

2024  
2025



SERBIAN COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
ANNUAL REPORT

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**01.**

Overview of the Organisation

**02.**

President's report

**06.**

Statement by the Board of Directors

**04.**

Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme

Additional Carer Respite Program

**07.**

Independent Auditor's Review

**05.**

Disability self Help Program

SCAA Community Groups

**08.**

Financial Report

**09.**

Photos

# OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION

## Vision:

A connected, inclusive and thriving Serbian community where everyone belongs and has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## Mission:

To strengthen and support the Serbian community through inclusive programs, collaborative partnerships, and community-led initiatives.

## Core Values:

### Empowerment

We support people to create change in their lives and communities by fostering confidence, independence and resilience.

### Inclusion

We embrace diversity and actively work to remove barriers so that all members of the Serbian community can participate, belong, and thrive.

### Innovation

We embrace new ideas and approaches that honour our diverse cultural heritage. We are open to learning, adapting, and improving to create lasting and meaningful impact.

### Integrity

We are transparent, accountable, and act ethically in all that we do. We build trust through honesty and responsibility.

### Passion

We are deeply committed to serving the Serbian and Australian communities and bring energy, care, and purpose to everything we do.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Marija Dragic
Vice President	Silvana Vukadinovic
Secretary	Primrose White
Treasurer	Marija Nikolic Paterson
BOD member	Ljubica Petrov

## STAFF MEMBERS

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2025 Annual Report for the Serbian Community Association of Australia (SCAA). It is an honour to lead an organisation that is so deeply connected to my personal journey and one that I have proudly been involved with for over 30 years.

Volunteers are the heart of SCAA. Their contribution is not only meaningful—it is essential. Since 1992, volunteers have built, sustained, and strengthened our organisation. Today, they remain the backbone of our Board of Directors, our women's group, playgroups, social activities, and government-funded services. Their generosity of spirit, cultural pride, and unwavering commitment make it possible for us to support our community in ways that simply could not be delivered through staffing alone. SCAA would not be what it is today without the dedication of our volunteers. We honour and celebrate each of them.

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## **This year demonstrated strong performance across our government-funded programs.**

The Aged Care Community Visitor Scheme funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, this program continues to provide vital companionship to socially or culturally isolated seniors receiving Commonwealth aged care services. Our staff diligently recruit, train, and support volunteer visitors, whose presence brings comfort, connection, and emotional wellbeing to our elderly community members.

Additional Respite Services for Carers is funded by the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, this culturally responsive respite service continues to offer much needed support to carers. This program enables carers many of whom are ageing themselves to maintain their own wellbeing while ensuring their loved ones remain connected and supported.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. The Disability Self-Help Program — Inclusion of People with Disability is an initiative that strengthens access to social inclusion, information, and educational resources for Serbian community members with disability, their families, and carers.

Across all programs, our commitment to supporting our most vulnerable—older people, people with disability, carers, and women—remains unwavering.

**This year, our Board and staff collaborated to develop a new three-year Strategic Plan. Our mission is clear:**

***“To strengthen and support the Serbian community through inclusive programs, collaborative partnerships, and community-led initiatives.”***

**To realise this mission, we have identified four strategic priorities:**

- 1.** Developing a comprehensive Serbian community needs profile
- 2.** Health and Disability
- 3.** Financial Sustainability
- 4.** Strengthening and Expanding Engagement

These priorities will guide our work in the year ahead and ensure we remain responsive, forward focused, and anchored in community needs.

**I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our exceptional staff:**

- Marina Celebic, celebrating 25 years of service
- Biljana Radisic, with over 12 years of dedication

Their longevity reflects not only their commitment, but the values of the organisation itself. Staff retention of this calibre is rare—yet it speaks to the passion, purpose, and relationships that define SCAA.

**President**

**Marija Dragic**

# AGED CARE VOLUNTEER VISITOR SCHEME

In its second year of operation, the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme (ACVVS) continued to play a vital role in supporting socially and culturally isolated Serbian-speaking seniors receiving Commonwealth-subsidised aged care services. The program is funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and delivered through community-based organisations that recruit, train, and support volunteer visitors.

Throughout the year, the program successfully facilitated visits to 16 home care recipient and 25 residents living in aged care facilities across Melbourne. For many participants, these visits provided the only opportunity to converse in their native Serbian language, significantly enhancing their emotional wellbeing, sense of belonging, and quality of life.

Volunteers were carefully matched with recipients based on shared interests and cultural background. They provided companionship, emotional support, and meaningful social interaction through regular one-on-one visits. The volunteers themselves reported a strong sense of purpose and fulfilment from their involvement, with many developing lasting friendships with the recipients.

The program continues to demonstrate how simple acts of companionship can have a profound impact on the lives of older people, promoting inclusion, wellbeing, and dignity in ageing.

## ADDITIONAL CARER RESPITE PROGRAM

Through the Additional Carer Respite Funding 2024/2025, the Serbian Community Association of Australia (SCAA) successfully delivered a culturally responsive respite program designed to address the unique needs of Serbian-speaking carers and care recipients. The project provided over 300 hours of respite services to 17 participants, offering much-needed relief and support to those providing continuous care for ageing family members, individuals with disability, or loved ones with chronic illness.

The program has played an important role in reaching isolated and distressed carers within the Serbian community, offering both practical assistance and emotional connection. Respite activities were tailored to suit varying levels of need—from occasional breaks to more comprehensive support. The program included social gatherings, local park outings, remedial massage sessions, morning teas, and luncheons, all delivered in a culturally familiar and welcoming environment. These activities helped carers take a break from their demanding responsibilities while fostering social connection and emotional wellbeing.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Carers expressed that receiving support in their own language, and in a setting that respects their cultural values, made them feel comfortable and understood. Many reported significant improvements in their health, mood, and ability to continue in their caring roles.

SCAA remains committed to advocating for and supporting carers through initiatives that enhance wellbeing, reduce isolation, and strengthen community ties.

# DISABILITY SELF HELP PROGRAM

The Inclusion of People with Disability – Serbian Community Project aims to strengthen inclusion, empowerment, and community connection for people with disability, their families, and carers within the Serbian community in Melbourne's south-eastern region. The project provides essential support, practical resources, and opportunities for engagement, while promoting awareness and understanding of disability-related issues.

Key components of the project include regular support group sessions that offer a safe and welcoming environment for participants to share experiences, build confidence, and access emotional and practical support. A variety of inclusive activities and excursions were organised throughout the year, encouraging social interaction, skill development, and a sense of belonging.

Educational information sessions were delivered on topics such as health and wellbeing, safety, advocacy, legal rights, accessible housing, transport, and planning for the future. These sessions featured guest speakers and professionals who provided valuable insights and practical advice tailored to community needs.

Awareness-raising continued to be a central focus using the community networks used to share information and promote inclusion.

In recognition of the International Day of People with Disability on 3 December, the project organised a community celebration featuring a presentation on invisible disabilities. The event provided an important platform for people with disability to share their stories, foster understanding and acceptance, and acknowledge their valuable contributions to the community.

The project continues to make a meaningful impact by promoting equality, participation, and respect for all.

## SCAA COMMUNITY GROUPS

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SCAA continues to support and facilitate the Dandenong Serbian Seniors Women's Group, which has over 30 active members meeting fortnightly to socialise, share experiences, and participate in wellbeing and cultural activities. The group remains an important source of connection and support for older Serbian women in the community.

In addition, the Serbian Playgroup in Hallam continues to meet regularly, managed by parents with ongoing support from SCAA. The playgroup provides a nurturing environment where children and families can connect, maintain the Serbian language, and celebrate cultural traditions together.

**Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc.**

**Statement by Board of Directors**

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

- presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date;
- complies with the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Victorian legislation, Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012;
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board



**Marija Dragic**  
President



**Marija Nikolic-Paterson**  
Treasurer

Dated this 9th day of October 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT**  
**To the members of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc.**

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 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information, and the director's declaration.

**Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Board of Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc. are 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 requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*. 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.

**Independence**

In conducting my review, I have complied with the independence requirement of the ACNC Act.

**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. does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of 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 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

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

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025

## Serbian Community Association of Australia Inc.

### Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grant revenue	103,019	105,383
Interest received	2,487	2,710
Other revenue	13,579	4,116
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>119,085</b>	<b>112,209</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration expense	6,718	13,133
Depreciation expense	630	630
Employee benefits expense	84,130	72,351
Occupancy expense	6,671	5,816
Program related expense	18,696	21,005
Travel expense	3,325	2,599
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>120,170</b>	<b>115,534</b>
Surplus for the year	(1,085)	(3,325)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(1,085)</b>	<b>(3,325)</b>

### Statement of cash flows For the year ended 30 June 2025

Cash flows from operating activities		
Grants and income received	130,412	110,582
Payments to suppliers and employees	(139,337)	(117,471)
Interest received	2,506	3,193
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>(6,419)</b>	<b>(3,696)</b>

#### CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Payments for equipment	-	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Net increase/(decrease) in cash	(6,419)	(3,696)
Cash at the beginning of the year	112,862	116,558
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>106,443</b>	<b>112,862</b>

### Statement of financial position For the year ended 30 June 2025

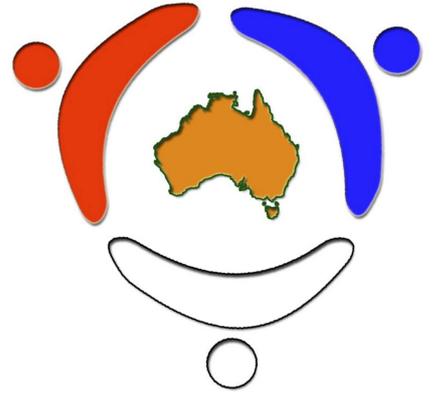
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	106,443	112,861
Receivables	439	458
Prepayments	410	-
Deposits	50	50
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>107,342</b>	<b>113,369</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Plant and equipment at cost	4,806	4,806
Accumulated Depreciation	(4,806)	(4,176)
<b>Total Non-current assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>107,342</b>	<b>113,999</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	3,584	7,455
Employee benefits	8,432	13,253
Deferred revenue	9,120	6,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>21,136</b>	<b>26,708</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>86,206</b>	<b>87,291</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained surpluses	86,206	87,291
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>86,206</b>	<b>87,291</b>

### Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Retained Surplus
	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	90,616
Total income for the year	(3,325)
Balance at 30 June 2024	87,291
Total income for the year	(1,085)
Balance at 30 June 2025	<b>86,206</b>

# PHOTOS





## **SERBIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

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