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AUSTRALIAN-  
POLISH  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

*first*

ANNUAL REPORT

1983-1984

1 FRENCH STREET, FOOTSCRAY 3011.

tel. 689 9170 or 689 2391

AUSTRALIAN POLISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 1983 - 1984

PRESIDENT: Zbigniew S. Dabkowski  
Ist VICE-PRESIDENT: Stanislaw W. Nowak  
IIInd VICE PRESIDENT: Danuta Jagmin  
TREASURER: Jan Talaska  
SECRETARY: Zofia Skarbek  
MEMBERS: Magdalena Rozycka  
Danuta Kolodynska  
John Cielinski  
Jerzy Kowalczuk  
Tadeusz Sokolowski

STAFF:

Grant-In-Aid Social Welfare Worker - Teresa Bien  
CO-Ordinator E.I.P. Workers - Wanda Dabkowski  
E.I.P. Welfare Workers for the Aged - Magda Dals  
Maria Betley - Smyk  
Janusz Filipczak  
Nina Gawlik

VOLUNTEERS:

Kamila Szlawska  
Krystyna Weiss  
Kamila Czech  
A. Otwinowska  
J. Aleksandrowicz

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure to present to you the First Annual Report of Australian - Polish Community Services and wish to comment briefly on several matters.

ESTABLISHMENT

APCS was established as an independent organization at the inaugural meeting on the 10th May 1983.

The aim of this organization is to serve the needs of disadvantaged target group in our Victorian Polish descent community, particularly the aged and the recently arrived refugee settlers.

We service the aged who have lived in Australia for many years. Their command of English is often limited; there is a falling-off of language proficiency in old age, it is difficult for them to know and to use the normal services for the aged. They come to us for information, recreation and often only for a friendly chat.

The substantial funding of Government - Federal and State - is acknowledged with thanks for without them our work would have been impossible.

My sincere thanks to our programme coordinator for her hard and inovative work, to our EIP workers whose enthusiasm contributed greatly to the success of this programme, to our Social Welfare Worker for her professional application to her position.

To my colleagues of the Management Committee I express my gratitude for their support and cooperation.

Thank you for the invaluable contributions of our volunteers.

Detaiked reports of our Social Wekfare Worker and Coordinator are included.

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE PROGRAMME (E.I.P.) WORKERS AND  
GRAND-IN-AID SOCIAL WELFARE WORKER.

There were four full-time workers including the coordinator under E.I.P. funding, (duration of funding thirty two weeks). Their main objective was to develop the most practical and effective strategy of delivery of our services: socio-recreational, health, welfare information - to the participants of our centres. Editions of monthly information bulletins and song-books were produced.

Their work with APCS was supplemented by a training course of twenty two weeks in general ethnic work and was conducted at Victoria College in Clayton.

The Social Welfare Worker is employed under G.I.A. funding for a period of three years. Her main objective is to provide casework services for the Polish elderly and new-settlers in the Western Suburbs and St. Kilda Area and to be involve in community work.

The office acts as first point of contact for all persons of the Polish community who need welfare services or assistance of any kind.

OFFICE

We have successfully established our office at 1 French Street, Footscray 3011, tel. 689 9170 or 689 2391.

We use this office by the curtesy of MRC Footscray. Fortunately no rent was charged for the use of the office space - we greatly appreciate this help.

Equipment for the office was purchased from grants received from Government Departments.

Our Social Welfare Worker spends one day per week at 1 St. Leonards Av. St. Kilda Community Health Centre.

CONCLUSION

I believe, much has been achieved by APCS during this short term. We have uncovered very responsive Polish community.

Judging by the number of participants in our centres - Footscray, Ardeer, Glenroy, St. Kilda and Springvale - APCS has unveiled the potential to establish a long term organization whose function is aimed at satisfying the varied needs of the community.

In view of this I believe that this organization is most worthy of sustained governmental support.

3.10.1984.

COORDINATORS REPORT E.I.P

It has been an extremely busy 8 months for all of us. We began the programme hoping to learn a great deal from our elderly people and the experience of working. I am glad to say this was the case.

We began centres for elderly Australian Polish people in Footscray, Ardeer, Glenroy, and our most recent centre in Springvale which is in the developmental stage. For these people we run weekly meetings and exercise classes to increase mobility, to increase awareness and to generally stimulate the mind and body.

In the St. Kilda area we formed a centre for recent Polish migrants-refugees where they met for companionship, information and aerobic classes for the women.

Our programme developed around information sessions, recreational sessions and excursions. The atmosphere during all the activities was friendly and relaxed. An important aspect of our work was the gathering and transferring of information requested by our participants. In order to transfer information we developed a network and liason with other community agencies, local governments, Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. Apart from this element in our work in which we all participated we had different responsibilities according to our different talents. I feel this functioned extremely well. It enabled us to extend ourselves and by working together expansion of our talents was facilitated.

Our work team consisted of :

Magda Dals

Janusz Filipczak

Maria Betley-Smyk

Wanda Dabkowski

Maria Betley-Smyk moved to Sydney and was replaced by Nina Gawlik.

The information sessions covered topics on medicare, taxation, pensions, insurance, legal matters and a physician discussing general medical problems. The gatherings revolved around open discussions over morning tea.

The recreational sessions consisted of slide shows, Polish films, art and craft exhibitions, lunches, and Polish artists entertaining large groups of people for a couple of hours.

We organized 15 excursions that were of great value and benefit to our elderly in fostering and furthering new friendships. The change of environment was also of benefit to many. The list of excursions follows, Werribee Park, Zoological Gardens, Mushroom trip, Corowa, 2 Polish films, Bendigo, 2 dinners in the Dandenongs, lunch with the Italian and Dutch pensioners, Portland (6 days), Canberra (3 days), piano recital, and a musical show.

The total number of participants for the excursions were 1119 people. Our special gathering was during Easter when we had an Easter Breakfast attended by 180 people.

The total number of participants at our centres on a weekly basis over the 8 month period were 2036 at Ardeer, 1722 at Footscray, 160 at Glenroy, 20 at Springvale, 340 at St.Kilda.

A grand total of 4278 Australian Polish citizens.

The exercise classes were extremely popular and successful, with many people saying they felt better after attending over a period of time. The classes are conducted for both men and women at two centres, Footscray 511 people and Ardeer 220 people. The aerobics classes in St.Kilda were attended by 79 women.

On behalf of myself and my work mates I would like to thank the Australian Polish Community Services for the opportunities it has created for us.

Wanda Dabkowski

GRAND-IN-AID SOCIAL WELFARE WORKER'S REPORT

I was appointed by the APCS as a Grand-IN-Aid Aocial Welfare Worker on the 12th of April 1984. My responsibilities are as follows:

- to provide casework service
- to establish an information and welfare centre
- counselling, consultancy, advocacy, referals
- to reserch the needs and problems within the Polish community.

For the past five months I was involved in:

- organizing welfare services in our agency
- various training sessions organized by D.I.E.A. on ethnic welfare matters
- developing liason with various welfare agencies dealing with simmlar problems
- activities of G.I.A. workers group and Migrant Issue Task Group in St. Kilda
- numner of seminars and meetings: Emergency Relife Service, Ethnic Council for the Aged, seminars on Mental Health and Migrants, etc.
- meetings of the Polish groups and clubs in order to assist participants
- and most of the time in direct casework.

The target groups are Polish elderly (Western Suburbs) and recently arrived Polish refugees (Western suburbs and St. Kilda area).

In order to develop better welfare services and to identify the needs within the Polish community, I together with the coordinator of E.I.P. workers - developed a questionnaire.

On the basis of this questionnaire a survey was recently conducted among members of our senior's group and other Polish elderly.

Since the 20th of September I have not had the assistance of the E.I.P. workers whose program has terminated. However, before they left they organized in advance number of meetings for our seniors.

At the present I am in the process of trainig voluntary workers; some of them are already helping me in the office.

In terms of my contract of employment I have to prepare quarterly reports to the D.I.E.A.



AUSTRALIAN-POLISH COMMUNITY SERVICES.

POLISH REFUGEE AND AGED PROJECT E.I.P. 0832.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT NO.1 AS AT 30.9.84.

RECEIPTS.		\$	\$
E.I.P. Grants		58356.65	
Donations		700.00	
Membership fees		72.00	
Excursions	16913.50		
<u>Less expenditure</u>	<u>15095.50</u>	1818.00	60946.65
<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>			
Advertising		16.00	
Auditing		75.00	
Bookkeeping		960.00	
Door lock		55.00	
Electricity		640.00	
M.R.C. Action Fund		150.00	
Office equipment		1115.90	
Printing&stationery		296.93	
Radio & Cassettes		108.30	
Salaries		47232.05	
State & Federal taxes		53.40	
Sundries & Petty cash		315.11	
Telephone & Postage		576.42	
Training		3560.00	
Travelling expenses		1967.55	
Workers Compensation Insurance		906.86	58028.52
Balance at Bank as at 24.9.84.		9592.68	
Les unrepresented cheques			
658237	1257.20		
658238	2365.00		
658240	528.00		
658241	42.00		
658242	112.85		
658243	240.00		
658244	2129.50	6674.55	2918.13

J.B.Talaska



Treasurer

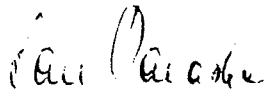
AUSTRALIAN-POLISH COMMUNITY SERVICES.

GRANT IN AID

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT NO.2 AS AT 30.9.84.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	\$	\$
G.I.A. GRANTS	14511.83	
Ministry of Employ. & Ind. Subsidy	1700.00	16211.83
 <u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>		
Advertising	239.50	
Office equipment	1874.37	
Petty cash & Sundries	242.00	
Printing & Stationery	43.84	
Salaries	8478.90	
Sponsorship Polish Artistic Crew	100.00	
State & Federal taxes	8.60	
Telephone & Postage	155.82	
Travelling expenses	40.50	
Registrar fees	60.00	11243.53
 Balance as per Cash Book as at 30.9.84.		
		4968.30

J.B.Talaska



Treasurer