MCWA

Macedonian Community Welfare Association
Македонска Добротворна Организација

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

ABOUT MCWA



we are
working together
achieving
common goals
as one !

The Macedonian Community Welfare Association (MCWA) is a state wide, not-for-profit and community based organization MCWA responds to the growing welfare needs of the Macedonian speaking community of Victoria by providing services in Macedonian and by assisting mainstream agencies to identify and address gaps in their service provision to the Macedonian speaking community. The MCWA currently runs projects throughout the state, with particular emphasis on the Northern and Western Metropolitan regions where large groups of the Macedonian community reside and community groups have developed.



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2014






MCWA
Responding to the growing needs of the Macedonian speaking community in Victoria
1800 988 767
www.mcwa.org.au
ethnic communities' council of victoria
www.eccv.org.au
Seniors Rights


MCWA





MISSION STATEMENT

MCWA Vision
To become a leader in the provision of the Macedonian speaking and CALD communities in community care in Australia

MCWA Mission
To advocate and be the voice for Macedonian people within Australian society by providing developmental support and building recognition and respect.

MCWA Values
Dedication and Creative
Patience, Loyalty and Passionate
Continuous learning and Innovative
Respect, Determined and
Team work

MCWA Commitment
Ongoing best practice and compliance
Delivering high client satisfaction services with multicultural quality
Ongoing building culture of respect and diversity
Open to partnership to other service providers and CALD communities.

president's report





President: Menka Kitanovski

It is a privilege to present the 31st Annual Report of the Macedonian Community Welfare Association for the 2013/2014 financial year. It has been a great pleasure to lead the organisation this year and I am honoured to be able to share with you the successes and growth of the organisation through this report.

The MCWA continues to be an integral part of the Macedonian community through its delivery of various programs, services and advocacy responsibilities.

I am very proud of the many successful programs the organisation has delivered this year including:

Macedonian Village Games
MCWA Macedonian Radio Program
HACC Access and Support
MCWA Complete Care
Multicultural PAG – a leading and innovative program
Ageing Communities Crime Prevention and Awareness
Partnership with ECCV on Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention in the Macedonian community

MCWA is renowned for the dedication of its staff and volunteers. Their enthusiasm, drive and perseverance are synonymous with the organisation and they are all valued contributors to the successes it has achieved. I also wish to pay special mention to the many volunteers of the organisation. Your dedication and contribution has been exemplary and has supported the organisation in immeasurable terms.

Essential to the success of any organisation are the many opportunities to work collaboratively with fellow community agencies but also with the government sector
and it has been a pleasure to have worked together with various organisations. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank everyone who has been involved in the successes of MCWA including funding bodies Victorian Department of Health, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Acknowledgement also to the City of Whittlesea, City of Brimbank, Carers Victoria, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Migrant Resource Centre North West, staff, volunteers and numerous community partners.

It is heart-warming and flattering to be recognised internationally for our vision, leadership and efforts as an organisation. I am very proud that this year MCWA received an Order of Merit Award from the President of the Republic of Macedonia for the work that is done for the Macedonian community here in Victoria. It is testament to the resilience and resolve of the organisation as a leading service delivery agency and this accolade should act as a constant reminder of our focus and mission to provide a high quality response to the needs of the Macedonian community across Victoria. I wish to acknowledge our Treasurer, Mr. Alan Serifoski for travelling to Macedonia on his own personal volition to accept this award and also Mr. Goran Torbakov for highlighting the tireless work that MCWA does on the ground for this community.

To my fellow committee members thankyou for your guidance, wisdom and support in steering MCWA over the last 12 months. In conclusion thank you to all members of the MCWA for your support and involvement in our various activities and programs throughout the year.

Menka Kitanovski
President

treasurer's report





Treasurer: Alan Serifoski

The Macedonian Community Welfare Assoc. Inc. significantly improved its position in the 2013/2014 financial year by increasing its net operating surplus to $87,161 and an increase of $66,158 on 2013. Overall funding receipts grew to $737,953 up by $53,918 in 2014, a slight increase of 7.9%, and overall operating cost remained in line with the previous financial year, falling slightly by 1.8% to $650,792. The financial results were exceptional and reflect the organisation's strong record of fiscal management.

Underpinning the organisation's positive results for the 2013/2014 financial year was the reversal of provisions totalling $54,500 for minor capital works and PAG activities that had been set aside in 2012/2013. Whilst management had directed funds to capital works in 2014 and PAG activity funding had been fully applied, there were no further grounds to retain the provisions that had been established in the prior year. After allowing for the abnormal items entity, operating entity cost grew to $705,292, a significant increase on the previous year by $96,760. The operating cost increase on last year was predominately associated with increase in staff remuneration and related costs, which rose by $88,643 in 2013. The increases in costs were cushioned in part by the increase in funding revenues the organisation was able to attract in the fiscal year.

After allowing for acquisition of two vehicles towards the end of the financial year, the organisation's cash reserves grew to $551,470 up $73,303 which was aided by a significant increase in prepaid project refund received towards the end of the fiscal year of $69,979. The organisations net assets position has improved to $440,019 up $87,162, and is well positioned for the 2014/2015 financial year.

The organisation's financial position remains sound and firm and it will continue to deliver and expand its valuable service to the Macedonian community without compromise. We thank the respective agencies for their ongoing funding support, the Committee of Management for their strategic vision, direction and management, and the staff that make the delivery of our services possible. I commend our auditors report ending 30 June 2014, and look back on this last year with much satisfaction.

Alan Serifoski
Treasurer

manager's report



Manager: Diana Sterjovska

It has been an action -packed and fulfilling year for the MCWA in service delivery, and I am proud to say our staff continued to do a wonderful job over the last twelve months to provide crucial services to the Macedonian community.

I am pleased to report that MCWA continue to improve the access to MCWA services to the community in the northern metro region with opening a satellite office in Mill Park Community Centre. Currently from this centre we are running our PAG groups.

This year, MCWA was a recipient of HACC growth funding for our service delivery in both Whittlesea and Brimbank, which has enabled us to increase our service delivery in both our Macedonian and our Multicultural PAG's to service a greater number of clients, as well as increasing our ability to provide the HACC Access and Support service in the Whittlesea area.

The continued expansion of our services in this financial year saw the creation of two new roles, those of the PAG Leaders for the Northern PAGs and for the Western PAGs. Blaga Petreska has taken on responsibility for the Northern region, while Nada Ristevska has taken on responsibility for the Western region.

MCWA was heavily involved in the collation of data by the City of Whittlesea in the Living Well 50+ Alliance research resource. This will be a key source of data for MCWA and highlights the changing demographics and future forecasts that will impact on the large Macedonian population in the area.

MCWA also worked with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) on the Elder Abuse Awareness and prevention project, which aimed to deliver culturally appropriate information about elder abuse. MCWA staff were trained to deliver in Macedonianlanguage community education about elder abuse and the support services available, and these have been very well received by the Macedonian community.

MCWA will also be working with ECCV and Palliative Care Victoria (PCV) on the Culturally Responsive Palliative Care Community Education Project, following a similar model to the Elder Abuse project. Following community consultation, a series of community education sessions will be rolled out in the Macedonian community.

MCWA was successful in receiving funding from the Commonwealth Government under the Community Visitors Scheme, a program to provide volunteers to visit members of the Macedonian community who are recipients of home care packages. This program will begin in the new financial year.

MCWA received funding under the Department of Health's CALD Seniors Participation Grants program to run a project targeting seniors who, due to changes in their circumstances, are no longer able to attend senior groups and other community activities. The project will aim, through a group with educational sessions, to provide community members with information, support and tools to return to attending groups and socialising within the community.

MCWA also received funding under the Workforce Integrated Network (WIN), following an analysis process that identified key recommendations. MCWA selected three of these recommendations – workforce planning, IT management and Governance – to implement changes. These changes are well on their way to being integrated into the organisations systems, processes and policies as well as engaging a consultant to work with the Committee of Management on the Governance framework.



MCWA also heavily contributed to feedback provided by the City of Whittlesea in a discussion paper about the transition of the HACC program from the Victorian government to the Commonwealth government.

MCWA has worked extremely hard on the ground over the last financial year to ensure both our clients and the wider community can see benefits from the work that we do. I trust that we have done this, and that you will be with us in future as we continue to meet these needs.

Manager
Diana Sterjovska

ACCESS AND SUPPORT

The MCWA Access and Support program continues to provide support to the Macedonian community by supporting consumers who due to their diversity, may have trouble accessing services.
The Access and Support program is decisive and acts as a strong link as a short term support between the consumer and the service system to ensure meaningful outcomes.

MEMORY LANE CAFE

MCWA's partnership program with Alzheimer's Australia Victoria and Memory Lane Café Program, continued in the 2013/2014 financial year, with engagement from the Macedonian, Polish, Vietnamese and Maltese communities. The program is targeted at providing a social avenue for people with dementia and their families.









PLANNED ACTIVITY GROUP (PAG)

The PAGs had increased funding, with growth funding allocated to two new PAG programs in the Whittlesea local government area. This also saw us employ three new staff members, two PAG Coordinators and a PAG Cook.

Our PAG programs in the Brimbank area were also fortunate to receive a growth in funding, with the services provided at our Thursday PAG extended to include more consumers. As such, another PAG Coordinator was employed to assist with the increase in the size of the group.

The MCWA Brimbank Multicultural PAG, which is being run in partnership with a number of other community organisations such as MRC North West, Maltese Community Council of Victoria and the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria, as well as with strong support and partnership from Brimbank City Council, also received HACC growth funding in this financial year. This enabled the appointment of a Turkish PAG support worker to provide additional support to the group.

Implementing individualised care plans that are culturally appropriate involve craft, outings and infomation sessions from State Trustee's, Arthritis Victoria, Stroke Foundation and many others. Consumers found these sessions engaging and useful and look forward to more in the coming year.













HEALTHY AGEING PROGRAM



The Sustainable Healthy Ageing project, funded by the Department of Social Services is a project that increases community engagement. The biggest highlight for the year was our Village Games event, held at the Macedonian Orthodox Monastery 'St. Prohor Pcinski' in Donnybrook. The event was well attended, with the highest number of participants in this annual event to date. With over 450 seniors present on the day, a dozen different traditional games played in Macedonia were played out on the day. A special thanks goes out in particular to the numerous volunteers who assisted both on the day and leading up to it, with over 286 volunteer hours recorded for this exciting event alone.











HOST A GARDEN

Our 'Host a Garden' program was also implemented this year, with two garden plots at Westvale Community Centre used for the project. A variety of vegetables and herbs were planted by participants. Once the vegitation matured it was used in the preperation of a Macedonian meal. Participants were very enthusiastic to be able to participate in the entire process, from planting to serving own grown vegtables.







VOLUNTEERS

A big thankyou must go out to our fantastic, hardworking volunteers. Our Volunteer Program saw twenty individuals engaged across MCWA's PAG's and Friendly Visiting Programs, with a further seventeen volunteers engaged with the preparation and delivery of the Village Games event. MCWA is pleased to report that over the previous financial year, over 2500 volunteer hours have been contributed.







Aceska Zorka
Acevski Slave
Acevski Stevan
Angelevska Suzana
Blazevski Trenco
Bosevska LJuba
Boskovska Slavica
Filipova Ilinka
Gesovska Nada
Gianitis Fotini
Janakievski Slave
Janakievski Stojan
Kadinski Jovan
Katerina Ivanova—Atanasova
Kotevska Slavka
Kotevska Sonja
Miocevic Vesna
Mircevski Ivan
Mitrevski Mitre
Necovski Jane
Necovski Bone
Rabadievska Panda
Ristevska Cvetanka
Shristou Sophia
Stevanovska Draga
Talevska Vera
Temelkoska Ljuba
Thomasson Helen
Trajkovska Petra
Vitkovski Sanda

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A variety of information sessions were organised by our Special Projects Department for the various MCWA Planned Activity Groups (PAGs) over the financial year, including State Trustee's, Arthritis Victoria, Stroke Foundation and many others. Consumers found these sessions engaging and useful and look forward to more in the coming year. This collaboration also enabled MCWA to build stronger relationships with the various organisations.

PLENTY VALLEY RADIO

MCWA has developed a partnership with Plenty Valley FM, and will broadcast a weekly hour long program providing information about its services, as well as providing information that is vital to community members about available services within their local area. The program is broadcast at 9pm on Wednesday evenings on 88.6FM.



CARER'S SUPPORT NETWORK

The aim of our 'Carer's Social Support Network' project was to establish a self-sustaining carer's network that would bring together carers from Macedonian speaking backgrounds. Some of the benefits already seen for members of the group include the establishment of friendships and a greater understanding of the support mechanisms available to better support carers in their role.

CRIME PREVENTION

The 'Crime Prevention and Awareness Project' was completed over a three month period, ending in April of this year. Ten education sessions were successfully conducted across the North/West metropolitan region and across Geelong. The information sessions provided Macedonian seniors with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills to become safe and secure in their home and in the community. The sessions were conducted by Police Crime Prevention Officers and the Crime Stoppers Multilingual Media Manager. Over 650 participants were provided with around 2000 brochures in English and Macedonian.





COMPLETE CARE

The MCWA Complete Care Program provides home care for elderly consumers and those with a disability. The Complete Care Program provides clients with quality care and support while remaining in their own homes. The program provides the following services: home care, personal care, respite care and overnight care. All staff working within the Complete Care Department are bilingual and experienced in providing culturally appropriate services. 896 hours of Complete Care were recorded during the last year.

ABBOT FR. GAVRIL GALEV

Father Gavril has a Bachelor of Theology and extensive community involvement through the Monastery "St Prohor Pcinski" in Donnybrook. He also established the Macedonian Orthodox Youth Association in Victoria.

ALEKSANDAR MOJSOVSKI

Aleksandar is a graduate of International Studies/International Trade (majoring in Politics) and has a profound interest in community based programs. Involvement with the Macedonian community has always been one of Aleksandar's highest priorities which has been reflected in his recent involvement in organising various events.

TANAS SEKULOVSKI

Tanas has worked as a labourer at Holden for 23 years. He is very passionate about improving the systems that help the Macedonian Community in Victoria. He is also the current President of the Senior Group in Ardeer.

IRENA VELJANOVA

Irena is a qualified doctor in Social Science with her doctoral thesis entitled 'Ethnicity, Health & Health Capital: The case of 'Macedonians in Australia' currently under examination. She is also a casual academic at UWS with four years demonstrated teaching experience across various sociology and community welfare subjects with the School of Social Sciences (2006 -2010).

JIM MARKOVSKI

Jim has an extensive knowledge in the fields of youth, community, recreation and sport. He has obtained – Bachelor of Arts majoring in youth affairs; Diploma in Community Services (Alcohol and Other Drugs and Mental Health); Associate Diploma in Recreation Leadership and Certificate IV in Assessment and Work Training. Jim has over 29 years experience working in the western suburbs of Melbourne. He is also a casual Collector with the Australian Sport Anti – Doping Authority and Medvet Sciences Pty Ltd.

committee of management

KRISTINA RISTESKI

Kristina is full time carer and has over 12 years experience in community work and holds a Community Development Certificate. Kristina is currently a carer facilitator, helping those who care for clients with mental health issues with the North West Mental Health and Carers Victoria. Kristina facilitates a carers respite group and is on CAG & C/CAG communities at North West Mental Health.

DR MAJA SIMOSKI

Dr Maja was born in Skopje, Macedonia and completed Medical University in Varna, Bulgaria. She migrated to Australia in November 2007 and is currently employed by the Southern Health as a Medical doctor. She is involved in the Medical Graduates thorough Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation. In the past she has worked as a social worker for Salvation Army with homeless people and she has a genuine interest in helping people with special needs and she is looking forward to her contribution for better future of the Macedonian Community.

GORAN TORBAKOV

Qualification: Bch of Business Administration in Finance and International Finances
Head of the Coordination and Cooperation Department and Chief of Staff of the CEO of the Employment Agency of Republic of Macedonia under the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.
Advisor to the Prime Minister for Foreign Investments and Diaspora
Chairman of the Shareholders Assembly of Macedonian Telecom

MENKA KITANOVSKI

Menka Kitanovski is currently a Multicultural Services Officer for the Department of Human Services. Menka has extensive experience working within the federal government sector with prior roles within Centrelink and Department of Social Security as a Multicultural Service Officer, Team Leader and Policy Advisor. Menka has a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma in Community Justice and holds NAATI Level 2 accreditation as a Macedonian interpreter. Menka has over 15 years experience working with the Macedonian community in Geelong and in the Western Region of Melbourne.

ALAN SERIFOSKI

Alan is a Regional Business Manager for Commonwealth Bank. He has also served in the past as the executive member of the Macedonian Community Council of Victoria.

service awards



5 year and more

Liljana Sajkarovska
Blagica Petreska
Lila Marusevska
Slobodanka Trajkovski

10 year and more

Mirjana Stojanovska

15 year and more

Diana Sterjovska

notes

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MCWA

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Македонска Добротворна Организација

Permanent Staff

Diana Sterjovska
Manager

Liljana Sajkarovska
Financial/HR Department Coordinator

Lila Marusevska
Aged Care Department Coordinator

Slobodanka Trajkovski
Special Projects Department Coordinator
(up to 2013)

Ljupka Arsovski
Reception and Administration

Mirjana Stojanovska
PAG Coordinator

Blaga Petreska
PAG Leader

Katerina Mitrevska
PAG Coordinator

Valentina Coceski
PAG Dementia Coordinator

Daniela Tomanoski
Special Projects

Snezana Rizeska
PAG Coordinator
and Carer

Nade Ristevska
Special Projects Department Coordinator
and PAG Leader

Sonja Rolevska
PAG Coordinator

Sonja Kotevska
PAG Coordinator

Sonja Spasoski
PAG Coordinator
and Carer

Tatjana Ristevska
PAG Coordinator

Gordana Dujak
PAG Coordinator
and PAG Cook

Aneta Tasevski
PAG Coordinator
and Carer

Dragi Koteski
PAG Cook

Veska Paskoski
PAG Cook

Josif Janevski
PAG Cook Assistant

Casual Staff

Nada Gesovska
Carer

Suzana Stankovic
Carer

Suzana Angelovska
Carer

