

We praise God for another successful year for Missions Interlink, maintaining our existing ministries, responding to needs, and exploring new ways of working together in global mission.

VISION AND STRATEGY

The MI National Leadership Team agreed on a new MI Strategic Plan early this year which has brought clarity to the task of our ministry. It is available on [here](#) on the MI website.

Our vision is to see churches in Australia effectively engaging in cross-cultural and global mission, and our task in working towards this vision is to build the capacity of our Member and Associate organisations through collaboration with organisations, churches, training institutions, professional specialists, and others.

To assist in this task, the MI website has been redesigned and is being further developed, and systems are being reviewed and improved.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

MI National Conference



Many in the MI community came together for our National Conference in Sydney in July. This was a wonderful time of sharing and learning together and, guided by our keynote speaker Eddie Arthur, rethinking mission strategy from the Acts of the Apostles. Together we studied how the Spirit led Philip, Barnabas and Paul and considered what we could learn for mission today.

Networks

Most MI networks are organised by the state branches and it is great to be able to support them as they bring together those with common areas of concern to encourage each other and work together. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this work possible. *ReachOut* at Katoomba continues to be an outstanding mission conference, *Activate* in Melbourne is growing, and planning is underway for a new event *Mission Matters* at Mt Tamborine.

A number of new initiatives have begun in Northern Territory since Rachel Borneman's appointment as MI NT Ministry Co-ordinator and the MI WA mission community continues to be blessed through the work of Peter Warren as MI WA Regional Director.



At the national level, a new database is currently being established for the Mission Trainers Network under the leadership of Darrell Jackson (Morling College) and Member Care activities are being co-ordinated nationally by Karen Ellis. Karen Newnham was appointed as the Mission Commission Member Care Co-ordinator for the South Pacific Region following the retirement of Helen Macnaughtan at the end of 2015. A second South Pacific Region Member Care Conference will be held in September 2017 in Melbourne. The ICT Network didn't have sufficient numbers to hold a conference this year.

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Mission Seek

After the completion of a one year trial administering the Second Wind Network mission opportunity matching database, it was decided to transfer the facility to the MI website, provide complimentary basic partnership to all MI Members and Associates, and customise it further to better serve the MI community. Transfer to MI is scheduled for December 2016.

Aldinga Beach Retreat House



The MI Retreat House at Aldinga Beach in SA was officially opened in December 2015. Our thanks go to Basil Sellers who has made the house available to MI for missionary respite, and to Ben and Robyn McLean who set up the house beautifully and are overseeing the ministry. The house was occupied 54% during the first six months of 2016.

BUILDING COMPETENCY

Training

MI programs *Transition Training (TT)*, *Maximum Impact Language Learning (MILL)*, and *MI Short-term Training (MIST)* continue to prepare Australians for effective cross-cultural ministry and we are indebted to the work of Kate Pocklington, Cathy Bow and Christine Bird, as well as many volunteers who make these programs possible. Numbers at TT were at capacity this year. We are continually updating and improving all the training programs and providing PD opportunities to those who lead them. Cultural Intelligence training workshops were held in Sydney in July.



A need for an appropriate biblically-based Advanced Security Training program in Australia has been identified and planning is underway to make this available next year.

Not-For-Profit

MI plays a key role in providing information and resources to assist its members to govern and manage their organisations well. Information is provided through regular email updates, the MI website and seminars, as well as in response to specific inquiries and concerns. A half-day seminar *Managing Volunteers* was greatly appreciated, as were the workshops during the National Conference.



Resources

The redesigned MI website is providing an excellent platform to provide and share a range of resources with the churches in Australia and MI organisations. We ask that our members help us make churches aware of the *MI Guides for Local Churches* and other resources.

A new edition of the Missionary Tax Guide was released and distributed.

Research

MI has again collaborated with the National Church Life Survey to obtain data about the involvement and support of global mission by churches in Australia. We are still exploring ways of ensuring the data is analysed and reported in a timely manner.

BUILDING CREDIBILITY

Dealing with Government

MI monitors potential government impact on immigration, human services and tax on a regular basis in order to advocate on behalf of our constituents when adverse impact is identified. Unfortunately changes to residency requirements for many Centrelink benefits have reduced payments to many mission personnel. A new Medicare class order was obtained and a submission made regarding visa changes limiting the stay of those coming to Australia as Religious Workers.

Membership of the Community Council of Australia provides MI with an opportunity for input into advocacy on behalf of all not-for-profits.

BUILDING INTEGRITY

Accreditation and Compliance

The introduction of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and its publically available register has greatly assisted MI's ability to monitor regulatory compliance by its Members and work with those who need assistance. Members are to be commended on their timely renewal declarations, co-operation, and commitment to high standards.



CONCLUSION

Thousands of people across Australia have been involved in MI activities this year. I would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who volunteer their time and skills to make this possible. Particular thanks go to the National Leadership Team and those who co-ordinate the national training programs, the leaders of MI state networks and ministries, and MI staff. Appreciation also goes to those who have contributed financially to the work of Missions Interlink through grants and donations.

While I have indicated that I will step down as National Director next year, I am confident that MI will continue to grow through collaborative effort. Please pray for the MI leadership as they oversee the appointment of a new National Director, MI governance, and the ongoing development of strategy and planning for the future.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Pam Thyer
National Director
November 2016