



Serbian Community Association Of Australia Inc.

Annual Report

2019-2020



Contents

Organisation Overview	3
Presidents Report	4
Community Visitors Scheme	5
Empowering Serbian People In Need Of Palliative Care	6
SCAA Groups	6
Enhancing Participation Of The Serbian Community	7
Supporting Carers	7
Locally Grants Program	7
Board Statement	8
Review Report	9
Financial Report	10
Photos	11

Organisation Overview

Vision

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

Mission

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

Aims & Objectives

- 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.

Values

Innovation, Integrity, Inclusion, Passion and Empowerment

Board Of Directors

Board Of Directors

President Ljubica Petrov
Secretary Marija Dragic
Treasurer Jelena Tomic

Staff

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

Presidents Report

The global coronavirus pandemic has challenged our organisation throughout 2020. Serbian Community Association of Australia (SCAA) has continued to pursue our Mission and provide a suite of services to vulnerable members of our community. Across the organisation, staff and volunteers and our board members have stepped up and remained committed to the delivery of projects and initiatives at this difficult time.

During the Covid19 restrictions we have seen an increase in inquiries seeking assistance and urgent requests for information. We have reached out to isolated members of the Serbian community via phone calls to check on their wellbeing and to distribute information.

Training for volunteers was provided online and elderly members of our community were guided on the use of technology. Government publications in relation to COVID-19 were distributed directly and through social media.

SCAA work continues to be funded both by the Commonwealth and State governments. Community Visitors Scheme funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health enables us to support isolated elderly people who receive home care and residential aged care services. This social support is much needed as often our volunteers are the sole social contact for the elderly who only speak Serbian.

Supporting Locally Carers Grants Program funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services has SCAA working with members of the Sri Lankan Tamil, South American and Mauritian communities in addition to our Serbian community. This program aims to improve health and wellbeing of carers as well as facilitate contact with other carers. With the demand of the caring role, carers often overlook their own wellbeing and the support that this program brings to them is invaluable.

Our Enhancing Community Participation and Engagement of Serbian Women who live in the City of Greater Dandenong project is also supported by the Victorian State Government. With this project we assist women to maintain their independence and strengthen their participation in the local community.

Since 2019 SCAA has been funded by and working with Palliative Care Victoria on providing social support to individuals with life limiting illness, their carers and families who live in the South Eastern Region of Melbourne.

SCAA Board and staff have also adjusted to a new normal during the pandemic and have continued to meet regularly online and adhere to the restriction rules.

I would like to thank all my fellow Board members for their contribution this year, and for the significant time that they invest in SCAA to ensure it is well governed and well guided.

I would like to also acknowledge the wonderful contribution of SCAA staff who have ensured that the work of the organisation continues and that members of our community are supported.

President
Ljubica Petrov

Community Visitors Scheme

Through the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) program, the SCAA has addressed the need for social support to isolated seniors who are the recipients of home care packages and older people who receive government funded residential aged care services.

Through this CVS program, the isolated Serbian seniors have an opportunity to be visited on a regular basis by a volunteer who speaks the Serbian language. Having a volunteer visitor who speaks their language benefits the seniors in many ways, particularly as it minimises their sense of isolation and loneliness as they have someone they can readily communicate and connect with. In addition, these visits increase their self-esteem and enable them to gain more confidence by introducing a social component in their life.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the project has experienced challenges such as an increased sense of loneliness and isolation, not only amongst the CVS recipients, but also amongst its volunteers. The social restrictions have resulted in face-to-face visits being banned and has required the project to switch to a virtual platform, which has posed many challenges in and of itself. This process did not go smoothly and our volunteers encountered many problems in reaching the isolated seniors, which required the project to majorly assist the volunteers.

Notwithstanding the obstacles encountered, there have been many positive stories where our volunteers have shown great kind-heartedness to others. In this regard, we have received various reports of our volunteers sending cards with well wishes despite simply been engaged to socialise with residents in the aged care facilities by calling them regularly.

Further, in relation to home care recipients, we have been informed that volunteers have bought and supplied food and other necessities to those in need. Similarly, the home care recipients have displayed solidarity and empathy and provided support to volunteers who have faced uncertainty in their own lives.

It is evident that the bond between the volunteers and the elderly has grown very strong over time and once more, highlights the importance of this program.

Empowering Serbian People In Need Of Palliative Care

The Empowering Serbian People in Need of Palliative Care project is funded by Palliative Care Victoria, with the aim of the project to enhance understanding and access among the Serbian community of the available support for people with a life limiting illness.

The project successfully engaged with the Serbian community and recruited volunteers who provided social support to more than 20 recipients of palliative care.

In order to provide the volunteers with information and expand their skills, the project implemented monthly training sessions. As a result of the training, the volunteers became more confident in their role as palliative care volunteers.

The project received positive feedback from carers, families and lifestyle coordinators in aged care facilities, which indicated great improvements in the life of the palliative care recipients.

Furthermore, the project has established contact and developed a relationship with various service providers, which has resulted in the project expanding its network to better provide palliative social support services to the community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the volunteers' connections with the clients they were visiting were impacted. As a result, the project provided additional support to enable the volunteers to re-connect with the people receiving palliative care.

In light of the Government restrictions, face-to-face visits were banned and as such, the project and volunteers had to rely on the use of technology to maintain contact with the palliative care patients. Nevertheless, the project has continued to receive positive feedback from the carers, families and lifestyle coordinators in aged care facilities. Their comments emphasised the importance of keeping contact for the wellbeing of the palliative care recipients.

SCAA Groups

In the 2019/20 period, the Dandenong Seniors Women's Group continued with its regular meetings and activities.

There were a number of information sessions organised as well as outings.

The Serbian Playgroup continued to deliver fun learning activities, which provided children with an opportunity to enrich their skills. Further, the playgroup meetings have benefited the parents who were able to meet other families and socialise with them.

Although the face-to-face activities ceased as a result of COVID-19, the SCAA continued to provide important information and social support to both the Playgroup and the Women's Group.

Enhancing Participation Of The Serbian Community

The Victorian Government election commitment funding has enabled the SCAA to deliver the enhancing community participation and engagement of Serbian women project.

Through this project, we delivered comprehensive and well-planned activities aimed to improve the independence of migrant women of Serbian background living in the City of Greater Dandenong and strengthen their participation in the community.

The project generated awareness amongst mature and senior Serbian women in relation to various health and social issues and enabled them to strengthen their connection with the broader community.

In response to the diverse needs of these women, and in order to enhance social participation in the broader community and improve the quality of their lives, the project organised regular weekly meetings, a series of information sessions and social and recreational activities with women of other CALD backgrounds.

Supporting Carers Locally Grants Program

In January 2020, the SCAA received funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to deliver the Supporting Carers Locally Grants Program to members of the Serbian, Sri Lankan, Mauritian and Spanish Latin American backgrounds. The program is designed to address issues that have been previously identified by carers at various events organised by SCAA in partnership with the members of these community groups.

The project provides a space for carers facing isolation to come together to share their experiences, expand their support network and to learn more about available services and programs. The project commenced in February 2020 when the first carers meeting was organised. Following this meeting, the project scheduled monthly carers meetings, health and wellbeing activities, and outings for the duration of the project.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project activities had to be suspended but the project continued to maintain regular contact with the identified carers by monitoring their health and wellbeing, and also making sure they have been receiving important messages regarding COVID-19.

Statement

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 9:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.
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:



Ljubica Petrov
President



Jelena Tomic
Treasurer

Dated this 29th day of October 2020

Report

INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT TO 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 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Reviewer's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial statements. I have conducted my review in accordance with standard on review engagements ASRE 2400, *Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner who is not the Auditor of the Entity*. ASRE 2400 requires me to conclude whether anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

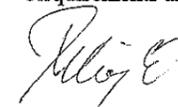
A review of financial statements in accordance with ASRE 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. does not satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. as at 30 June 2020, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as referred to in Note 1, to the financial statements.



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

Dated this 26th day of November 2020

Report

Photos

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 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Grant funding	88,291	60,903
Playgroup fees	1,760	2,095
Other revenue	6,920	2,537
Total revenue	<u>96,971</u>	<u>65,535</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration expense	3,953	5,895
Communication expense	1,757	1,566
Depreciation expense	1,437	1,366
Employee expense	53,993	49,022
Occupancy expense	5,181	4,321
Program related expense	16,552	8,187
Travel expense	1,987	2,004
Total expenditure	<u>84,860</u>	<u>72,361</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax	12,111	(6,826)
Income tax expense	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>12,111</u>	<u>(6,826)</u>

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Grants and income received	129,002	68,302
Payments to suppliers and employees	(90,213)	(75,976)
Interest received	1,007	1,250
Net cash from operating activities	<u>39,796</u>	<u>(6,424)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payment for equipment	-	(358)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(358)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	39,796	(6,782)
Cash at the beginning of the year	71,338	78,120
Cash at the end of the financial year	<u>111,134</u>	<u>71,338</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	111,134	71,338
Receivables	58	131
Deposits	50	50
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>111,242</u>	<u>71,519</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant and equipment at cost	6,998	6,998
Accumulated Depreciation	(6,480)	(5,043)
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>518</u>	<u>1,955</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>111,760</u>	<u>73,474</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	851	851
Short-term provisions	4,852	3,177
Deferred revenue	29,500	5,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>35,203</u>	<u>9,028</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>76,557</u>	<u>64,446</u>
EQUITY		
Retained surpluses	76,557	64,446
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>76,557</u>	<u>64,446</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	Retained Surplus
	\$
Balance at 1 July 2018	71,272
Total income for the year	(6,826)
Balance at 30 June 2018	64,446
Total income for the year	12,111
Balance at 30 June 2019	<u>76,557</u>



CVS Visit



Volunteers Meeting

SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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