

ANNUAL REPORT



2021-2022

SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA



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ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

Vission

Enabling the Serbian community to enhance their quality of life and fully participate in the Australian Society.

Mission

To deliver sustainable and innovative services that addresses the evolving needs of the Serbian community.

Values

Innovation, Integrity, Inclusion, Passion and Empowerment

Our Purpose

To ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of Serbian Community Association of Australia as a legal entity and as a service provider.

To adequately and appropriately address the needs of the Serbian ageing community in Victoria.

To ensure that the Serbian community and its needs are positively promoted within the wider Australian community.

To ensure that the needs and issues of young people in the Serbian Community are adequately and appropriately addressed.

Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| President | Marija Dragic |
| Vice President | Silvana Vukadinovic |
| Secretary | Primrose White |
| Treasurer | Mica Avramovic |
| BOD member | Ljubica Petrov |
| BOD member | Smilja Ivanisevic |

Staff Members

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Manager | Marina Celebic |
| Project Officer | Biljana Radisic-Trickovic |
| Accountant | Jelena Mandic |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great pride that I present the 2021/2022 Annual Report for the Serbian Community Association of Australia (SCAA).

SCAA continues to deliver information and support to the Serbian community across the state and promote social integration, inclusion and cohesion. COVID-19 continued to affect service delivery and left an impact on the Serbian and wider communities. Despite the challenges that affected the world over the past two years, SCAA excelled in various areas.

I would like to thank our funders for their ongoing support. The federal government Department of Health continues to fund the Community Visitors Scheme. These are integral services that assist our ever-aging population and their carers. Thank you to Dementia Australia for their support of our community through the Dementia Friendly Communities Community Engagement Program.

The Victorian government Department of Health continues to support carers through the Additional Carers Respite program and Supporting Carers Locally Program. The Vic Health also fund social connections for better health and wellbeing of Serbian senior women project.

I would like to thank our staff for their ongoing commitment and dedication to SCAA, particularly over the past few Covid-19 years. Marina Celebic, SCAA Manager continues to be that backbone of the organisation. Thank you to Biljana Trickovic for always being available to step in to leading roles and Jelena Mandic for her continued accountancy and book keeping support. A big thanks goes out to our volunteers who have faced their own challenges over the past year.

A final thank you to SCAA Board of Directors. This group of volunteers continue to support the governance of SCAA and without them, none of this work would be possible.

2022 is officially my 30th year of involvement in SCAA. I started this journey back in 1992 as a graduating social worker when we initially set up the first Serbian Welfare Association of Australia. I am looking forward to handing over the leadership reins and continue to support the staff and Board.

President
Marija Dragic

COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME

Through the Community Visitor Scheme (CVS) program SCAA has been working actively in the community and has collaborated with various service providers in order to identify and provide companionship to socially isolated seniors in the Serbian community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our CVS project witnessed increased sense of loneliness and isolation, not only amongst the care recipients, but also amongst its volunteers.

Maintaining video conversations was difficult nevertheless, telephone conversations were very well accepted.

Further, the volunteers' connections with the home care recipients they were visiting were impacted for long time. Hence the project had to provide additional support in order for them to re-connect with the recipients of the home care packages, in order to continue their face-to-face meetings.

Prolonged lockdown and restrictions imposed by the Government prevented volunteers from visiting the residents in the aged care facilities in person.

However, having phone calls is of great benefit for the residents but then again, the facilities are usually short staffed and there is no available worker who can take the phone to resident or to stay with them to help navigate the phone or device.

Recruiting volunteers to visit elderly at the RACF has become a challenge as every facility implemented different set of rules and requirements for visitation and this was also changing frequently. However, the benefits of the programs have been evident as the isolated people involved have reported on feeling less isolated and more included in the community.

They have developed friendship and companionship, have had someone they can talk to, understand them and someone to rely upon. In addition, the volunteers have regularly commented on the great deal of satisfaction they receive in helping someone.

EMBRACING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IN THE SERBIAN COMMUNITY

The Embracing People Living with Dementia in the Serbian Community project was funded through the Dementia Friendly Communities Community Engagement Program.

The aim of this project was to increase awareness of dementia amongst the Serbian community, to both gain an understanding of the condition, as well as to build better relationships with those people living with dementia.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the project experienced multiple barriers and had to be extended twice in order to achieve the set targets. Easing the COVID related restrictions have provided opportunity for people to become active in the community and has enabled the project to continue with its activities.

The project managed to identify and engage champions who assisted the Association in gaining the recognition and resources needed to achieve short-term and long-term goals aimed at supporting people with dementia and improving their wellbeing.

During 2021/22 the project organised several outings for people with dementia and delivered a series of information sessions to the members of the Serbian community.

This valuable project has enabled the Association to improve understanding of the symptoms and causes of dementia amongst the members of the Serbian community.

In addition, it provided an opportunity for people with dementia and their carers to participate in the activities tailored to their needs and also to include them into existing activities in the community.

SUPPORTING CARERS LOCALLY GRANTS PROGRAM (ROUND 2)

The project provided the Serbian speaking carers in the City of Greater Dandenong and City of Brimbank, with an opportunity to get together, share their experiences and take some time for themselves.

The particular emphasis of this project was the inclusion of carers who are elderly themselves and who find the carers role difficult.

The project activities planned to include regular meetings and peer support, recreational activities such as walking groups, tai chi or similar and outings.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the project experienced some challenges in the first half of the project when planned activities had to be postponed due to restrictions being imposed. Nevertheless, during this time the project maintained regular contact with the identified carers and was able to monitor the health and wellbeing of the carers ensuring they were receiving important messages regarding COVID-19.

Following the easing of restrictions, the project resumed with the planned activities, which have been modified to address the current needs and spirit amongst the carers.

As requested by the carers during the summer months the project organised mainly outdoor activities.

The project provided the carers with a social setting that has enabled them to reconnect with others and provided them with the opportunity to take time for themselves.

Providing a social setting for carers enabled them to make new connections, expand their own support network, allowed them to share their feelings with others and gain some practical skills and knowledge.

Through this project the carers reported feeling more supported and cared for and noted that they had gained confidence and capacity to provide care.

ADDITIONAL CARER RESPITE FUNDING 21/22

Through the Additional Carer Respite Funding 2021-22, SCAA has provided respite services to carers of Serbian background.

Throughout this project we worked with the carers whose needs varied, ranging from limited support to those with more complex issues. Majority of the carers involved in this project were caring for people who were mobile and able to communicate. As such the respite services were organised in advance and carefully planned.

The majority of carers were mainly interested in having shorter breaks where the person they cared for could be supported in their home or in the community for an event or outing. Therefore, regular outings in local parks as well as morning tea and luncheons were organised as part of this project.

The Additional Carer Respite program has been exceptionally well received by the Serbian speaking carers. Although the majority have never utilised any respite services and were not very familiar about the program in a short period of time, they become accustomed and started utilising the service. The number of carers involved in this program has grown in a short period of time.

According to their feedback offering services in their language, and having the service tailored to suit their needs and being culturally appropriate, made them more conformable about participating in this program.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS FOR BETTER HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF SERBIAN WOMEN PROJECT

VicHealth is providing funds through the Reimagining grants program, for community led projects that support better health and wellbeing of Victorian communities.

Amongst the funded projects in 2021/2022 was the “Social connections for better health and wellbeing of Serbian senior women” project, which aims to improve health and wellbeing amongst the Serbian senior women living in the City of Greater Dandenong.

In response to the diverse needs of these women, and in order to enhance participation in the broader community and improve the quality of their lives, the project organises regular meetings and social and recreational activities.

The project provided an enjoyable and interactive program which encourage the senior women to become more active and feel more integrated into community.

SCAA GROUPS

As in previous years the SCAA continued to support the Dandenong Serbian Senior Women’s group and the Serbian Playgroup.

Due to the COVID pandemic and social restrictions imposed the face-to-face meetings were not allowed. However, the SCAA maintained regular contact with the members of these groups and regularly provided the members with the most current information regarding COVID-19 and offered continuing social support.

From February 2022 these groups resumed the face-to-face meetings, which brought much amusement and joy to everyone involved.

SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
A.B.N. 55 096 835 621

STATEMENT BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 8:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Marija Dragic
President



Mica Avramovic
Treasurer

Dated this 20th day of October 2022

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT
THE MEMBERS OF
SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
A.B.N. 55 096 835 621**

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Reviewer's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report: an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, I have become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards. ASRE 2415 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, I have not become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. is not in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures as referred to in Note 1 in the financial report.

Zdenka Vujanic, CPA
ZV Accounting Plus
g06/202 Jells Road
Wheelers Hill Victoria 3150



Dated this 30th day of November 2022

SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
A.B.N. 55 096 835 621

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| <u>REVENUE</u> | | |
| Grant revenue | 88,293 | 92,875 |
| Playgroup fees | 595 | 550 |
| Interest received | 234 | 497 |
| Other revenue | 1,209 | 3,141 |
| Total revenue | <u>90,331</u> | <u>97,063</u> |
| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | |
| Administration expense | 5,674 | 6,445 |
| Communication expense | 1,243 | 1,800 |
| Depreciation expense | 158 | 360 |
| Employee benefits expense | 60,270 | 68,615 |
| Occupancy expense | 3,350 | 1,413 |
| Program related expense | 13,899 | 14,311 |
| Travel expense | 1,849 | 2,062 |
| Total expenditure | <u>86,443</u> | <u>95,006</u> |
| Surplus for the year | 3,888 | 2,057 |
| Other comprehensive income | - | - |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | <u><u>3,888</u></u> | <u><u>2,057</u></u> |

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Grants and income received | 72,621 | 111,433 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | (89,905) | (100,360) |
| Interest received | 266 | 475 |
| Net cash from operating activities | <u>(17,018)</u> | <u>11,548</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Payments for equipment | (1,890) | - |
| Net cash used in investing activities | <u>(1,890)</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash | (18,908) | 11,548 |
| Cash at the beginning of the year | 122,682 | 111,134 |
| Cash at the end of the financial year | <u><u>103,774</u></u> | <u><u>122,682</u></u> |

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| ASSETS | | |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 103,774 | 122,682 |
| Receivables | 48 | 80 |
| Deposits | 50 | 50 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | <u>103,872</u> | <u>122,812</u> |
| <u>NON CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | |
| Plant and equipment at cost | 7,423 | 6,998 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (5,533) | (6,840) |
| TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS | <u>1,890</u> | <u>158</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>105,762</u></u> | <u><u>122,970</u></u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u> | | |
| Trade and other payables | 2,709 | 1,086 |
| Employee benefits | 9,601 | 8,770 |
| Deferred revenue | 10,950 | 34,500 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | <u>23,260</u> | <u>44,356</u> |
| NET ASSETS | <u><u>82,502</u></u> | <u><u>78,614</u></u> |
| <u>EQUITY</u> | | |
| Retained surpluses | 82,502 | 78,614 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u><u>82,502</u></u> | <u><u>78,614</u></u> |

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

| | Retained Surplus \$ |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Balance at 1 July 2020 | 76,557 |
| Total income for the year | 2,057 |
| Balance at 30 June 2021 | 78,614 |
| Total income for the year | 3,888 |
| Balance at 30 June 2022 | <u><u>82,502</u></u> |

PHOTOS



SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



ABN: 55 096 835 621 186
Foster Street East Dandenong, 3175
PO BOX 7507, Dandenong
Phone: (03) 9701 7308
Email: info@serbiancommunity.org.au
Website: www.serbiancommunity.org.au