



# PROJECT TIMOR

## Mrs Nicole Christensen

### Principal

In this our year of Mercy through Justice, I am very excited to share with you the College's transformative vision to build a Teacher Professional Learning Centre in Maliana, Timor-Leste.

Driven by our core Mercy values of respect for human dignity, justice, service and option for the poor we are seeking to provide the opportunity of a quality education to the young women of Colegio Infante de Sagres, in rural Maliana.

During the College's initial student immersion to the region in 2014, I had the privilege of observing the exceptional work being done by the Sisters of Mercy and associates for the betterment of the Timorese children.

In 2015, I worked with Father Natalino Verdial de Sousa Gama, President of the Educational Foundation FSCJ, on the development of the strategic plan for the Diocese of Maliana, where we pledged our support for the girls at Colegio through the provision of scholarships and the building of a professional learning centre for teachers.

The Teacher Professional Learning Centre directly supports Father Natalino's vision to improve educational opportunities for teachers and students in the Diocese of Maliana, of which there are 72 schools and over 6,000 students. It is his goal that this facility will provide contemporary training for teachers and form the cornerstone from which effective programs can be modelled and rolled out across the 72 schools in his diocese.

If we are to transform the educational outcomes for young people, it has to begin with quality teacher education.

This centre will allow teachers to return to their schools equipped with the skills to successfully educate the next generation of this young nation. It will facilitate the building of a shared vision and skills-based pedagogy to support successful teaching and effective learning.

This critical initiative is an opportunity for the Monte community to partner with the Timorese people as they continue to build a sustainable future.

### Key Objectives

- Improve the educational outcomes for young women in order to facilitate gender parity, employment and economic independence.
- Attract external organisations to Maliana to upskill and train local teachers in contemporary teaching practices.
- Create a self-funding teaching and learning centre that will provide an income stream that can be fed back into quality teaching and professional development.
- Provide an opportunity for Monte students and the community to experience transformational change through the sharing of culture, language, educational expertise and authentic relationships.
- Educate the Monte community, through a lived experience, to be advocates of change by contributing actively with their heads, their hearts and their hands.

### Join Us

Project Timor represents a remarkable opportunity to deliver a transformational facility that will change educational outcomes for the young women of Maliana and play a vital role in addressing the lack of trained teachers in Timor-Leste.

If your company has a Corporate Social Responsibility Program, and Project Timor meets the funding criteria, we would love the opportunity to seek your support of the Teacher Professional Learning Centre. Alternatively, if you would like to personally make a donation please visit our website.

Together, we will not only create a brighter future for the young women of Maliana, we will model what is possible when a community works together for the common good.

I invite you to join us on this journey towards justice.



For further information or to make a donation please visit

[www.monte.nsw.edu.au/community/project-timor](http://www.monte.nsw.edu.au/community/project-timor)

or contact the Development Office on (02) 9409 6240.