



MISSION TO SEAFARERS GERALDTON

Caring for seafarers and their families

Who are we?

As part of the global network of Mission to Seafarers, Mission to Seafarers Geraldton staff and volunteers have served seafarers visiting the mid-west region since 1938. Our centre is ideally situated near the port, at 272 Marine Tce. We are governed by the Missions to Seafarers North West Australia Ltd (MTS NWA), a registered not-for-profit charity serving as an agency of the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia. As an Anglican mission, we care for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs. We are the sole provider of shore leave to crew, and offer a range of welfare services to seafarers in the region.

Our services

- Ship visits, by our highly trained Chaplain, offering welfare, pastoral care, spiritual support and counselling services to seafarers.
- Shore leave, a critically important and valuable service to crew, giving them time ashore. MTS provides transfers 12 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Transit services, transporting seafarers around the region including to the airport, hotels and medical service providers at a small cost.
- Retail gift shop and an online shopping service, where seafarers can conveniently purchase SIM cards, toiletries, snacks and souvenirs, or exchange foreign currency.
- Recreation facilities, a safe and welcoming place for seafarers to relax onshore and connect with their family and with our community.
- Welfare and advocacy, helping to connect seafarers with mental health, medical, financial and legal support services.

Mission to Seafarers Geraldton works alongside MTS nationally and internationally. We have the experience, capability and quality of specialised service provision to provide for the unique needs of seafarers.

Seafarers: critical yet invisible

With over 90% of the world's goods and fuels transported by sea, so much of our prosperity depends on merchant shipping. The Mid West region contributes an annual economic output of \$16 billion, with a reliance on the shipping industry to connect exports with markets.

Life at sea can be extremely difficult. Many months away from home, trauma of abandonment, isolation, low pay, poor conditions and challenging environmental conditions all contribute to high rates of mental illness and suicide amongst seafarers.



Our mission

- To meet the practical and spiritual needs of seafarers and their families.
- To provide a home away from home for visiting seafarers.
- To assist any seafarer who is in need or distress as far as it is practicable.
- To provide a place of safety and recreation for visiting seafarers.

Did you know?

Australia is a signatory to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), which set standards and regulations relating to the working and living conditions for the world's 1.4 million seafarers. Under the MLC Reg 4.4, Australian ports are obligated to provide access to shore-based welfare facilities. For over 85 years, the Mission to Seafarers Geraldton has provided these services to the Port of Geraldton.

Growing demand for seafarer welfare

2022FY

16.4Mtpa exports
320 unique vessel arrivals
to the Port of Geraldton
Approx. 8,500 seafarers



Port Maximisation Project

52% growth

2026FY

25Mtpa exports
486 vessel arrivals
Approx. 13,400 seafarers

The Port Maximisation Project and Oakejee development will see significant increase in vessel arrivals – and therefore seafarer welfare needs – over the coming years.

Mission to Seafarers Geraldton is well-placed to serve these needs and support regional economic growth. Over our 85 years of service to the region, we have built

the reputation, skills and knowledge to serve the unique needs of seafarers.

Our current service offering is constrained by the cost of operations. Our financial needs will grow as port operations expand, and the welfare needs of seafarers increases. We want to continue to provide high quality care and services.

How we are funded

Mission to Seafarers Geraldton has historically run almost entirely on volunteerism. Over our 85 years of service, we have also received support from the Anglican Church, donations from the local community, and in-kind support from the Mid West Ports Authority.

In 2022FY, only 7% of our operating costs were externally funded. The remainder was self-funded through income from the gift shop and retained earnings. Whilst the shop is a source of income, it is important that we keep prices low to ensure these goods are accessible to seafarers, who are often poorly paid. Declining volunteerism and increasing need for professional/skilled roles require us to plan for and fund employee positions, to ensure the ongoing provision of these vital welfare services.

How you can help

Sustainable service delivery to match regional economic growth will require co-contribution from the enterprises whose value chains rely upon seafarers.

The most valuable form of support is through multi-year funding agreements, from tier 1 support (e.g. \$40,000/yr), to tier 2 (\$20,000/yr) and tier 3/4 levels (\$10,000/\$2,000).

The mutual benefits include:

For your business

- Good corporate citizenship
- Demonstrating your commitment to ESG across your value chain (upholding human rights, physical and mental wellbeing)
- Fulfilling the obligations of the MLC
- Public image (e.g. social media appreciation posts)

For Mission to Seafarers Geraldton and seafarers

- Increased welfare reach
- Sustainable delivery of services
- Growth projects to meet increasing demand
- Ability to plan and act strategically
- Long-term viability of the centre

“If you rely on seafarers, seafarers rely on you!”

More information: geraldtonseafarers.org/funding

