

In **Seize the Day** Patrick McClure recounts his unique journey from childhood in Auckland and Sydney, to his experiences as a priest and his career in the Third Sector.

Throughout his childhood, McClure was strongly influenced by his Catholic education and the faith of his family. At 18 he entered the Franciscans, a religious order within the Catholic Church. He was ordained a Franciscan priest at a time when major changes were taking place in the wider Church. His experiences working with the homeless and the influence of a pioneer in microfinance changed his life and sowed the seeds of a social conscience.

After resigning from the ministry, McClure began working in the Third Sector. As a social entrepreneur, he founded Second Harvest (Australia), a social business providing low-cost food for people on limited income. As CEO of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, he coordinated drought assistance to devastated farming households in NSW. During his years as CEO of Mission Australia, he introduced major reforms as the organisation developed into a leading, national social enterprise. In **Seize the Day**, McClure discusses some of the key social policy issues that he has been involved in: welfare reform, privatisation of employment services, innovation in homeless services, pathways for young people and partnerships with government and business.



'A fascinating life's journey towards some of the most challenging social policy areas we as a nation face. Importantly McClure discusses policies and programs that work.'

Peter van Onselen, Contributing Editor, *The Australian*,  
Presenter, Sky News

'I am delighted that Patrick McClure, who has been so influential in the drive to help people move from welfare to work, has now provided a personal account of what lies behind his reforming zeal.'

Professor Peter Shergold, AC  
CEO, Centre for Social Impact, UNSW

Seize the Day From Priest to CEO

Patrick McClure



# SEIZE THE DAY

## From Priest to CEO

Patrick McClure, AO



Proceeds from the sale of this book go to the Mission Australia Centre, Surry Hills, Sydney which provides innovative services for homeless people.

