



Caring for seafarers  
around the world

## Mission to Seafarers, Sydney NSW

ACN 000 652 479

# 2024 NSW Seafarer Welfare Fund Impact Report

## Background

The Mission to Seafarers in NSW have experienced a reduction in funding post covid, yet the need to provide welfare to Seafarers remains constant and significant. The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) requirement to offer shore leave is important as a basic human need to rest and recharge.

The Mission to Seafarers Sydney NSW's (Sydney Mission) financial need to "Keep the Doors Open" is brought about by both lost income and higher expenses. A comparison to 2019 shows the pain to come from:

### Lost Income

Shipping Co Bus support	-\$30,000
Shipping companies no longer contributing to the cost of providing the transport to allow Seafarers to leave the port and recharge	
Shop, SIM Card Sales, FX	-\$50,000
Lower income from Seafarers buying personal items, moving to eSIM and less foreign exchange transactions.	
Grant	-\$20,000
The SBU lowering the funding to maintain the core funds for the long term.	

### Added Expense

Bus Running Exp	\$10,000
Higher Fuel costs, maintenance, insurance and registration.	
Salaries & Super	\$30,000
Superannuation increased from 9.5% to 11.5% and salaries increased 5.5% to help manage the inflation pressures	

**TOTAL Need/Gap** **-\$140,000**

The Sydney Mission has developed new fundraising by conducting an annual Fundraising event at Parliament House. In 2024 this delivered \$33,000.

## NSW Seafarer Welfare Fund

The NSW Seafarer Welfare Fund has given a significant boost to the financial health of all Missions in NSW. The Sydney Mission received \$164,00, made up of two components:

Keep the Doors Open	
- Close the gap as identified above	\$100,000
Increase Seafarer Welfare	
- Hire an additional Chaplain for 4 days per week (as per the proposal)	\$ 64,000
Focus on The Bays Precinct and Port Botany as needs vary with ship movements.	

The funding has supported the operation of every aspect of the Missions activities. We capture key aspects of our impact in our Impact Data. A comparison to 2023 is below.

## Impact Data

The combined funding of both “Keep the Doors Open” and “Increased Seafarer Welfare” contributes to the ability to impact Seafarers. Some of the key elements are captured here. We are **open 360 days** a year and the funding received has allowed a greater focus on delivering services to Seafarers. Contact to enhance their psychosocial health is a KEY focus.



During the year, the Sydney Mission has had over 105 conversations with Seafarers about “Justice concerns”. These have resulted in 30 direct contacts to ITF and/or referrals to AMSA. The concerns cover areas such as:

- Safety
- Pay and conditions
- Bullying
- Poor moral or tensions in the crew
- Bereavement
- Mental Health
- Escaping Slavery

### Increased Support

Rev Canon David Wong has been engaged to fill the role funded by our “Increase Seafarer Welfare” application. David began his induction, acquisition of his MSIC card and LR licence to drive the buses on 1 October. David connected with Seafarers in the Mission from day one. His proficiency in several languages including Mandarin, Malay and Indonesian has allowed him to make special connections with these key groups of Seafarers. David has been in the Bays Precinct and at Port Botany depending on need/number of Seafarers. David has visited Chinese vessels and found that they did not know about the ease of shore leave so were hesitant to take this valuable opportunity. David has been actively encouraging their usage of the Missions facilities to renew and recharge before they embark on the next leg of their journey.

### Target Ship/Crew Visits

Ship visits are agreed to be a key measure of impact to Seafarers. In 2024 we have jumped to 610 ship visits from 370 ship visits in 2023. The impact of this face-to-face contact at a ship visit is significant for Seafarers. Seafarers can discuss family issues, moral, pay and conditions, bereavement, mental health issues to identify just some.

In our submission for funding for “increased Seafarer Welfare” we proposed the targets to be:

Threshold of vessels visited per month	48	(12 per week)
Target of vessels visited per month	<b>64</b>	(16 per week)
Stretch of vessels visited per month	80	(20 per week)

Before the addition of Chaplain David, our rate of vessel visits per month was between mid 20s to 50s/month. Since the addition of David Wong, our vessels visited per month are:

<b>November 2024</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>December 2024</b>	<b>67</b>

We are delivering on the aspiration to significantly increase contacts and care offered to Seafarers.

### Promotion of our Partners - NSW Ports & Port Authority

Port Authority and NSW Ports are given prominence in our media activities. Some highlights are:-

- Focus of the 2024 Parliament House Luncheon
- Press release & DCN story on the awarding of funding
- Logos on MtS key printed materials.
- Website <https://missiontoseafarerssydney.org.au/meet-our-corporate-champions/>
- Newsletter - partner logos in our newsletter footer
- Handouts to Seafarers
- Recognition and thank you at Christmas supporters' function
- Social media posts and media releases
- Share MtS media releases, social posts and newsletter to Partners Comms team.
- Tag Partner organisations in LinkedIn and posts about seafarers or key events.
- Article in newsletter and on website thanking and recognising partners for funds.
- Logos on the Mission Centre's buses WIP due to logo resolution, vendor cost and availability.

## Financial Review

The 2024 Statutory Accounts are being prepared by the Auditor and will be loaded to the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) website once approved by the Board and presented at the AGM. A copy will be shared with Port Authority and NSW Ports at this time.

As per the agreement with NSW Ports, we advise the funds from NSW Ports (\$50,000) can be attributed to:

- Costs for Rev Canon David Wong
  - o Salary 4 days per week \$55,558/annum
  - o Superannuation \$ 6,667/annum
  - o Work cover / iCare \$ 2,192/annum
- Costs to enable David to support the Seafarers like LR licence \$ 800
- Running costs of the bus to allow him to travel to the port and visit vessels/Seafarers
  - o Fuel
  - o Maintenance
  - o Tyres
  - o Tolls

The funds from the Port Authority of NSW contribute to the above as well at closing the gap identified earlier in this document.

## Summary

The Mission to Seafarers, Sydney NSW is profoundly grateful for the \$164,000 provided by the NSW Seafarer Welfare Fund. This funding has allowed the “Doors to stay Open” by closing the funding gap of \$100,000. It has allowed the addition of a Chaplain for 4 days a week to increase the vessels visited and the Seafarers supported. It has allowed focus to be on Seafarer Welfare rather than cost cutting and frantic fundraising. We look forward to building on Seafarer welfare and its impact in 2025 and many many subsequent years.