



## Mercy Family Services

Several Mercy Family Services' young people have been participating in Te Waka Dragons training sessions over the past three years. One young person has represented Queensland and Australia in the sport. A number of Mercy staff have also joined the club as regular paddlers and one of staff member was already a member of Te Waka before she joined Mercy and was instrumental in getting Mercy young people involved in the sport.

Sponsored by the Brisbane Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Family Services provides services for children and young people and focuses on building a strong identity, promoting community relationships and strengthening partnerships with funding bodies to enable the delivery of high-quality services to clients.

### ***Testimonial from Mercy Family Services:***

*Dragon boating is a wonderful sport for our young people to participate in, and in which they receive so much more than physical exercise. They are taken into a family of dragonboaters and given a sense of purpose and pride in their achievements.*

*Dragon boating is all about 22 members of a team working together, supporting each other to bring out the best each individual can be and this fits exactly with the Mercy Family Services ethos of hope, respect and excellence.*

In 2007, Mercy Family Services helped Te Waka Dragons purchase two ten seater boats. These boats have been an excellent way to introduce beginners to the active lifestyle and social nature of dragon boating. They have gone a long way to accommodate the ever growing membership numbers and together with the club's 20 seaters enable the club to train paddlers of all levels from beginners to the elite simultaneously.

In acknowledgement of this support, club members chose the following names for the boats that were unveiled at an "Awakening of the Dragons" day with a traditional Chinese ceremony performed by local Buddhist monks to bless all new club boats for successful and safe future journeys:

**Show No Mercy** - *the name acknowledges the competitive attitude of the club and its members*

**Spirit of Hope** - *the name incorporates the ethos of Mercy Family Services*