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Policy

The naming of all facilities, grounds and roads on any property under the canonical responsibility of Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG), including that belonging to Institute Property Association Limited (IPAL), McAuley Property Limited (MPL) or any other Incorporated ministry for which ISMAPNG has canonical responsibility, requires the approval of the Institute Leader and Council (ILT).

Procedures:

1. The Institute Leader and Council, on receipt of a proposal which will include a description of the part of the property to be named, the proposed name and a rationale supporting the proposal, will consider the request. Completion of the checklist provided to assist Boards and other appropriate persons making application will expedite the process. The Executive Officer – Ministries may be consulted as needed.
2. The Applicant will be notified in writing of the ILT's decision regarding the suitability of the proposed name.

The following points may be taken into consideration:

The naming of ministry buildings or precincts provides an excellent opportunity to honour a person who has been a significant contributor to Catholic, and, more specifically, Mercy ministry and culture. It provides an opportunity for the community to learn something about Catholic/Mercy history when the opportunity to celebrate feast days or name days arises. These, in turn, provide opportunities to include articles in newsletters which intend to strengthen the Mercy culture within the ministry.

It is necessary to conduct some research into the lives of persons whose names are to be used. The use of a particular name should provide communities with an exemplar whose actions can be related readily to one or more of the Christian virtues or works of mercy, and hence stand as someone whose life and deeds would offer inspiration. The acknowledgement of the name and the contribution made by the person provides an opportunity for those involved in the ministry to deepen and broaden their understanding and grow in faith.

Thus, some effort is required in terms of studying the lives of possible candidates.



Questions to be investigated might include:

1. How do their lives contribute to nurturing the Mercy charism?
2. Can stories be told of advocacy for justice?
3. How does the person relate to others by way of good humour, hospitality, forgiveness, capacity for right relationships, intelligence?
4. What connection, if any, did the person have with the ministry concerned or the local community in which it is located?
5. What legacy has this person left and what benefit might those who work within the ministry or who use its services gain from knowing about this person?

It is recommended that the names of living people not be applied to buildings and plant. If a ministry wishes to honour a living person, it is recommended that this be done by way of an annual award, a scholarship, or some other acknowledgement. The justification for this is that future revelations may render such naming inappropriate. It is much simpler to drop an annual award than to go through a process of renaming a building.

Checklist items

The following items should be included in the application to the ILT, along with any other information the applicant considers necessary:

1. Proposed name
2. Details of what is to be named (e.g. Building, site, room etc.)
3. Rationale for choosing the name
4. Visibility of the name (i.e. will it be an external sign or internal sign? – a mock up of how the name is to be displayed would be useful)
5. Details of where the name might be used (i.e. will the name appear in reports or brochures etc?)
6. Details of whether the name will appear alongside the Mercy Cross.