

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE

Our Ref: ERMO

13 June 2018

Dear Brothers

ANNOUNCEMENT: EDMUND RICE MINISTRIES (ERMO) BOARD

It is with a strong sense of hope and excitement that the Oceania Leadership Team announces the inaugural **Board of Edmund Rice Ministries (ERMO)**. The Board will take responsibility on 1st July 2018 for working in partnership with the OLT in its mandate to provide Governance to the ministries that are unincorporated across Australia and to work in close collaboration with those incorporated ministries in Australia and New Zealand.

We are most grateful for the dedicated work done by the Governance Working Group: Br Damien Price, Br Laurie Collins, Sr Margaret Endicott, Br Barry Buckley and Mr Gary Everett. They have worked diligently to ensure that the Board, its operations, structures and governance procedures are in accord with what is required of such a body. It has been painstaking work and they have generously given of their time and expertise this year to bring this about.

Additionally, are we grateful to the Board Membership working party comprising Br Damien Price, Mrs Helen Mahoney (Board Chair), Br Paul Oakley, Ms Mary Murphy and Mr Mark McGlaughlin for the thorough process they devised to assist the OLT in our deliberations for the Board Membership.

The inaugural Board has as its membership:

Mrs Helen Mahoney (Chair) – Helen resides in Brisbane and comes to us with a wide experience in Boards being the former Board Chair of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace and a former Board Member of EREA. She is strongly involved with and supports MITHRA located in Chennai India.

Ms Andrée Brown has had twenty-five years associated with a diverse range of Edmund Rice ministries across Australia. She was instrumental in establishing FAME in South Australia having come from the alternate education project at St Augustine in Geelong. In more recent times Andrée was the Executive Officer of the Edmund Rice Camps in South Australia.

Mr Gerry Crooks has had a long association with the Christian Brothers through Catholic education. He is soon to retire as Principal of St James Brisbane, a school dedicated to standing in solidarity particularly with refugee, aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Gerry is well connected with many associated bodies working in youth outreach, the arts, reconciliation and the survivors of trauma and torture. He brings a wealth of educational and leadership experience to this role.

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Mr Nick McDonnell was admitted to the New Zealand bar as barrister and solicitor in 2010. He has had extensive experience working on Boards in New Zealand associated with initiatives for youth, medical welfare, student job search and refugee resettlement services. He has had lasting friendships with the Brothers and the Edmund Rice initiatives in New Zealand. He shows a keen interest in organisational change and strategic development, especially for mission driven and complex entities.

Mrs Patricia Schmidt has had strong associations with the Christian Brothers through her family's long involvement at St Mary's, Toowoomba. Tricia is a Brisbane based lawyer who works closely with Catholic Church entities. She was an integral member of the St Joseph Gregory Terrace Board. She is the present chair of both the Queensland Law Society Committee of Management and Legal Practice Committee. She brings to this role an expertise in financial administration, strategic direction and risk management.

Dr Zita Unger is a fellow of the Australasian Evaluation Society which specialises in evaluation, strategy and governance. Zita was a member of the Edmund Rice Camps Inc. Victoria Board and previously taught at St Joseph College, North Melbourne. She has been involved in the accreditation process for Edmund Rice ministries.

The Board will be ably assisted by a Transition Officer who will work closely with the Board in assisting the Board in its duties. We are grateful to Br Damien Price for accepting this interim position as Transition Officer to ERMO. Damien has led the working party of the Governance project in the past two years and been a prime mover in the implementation of the process to this stage. In time, this position will cease with the appointment of an Executive Officer to the Board.

In the past two years the Ministry Coordinating Group comprising Br Shane Wood, Br Vince Skelly, Ms Cathy Harrison, Dr Pauline Meemeduma, Br Damien Price and Mr Peter Hay have carried the governance matters of the ministries and been of support to them. We are most grateful for their time, energy and commitment. With the new ERMO Board commencing on July 1st their responsibilities in this governance role will finish. They will gather at the end of July for a reflective time together and be thanked by the Province for their efforts.

As the new ERMO Board begins to find its way in governing, supporting and assisting our ministries to continue their various works inspired by Blessed Edmund Rice, we give thanks for the generosity of these Board members who have accepted their nomination. I am certain that they can rely on our support and prayer as they begin this good work.

I remain

Yours sincerely,



Gerard J. Brady cfc
for the Oceania Leadership Team