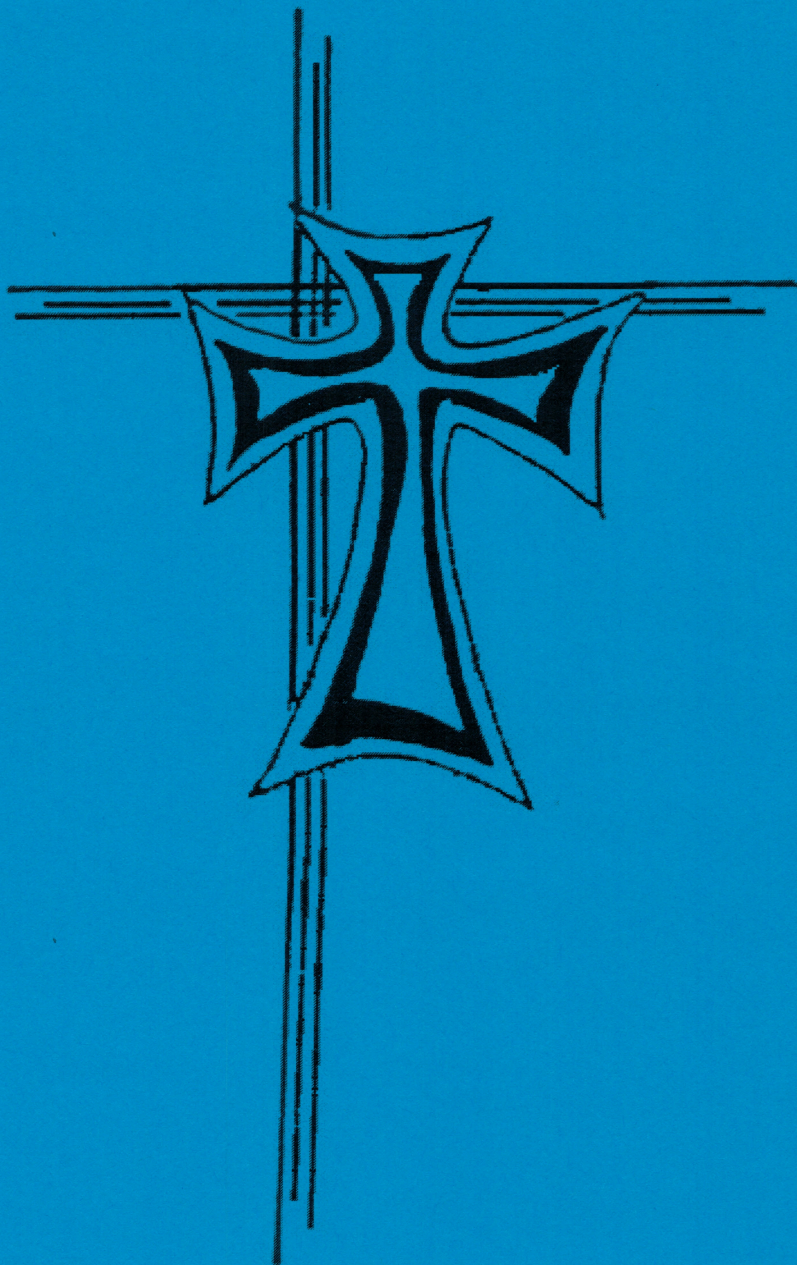


# **Sisters of Mercy Wiri**



**2016/2017 Annual Report**



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## Brief History

In 1988 Sisters of Mercy responded to an invitation by local Maori women and came to live in Wiri. Sister Anne Hurley and Sister Margaret Martin established the community based agency Sisters of Mercy Wiri in 1990 in response to growing community needs. For ten years Anne and Margaret worked from the house which the Sisters had built themselves. The establishment of the Wiri Centre in 2000 was a joint initiative between Sisters of Mercy Wiri and Wiri Central School and in November 2000 the service relocated to the Wiri Centre.

As an active community based not for profit organisation Sisters of Mercy Wiri delivered a range of services and programmes. The agency also contributed to a number of regional forums that focussed on improving social outcomes, health and wellbeing in the region.

In December 2009 Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust relinquished all formal contracts, both funding and employment and vacated the Wiri Centre. Margaret and Anne continue to live and work in Wiri. They are now freer to be open to the unexpected and awake to new possibilities.

The ministry of Sisters of Mercy Wiri embodies the mission of the Catholic Religious Congregation of women, Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand, founded by Catherine McAuley in Dublin in 1831 to work with the poor, especially women and children.



# Our Mission

*To work with the poor, especially women and children,  
to build positive relationships that strengthen families and communities  
and to join with others to bring about a more just and compassionate society.*

Animated by Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching we respond with Christ's love to the needs and concerns of the economically, materially, emotionally, politically and spiritually poor, especially women and children.

## Treaty of Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand's founding document and Sisters of Mercy Wiri is committed to honouring Te Tiriti as a principle for the way in which we work.

## Guiding Principles

- Work with all people of goodwill towards the transformation of society to bring about the reign of God
- Promote the value that all persons are called to family, community and participation
- Facilitate community development by involving neighbourhood and community participation
- Embrace the multi-cultural character of Wiri and recognise and value all cultures and ethnic groups that are represented in the local community
- Participate in processes to influence those who exercise power and make decisions affecting the lives of others

## Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry  
Clothe the naked  
Welcome the stranger  
Bury the dead

Give drink to the thirsty  
Visit the imprisoned  
Heal the sick  
Care for our common home

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

John 10:10



## Board of Trustees



Back row from left to right: Graham Goldsmith, Sr Margaret Martin, Tony Horan  
Ruth Spelman (Chair), Sr Anne Hurley and Catherine Dodson

### Chairperson's Report

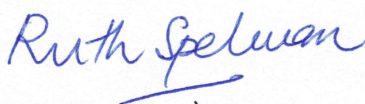
It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year to June 2017 on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust Board. During the year the Board has continued to work within its strategic plan.

This year the board has worked well together and all members appreciated taking part in the Mercy Governance Day held in May. The dinner on the evening before the formal meeting gave our newer Board members an opportunity to meet other Mercy Board members and the leadership team. In addition to the Mercy Governance forum some members of our Board also participated in two governance related workshops namely Financial Governance and Risk Essentials organised by Tiaki Manatū Sisters of Mercy Ministries New Zealand.

As the newer Board members have become familiar with the work of Sisters of Mercy Wiri there have been lively Board discussions and strong support for the ongoing ministry of Anne and Margaret in the local and wider communities they serve. The Board continues to affirm their ministry and in particular their practical example of mercy in action. During this year advocacy work in relation to the housing crisis has continued to gather support.



My thanks to Catherine Dodson, Tony Horan and Graham Goldsmith and to all those who support the work of Sisters of Mercy Wiri.



Ruth Spelman  
Chairperson

## Ministry Report

The task that the Sisters of Mercy Wiri sees as fundamental to our ministry in Wiri is that which is outlined clearly in the Gospel, working towards the reign of God. That ambitious vision looks forward to a time when there will be no poverty in the world, and more particularly for us in Aotearoa New Zealand, no homelessness, no inequality, the imprisoned will go free, there will be no indebtedness, families and communities will live in peace and harmony and ecological injustice will be restored. This report outlines the work of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri towards this goal in the current year, 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Catherine McAuley's words "*The poor need help today*" add impetus to the task. Living in the same neighbourhood as the people we work among and with is invaluable. Walking the streets, mowing the lawns, doing the garden, driving the car and distributing bread are all opportunities for engagement with the people and the local environment. We hear the joys and concerns of people and what has been happening for them, their children and their families.

This year, as in previous years, through these simple activities we are often notified of community issues such as the dumping of rubbish, graffiti, water leaks, broken footpaths, abandoned cars, fallen trees and branches. These issues have regularly required attention which has involved reporting the matter to the appropriate organisation, monitoring and liaising with those who initially identified the problem. What is more apparent this year is the tardiness of Watercare and Auckland Council to respond to and address the problem. Without follow-up the matter reported can remain unattended to for weeks, even months.

Making home visits is also expedited by our living in close proximity to the families. This year we have made 97 home visits. These relate to follow-up support and assistance after an initial request for information and advice. It is a privilege to work alongside people in their home and be welcomed into their space. The relationship is mutually enriching. At Christmas many children and families benefitted from the wonderful donations of gifts and food we received from generous donors.

Many of the issues we deal with are not just personal problems but are systemic resulting from ideologically driven policies. The market is failing to guarantee economic wellbeing for all. The poor need help today urgently through policies to



remedy the inequality, exclusion and hardship that many people in Wiri, South Auckland and nationally are experiencing. This year we made several submissions adding our voice to the many other networks and organisations calling for greater social and economic fairness.

On the housing front we made a submission to and in August attended and spoke to the Parliamentary Cross Party Inquiry into homelessness which was held at Te Puea marae. Margaret's poem, "State House Numbers Going Down" was well received. A copy is reprinted in this report. We also contributed resource material to the Shelter for All initiative of Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand. On a more practical level we advocated for those who do not have secure and affordable housing and for tenants, particularly Housing New Zealand tenants, who report repair and maintenance work which is often not done to a satisfactory standard.

A submission was also made on Counties Manukau Health's proposal for the development of land at the corner of Kerrs Road and Druces Road, Wiri.

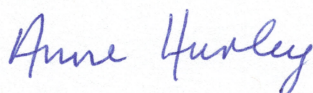
During this year we became more actively involved in the Living Wage Movement after attending the Community Building for Social Change seminar organised by the Auckland Justice and Peace Commission and presented by Sr Maribeth Larkin from the United States.

We made a submission to the Auckland City Council on behalf of the Living Wage Movement supporting the call for all workers at the Council to be paid a living wage. We are in the process of responding to an invitation to be part of a South Auckland network to strengthen the Living Wage Movement in South Auckland.

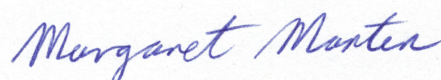
Our involvement at the Auckland Regional Women's Correction Facility in Wiri through providing the Seasons for Growth Programme and a monthly church service has been ongoing. Members of the St Anne's Support Network volunteer their time to help and assist. Our appreciation to Daniella, Veronica and Patricia for their contribution during the year. We also value the support of the St Anne's parish in this ministry. Sisters of Mercy Wiri continue to represent local residents and the community on the Community Impact Forum for both the men's and women's prisons in Wiri established by the Board of Inquiry in 2012.

We are blessed with very generous and supportive trustees. The gift of their time and expertise to the governance of Sisters of Mercy Wiri is highly respected and appreciated. Our warmest thanks, too, to the families and community of Wiri. In all our relationships we are enriched.

We conclude where we started - the poor and all creation need help today. The work remains constant, the vision yet to be realised.



Sister Anne Hurley  
**Community Social Worker**



Sister Margaret Martin  
**Community Social Worker**



## Thank you

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous support and assistance of those who have contributed in a variety of ways over the past year.

Camilla and Jon Maplesdon  
Countdown Manukau  
Denise Gregory  
Flowerise  
OEM Computers  
Mary MacKillop Care Centre  
The Good Shepherd Sisters

Neil Roper  
Pak'n Save Manukau  
Quigley and Watts  
Sarah Hart  
Spotless Facility Services (NZ) Ltd  
St Anne's School  
Salvation Army, Manukau





## GOING DOWN

State house numbers going down  
In 2013, 69,000 owned by the Crown.

People sleep in garages, cars and on the floor  
while MSD waiting lists continue to soar  
Men, women and children out in the cold  
And houses for the homeless are empty or sold.

The social housing experiment begins to kick in  
Reduce the state stock and pocket the win.  
A fiscal model becomes the norm  
the private market will transform.

State house numbers going down  
In 2015, 67,000 owned by the Crown.

Houses are sold or demolished in a flash  
And new builds lag for not enough cash  
No crisis English, Smith and Bennett declare  
Disclaiming any national despair.

Down, down, down the houses go  
For little made boxes the vendors crow  
Houses being built but not for the poor  
Auckland South families living door to door.

Developers profit from land for SHAs\*  
Their legacy, narrow streets crammed with cars  
Communities and neighbourhoods now blighted  
This ghetto type planning quite short-sighted.

State house numbers going down  
In 2016, 64,000 owned by the Crown.

Come on people we must speak out  
A merciful response we must shout  
Short term stays – motels and marae  
"No solution" is our cry.

Build, tenant, repair and maintain  
This will relieve our people's pain  
Direct provision is a nation's resource  
Not to be replaced by a market force.

Secure affordable housing offers hope  
Families can settle, participate and cope  
Children's life chances better protected  
When homes and communities are connected.

Stop state house numbers going down  
It's time to build, build, build in every town  
Saving our housing heritage is worth a fight  
Shelter for all is a universal right.

\*SHAs Special Housing Areas

~ Margaret Martin