

MCWA

Macedonian Community Welfare Association
Македонска Добротворна Организација

26th Annual Report
2008/09



Shop 19,
1 Princess St
St Albans 3021
Ph: 9310 7566
Fax: 9310 7588
Free call number
1800 988 767

www.mcwa.org.au

President's Report

It is my honour and privilege to present the Macedonian Community Welfare Association's 26th Annual Report.

Having celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2008, I am delighted to report that MCWA continues to be one of the forerunners in delivering effective, penetrative ethno specific services. The continual growth of both our established and newly implemented programs and projects, our position as an information central for the Macedonian community, stable financial position, and our developed networks have helped MCWA become a leader and long term stakeholder within the Macedonian community.

2009 was a defining year for MCWA as it marked the conclusion of our 2006-2009 Three Year Strategic Plan, which I am pleased to announce set some crucial goals for our organisation to truly grow, and which, thanks to the staff, clients, Committee of Management and funding providers, was successfully implemented as each goal was addressed and met. After an in depth planning process with both staff and Committee of Management, a new Strategic plan has been outlined and implemented for the 2009-2012 three year frame.

The strategies decided upon as important factors to MCWA's continual growth and success in service provision are:

Strategic Priority 1:

Increasing community knowledge of MCWA and its visibility within the community.

The methods of achieving this strategic goal identified include the ongoing marketing of MCWA via different mediums and methods, Service promotion through different community groups and interstate Macedonian organisations, Community education and the goal of eventual facilities in the Northern metropolitan region to address the growing needs of the Macedonian speaking aged population in these areas.

Strategic Priority 2:

Expanding service delivery to the Macedonian community.

To achieve this crucial goal MCWA has selected a number of different aspects which need to be addressed. These include the expansion of established programs, the diversification and expansion of new programs and projects, the undertaking of a joint project with a university partner to focus a study on the exploration and documentation of social welfare needs within the Macedonian community of Victoria, and the purchase of a small transportation vehicle for MCWA to help facilitate continued participation of the ageing Macedonian community, as well as to provide workers with the ability to better access clients living in the north, as well as those living in rural/regional areas.

Strategic Priority 3:

Building a People's Resource and a Skills Bank for MCWA.

The success of this priority depends on MCWA's ability to access community resources in the form of Community Advisory boards, volunteer networks and with the solidification of partnerships with other non-government organisations and religious institutions. The development of a Volunteer Recruitment Plan and Policy, as well as the continued involvement of past Committee of Management members in specific projects and initiatives will also contribute to the implementation of this strategy.

The Macedonian Community Welfare Association is already well on its way to successfully pursuing and applying these strategies, with the continuation of its Planned Activity Groups in Brimbank, Wyndham and Whittlesea, as well as the continuation of the Multicultural PAG in Brimbank. The Community Partners Project has also successfully being granted funding for the next three financial years, which will ensure the development of resources and education seminars for aged care facilities working with Macedonian residents.

The addition of the Whittlesea PAG Core and High has also helped to further establish MCWA's reputation and client base in the Northern region, as well as giving us a greater insight into the level of needs that are unaddressed in the area. With the addition of another Supported Access Project (SAP) Officer, the Macedonian Community Welfare is now better equipped to address these needs.

The Macedonian Community Welfare also held the launch of one of its biggest resources this year with the completion and distribution of the Drug and Alcohol DVD 'Don't let this Generation disappear'. This DVD is targeted at parents and grandparents of the Macedonian speaking youth of today to help them educate themselves about the different drugs available and the warning signs and effects of drug and alcohol abuse. The launch was held at the Darebin Arts & Convention Centre where the DVD was shown to an enthralled audience and received high praise from all attending.

I would also like to recognise the continuing support MCWA receives from funding bodies, through the Home and Community Care Program from the Department of Human Services, Department of Health and Ageing as well as from

HACC Social Support Programs

P.A.G's

MCWA currently runs four Macedonian P.A.G groups, two in the Western Metropolitan Region (Brimbank and Wyndham) and two in the Northern Metropolitan Region (Both in Whittlesea).

These groups were established to assist frail and isolated elderly or disabled peoples to reenter their community on a social level. The three day groups do a wide range of activities including craftwork, games, and gentle exercise. The Whittlesea evening group meets once weekly in a different restaurant in their local area with an emphasis on Macedonian cuisine. All four groups attend excursions and recently attended the Tesselaar Tulip Festival along with the Multicultural PAG Groups.

Friendly Visiting Program

MCWA currently runs Friendly Visiting programs in both the Northern and Western Metropolitan regions of Victoria. The program has a large number of clients whom it assists by keeping them connected to the community via connections with volunteers. This program also assists us to determine the needs of clients and how they can be met.

Supported Access Project - SAP

The aim of the SAP Project is ensuring people from a CALD background have equitable access to HACC and other related community services.

So far SAP Project has been successful in many aspects:

- An overwhelming response from clients who need assistance with personal care, home help and respite;
- A significant number of Macedonian elderly and disabled people, and their carers have been assisted in overcoming the barriers when accessing and negotiating HACC and other related services;
- Encouraged people to live independently in their own home for as long as possible and helped in delaying premature admission to long term residential care;
- Enabled people to make choices about services that meet their needs;

Further to this, the SAP Project has assisted in developing culturally tailored services by engaging in partnerships with the primary service providers. When services are customized to the clients' needs, it will result in positive outcomes to those receiving them.

Community Partners Project - CPP

MCWA has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to continue to implement the Community Partnership Program (CPP). The aim of the program is to identify and address specific barriers to accessing community and residential aged care services encountered by the Macedonian speaking elderly, to increase community awareness of the aged care system and to develop partnerships between the Macedonian Community and aged care service providers. A series of information forums about available aged care options were organised for the senior groups as well as cultural briefings for the aged care service providers to increase awareness about issues affecting Macedonian speaking elderly.

The CPP Project is community driven by the Community Consultative Board established at the beginning of the program. The new resources have been developed in consultation with the Board and the Macedonian Orthodox Church and have become an addition to the Macedonian Culture Kit (MEDIMATE booklet, developed in partnership with National Prescribing Services Ltd., 'Death and Dying in the Macedonian Community' booklet and a CUE Chart consisting of 54 most used basic communication words in Macedonian and English). All of these resources have been published and are available as downloadable content on the MCWA website. They have also proven to be valuable educational tools for service providers.

CPP 2009-10 upcoming resources to be developed are a DVD documentary, 'Life Through THEIR Eyes', a PowerPoint presentation of 'Death and Dying in the Macedonian Community' available to service providers, as well as an updated version of the Religious Calendar

Mission Statement 2009

To advocate and be a voice for Macedonian people within Australian Society by providing developmental support and building recognition and respect.

Multicultural PAG

The Brimbank Multicultural PAG Group is aimed to better service socially isolated people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This group is run in partnership with MCWA, City of Brimbank, Migrant Resource Centre North West, Maltese Community Council of Victoria and Association of Ukrainians in Victoria.

Currently there are two groups, Dementia and PAG High, that meet on alternating Fridays. The nationalities in the group are: Macedonian, Turkish, Maltese, German and Ukrainian.

The Multicultural PAG has had an action packed year, with excursion to the Siren's restaurant, the Galli Winery, the Tessellaar Tulip festival and with its celebration of its 1st anniversary.

The group also had the opportunity to celebrate both Easter and Ramadan, with traditional customs and cuisine.

The Multicultural PAG celebrated its 1st anniversary with a showcase of some traditional music, dancing and cuisine of all the different cultures represented in the group. The event was celebrated by clients, carers and DHS workers were also in attendance on the day.

Treasurer Report

The total income for the 2008-2009 Financial year in excess of \$ 431,469.00 representing an increase of 12% over the year before mainly driven by project grants.

Total expenditure for the year was less in line with expectations resulting in a healthy surplus of nearly \$92,000 and therefore MCWA decides this surplus to be accommodated in addition to the service provision with investing in 2324 hours over the next twelve months.

I would like to express appreciation to the funding bodies for their support managed by our organization.

Anne Coall

Treasurer



Manager's Report

I am pleased to report that four of MCWA's groundbreaking projects are now well in progress – Multicultural PAG, Supported Access Pilot Project, the extension of PAG's in the Whittlesea Local Government Area and the Community Partners Project . These projects are developing exceptional resources and moving MCWA towards accomplishing many outstanding results.

In the 2008-2009 financial year, MCWA delivered 6268 hours in Social Support Programs to support community needs for approximately 150 members of the community, through the work of staff and volunteers who are committed, professional and compassionate, as well as through the work of the Committee of Management, with their dedication and direction.

This year MCWA had the opportunity to receive guests from the Parliamentary Group from the Republic of Macedonia who highlighted the outstanding work of MCWA within the community in Victoria as an example and inspiration of successful delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate services for the Macedonian speaking Diaspora.

It is with great pleasure that I present the MCWA Annual Report 2009, showcasing a tremendous year of determined effort and accomplishment. Our achievements in service provision coupled with our holistic approach and persistent commitment to excellence of community care has helped us to continually move forward.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone who has been associated with MCWA, particularly the funding bodies that are supporting us to continue to go from strength to strength.

Diana Sterjovska

Manager

Annual Report

President's Report cont...

the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

I would like to thank the present Committee of Management for its tireless and enthusiastic contribution over the year, and its ongoing commitment to continue the work of all the committees involved throughout the previous years. Their valuable contribution and vision for the organisation was an integral part of the Strategic planning process and we look forward to their ongoing involvement in the realisation of these goals over the next three years and the future.

I would also like to extend an acknowledgement to the dedication of the staff in their service delivery and work within the community, with clients, volunteers and members of the committee. With our workforce continually growing, it serves to reaffirm our belief that our organisation and its services are truly vital to the wellbeing of the Macedonian community. I would also like to make a mention of the tireless work of our volunteers, both within the office environment, in the Friendly Visiting programs and with the P.A.G groups. Their commitment has helped to give MCWA that extra level in addressing community needs.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of our members for their continual support, and I invite you to celebrate another landmark successful year for the Macedonian Community Welfare Association, and to look ahead to the future growth of this organisation.

Kristina Risteski

President

Претседателски Извештај



Моја чест и привилегија е да го презентирам 26-от Годишен Репорт на Македонската Добротворна Организација.

После прославувањето на 25 годишнината од постоењето на Македонската Добротворна Организација, чест ми е да информирам дека оваа организација продолжува да биде една од најпризнатите организации од овој вид, преку нејзината позиција како информативно тело, вклучувајќи ги и многубројните сервиси, постоечки и ново имплементирани проекти и програми кои се достапни за Македонската заедница во Викторија.

2009 година беше дефинирачка година за MCWA, затоа што го обележа завршетокот на нашиот 2006-2009 три годишен Стратешки План, кој благодарение на нашиот персонал, клиентелата и Управата беше успешно имплементиран. После детално планирање со персоналот и Управата, беше зацртан новиот Стратешки План за следните три години 2009-2012.

Новите стратегии, како важни фактори за успехот и развојот на MCWA се:

Стратешки Приоритет 1

Континуирано и интензивно информирање на Македонската Заедница за MCWA и нејзината достапност и визибилитет. Овој стратешки приоритет би се постигнал преку методот на промовирање на сервисите во медиумите во заедницата, пензионерски групи и меѓународни Македонски организации.

Стратешки Приоритет 2

Проширување на сервисите на Македонската Добротворна Организација

За постигнување на оваа цел, MCWA има селектирано неколку различни аспекти кои треба да се адресираат. Овие вклучуваат проширување на веќе постоечките програми, разновидност на нови програми и проекти, заеднички проекти со Универзитети со цел да се направи студија и истражување за социјалните потреби на Македонците во Викторија, како и набавување на транспортно возило со цел да се овозможи активно учество на постарата генерација Македонци.

Стратешки Приоритет 3

Зголемување на човечки ресурси и способности за MCWA

Успехот на овој приоритет зависи од способноста на MCWA да има пристап до ресурсите во заедницата во форма на Консултативни одбори, мрежа на волонтери и преку партнерство со други невладини организации и религиозни институции.

Македонската Добротворна Организација веќе е на пат кон успешно имплементирање на овие стратегии, преку

Претседателски Извештај ...

континуираната работа на Групите со Планирани Активности во Brimbank, Wyndham и Whittlesea, како и на Мултикултурната Група во Brimbank. Исто така, програмата Community Partners Program беше успешна во апликацијата за продолжување на фондот и ќе продолжи во наредните три години.

Додавањето на Групата со Планирани Активности (висок и низок степен на нега) во регионот Whittlesea, допринесе да се зацврсти репутацијата на организацијата во северниот дел. Исто така, проектот Supported Access (SAP), доби дополнителен работник со што Македонската Добротворна Организација е подобро опремена за да ги сретне потребите на заедницата.

MCWA го промовира еден од најголемите ресурси оваа година, со комплетирањето и дистрибуцијата на DVD-то “Не Дозволувајте да Исчезнат Идните Генерации”. Ова DVD е наменето за родители и баби и дедовци на млади луѓе од Македонско говорно потекло со цел да се едуцираат и да се предупредат на првите знаци на користење на дрога и алкохол. Оваа промоција беше одржана во Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

Исто така, би сакала да се заблагодарам за постојаната финансиска поддршка што MCWA ја добива од владини служби, како Министерството за Човечки Ресурси и Викториската Мултикултурна Комисија.

Би сакала да им се заблагодарам на сите членови на Управата за нивната неуморна и ревносна контрибуција оваа година. Нивната посветеност и визијата што ја имаат за организацијата беше интегрален дел од Стратешкото Планирање.

Исто така Би сакала да им се заблагодарам на персоналот на Македонската Добротворна Организација за нивната работа со програмите и проектите, сервисите, волонтерите, клиентите и заедницата во глобала. Континуираното зголемување на бројот на вработени е потврда за вистинската неопходност на нашите сервиси. Би сакала да ја напомам и неуморната работа на нашите волонтери, како во канцелариите на MCWA, така и во Програмата за Пријателска Посета и Групите со Планирани Активности.

Како крај, Би сакала да им се заблагодарам на сите наши членови за нивната постојана поддршка, и да Ве поканам да прославиме уште една значајна година за Македонската Добротворна Организација, со желба за успешна иднина и развој на оваа организација.

Staff members

Diana Sterjovska
Manager

Antoaneta Janeva
SAPP Officer

Mirjana Stojanovska
PAG Coordinator Western Region

Slobodanka Trajkovski
CPP Officer

Blaga Petreska
HACC Coordinator Northern Region

Lena Kocovska
CPP Project Officer (up to July 09)

Liljana Sajkarovska
Administration & Payroll Officer
Multicultural PAG Coordinator
Hristina Petkovska
Dementia Support Worker (up to May 09)

Valentina Coseski
Dementia Support Worker (from April 09)

Desanka Bogoevska
PAG Cook (from May 09)

Elena Petreska
Community Development Officer
(from April 09)

Lila Marusevska
SAPP Officer (from May 09)



Committee members

Kristina Risteski - President
Atanas Sekulovski - Vice President
Anne Coall - Treasurer
Goran Torbakov - Secretary
Abbot Fr Gavril Galev
Louise (Ljubica) Talevska

Jim Markovski
Jordanka Popevska
Lenna Popovski
Milan Stojanovski

