



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**

Dennis and I are proud to be joint Patrons of the Mission to Seafarers Sydney and regret that we are unable to join you.

Over the last five years our engagement with the Mission has been hugely reassuring, as we have seen the services you provide, offering compassionate care to some 400,000 seafarers from over 70 nations who visit Sydney ports each year along with an estimated 360,000 crew members of cruise vessels.

Although technology and operational approaches in shipping have evolved since the beginnings of organised ministry to seafarers here in Sydney in the 1820's, shipping remains, at its core, as a 'human-powered' industry. Seafarers arrive in our ports a great distance from their family and friends, often with a sense of isolation and, as you experience daily, appreciative of the access to medical, welfare and chaplaincy services you provide.

The 2023 figures for the Sydney Mission show large increases in the number of seafarers welcomed, a threefold increase in the number transported to and from the Mission, a doubling of the number of parcels received for seafarers to collect and a significant uplift in the number of vessels, hospitals and hotels visited. All of this points to the scale and value of your work.

Dennis and I convey our thanks to all members of staff and the many volunteers involved in supporting the welfare of seafarers visiting Sydney. We wish you well for today's luncheon whose proceeds will assist in continuing your important work.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**

Mr Dennis Wilson