



# Annual Report 2024-2025

Australian-Filipino Community Services



# Purpose

**Australian-Filipino Community Services is Community Service Organisation (CSO) and Registered Charity supporting Filipinos in Australia.**

**Our aims are:**

- 1.** To promote Filipino migrants' wellbeing and their rights to better economic, cultural and political life in Australia;
- 2.** To provide services to disadvantaged community members;
- 3.** To support and assist Filipino community groups;
- 4.** To establish partnerships with other relevant organisations on issues of common concern to benefit the Filipino community;
- 5.** To facilitate assistance to activities and projects in the Philippines.

## Australian-Filipino Community Services **Strategic Plan** 2022-2026



**CLINICAL  
GOVERNANCE**

**EXPAND SERVICES  
AND SUPPORT  
TO FAMILIES AND  
YOUNGER PERSONS**



**CELEBRATE  
FILIPINO  
CULTURE AND  
HERITAGE**

**BUILD  
OUR CHARITY**



**SERVICE  
SUSTAINABILITY**

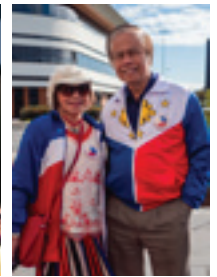
**STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIPS**



**EFFECTIVE  
MARKETING**



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# Chairperson's Message

The present is now. Seize the day! Together as we journey in life we collectively endeavour to serve to the best of our expertise and generosity of goodwill.

AFCS continues with courage, energy and joy of providing exemplary services. Our staff, volunteers and participants thrive and draw strength from each other. Our collective search for excellence and purpose takes us steps closer to our tremendous growth and fulfilment.

I'd like to make special mention of the terrific work of our Philippines Outreach Projects. These initiatives are a testament to the success and impact of AFCS in Australia. Because of our strong foundation, built through strategic partnerships, community trust, and culturally responsive service delivery, we are now able to transfer knowledge, resources, and care back to the Philippines. This is our way of giving back and supporting our older kababayans with dignity and connection.

Importantly, our work is also attracting increased support from local government, further validating the value of our programs and expanding our capacity to serve. A few events worth highlighting during October 2024:

- National Seniors Week celebration of 'Healthy Brain, Healthy Life' in Trece Martirez, Cavite
- Partnered with the Luzon Convention and delivered Senior Adults Ministry Leadership Training with Dr Lyn De Laza 'Understanding Older Persons and their Ageing Brain'
- National Elderly Week Seniors' Walk in Baguio City in partnership with the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO)
- The CFO and the Luzon Convention supported by Alzheimer's Disease Association of the Philippines (ADAP) 'Healthy Brain, Healthy Life' Seniors' Walk in Alfonso, Cavite.

The AFCS Board finds happiness when everyone supports people of goodwill. We embrace principles of purpose and integrity. Together we have stood the challenges of the present and always look for the best in all areas of our influence.

The community impact from programs and services we delivered and will continue to do, sustains our enthusiasm and empowers us to respond to the tasks ahead.

Life awaits beyond the present that greatly surpasses this one in every way!

Praise and glory to GOD our Heavenly Father for all these blessings!



*Gerardo Ocampo*

**Gerardo Ocampo**  
Chairperson



Chairperson  
Gerry Ocampo  
speaking during  
the Senior Adults  
Ministry Leadership  
Training in Cavite



Photo credit. Commission on Filipinos Overseas

# Community Based Personal Care: A Culturally Specific Approach

In November 2024, we launched an innovative pilot program introducing a community-based approach to Personal Care, a vital aged care service under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and accessible through My Aged Care. Personal Care typically includes assistance with daily living activities such as showering, dressing, and grooming, which are essential for maintaining dignity, independence, and wellbeing.

## Personal Care Grooming, the Filipino Way!

Through years of experience serving hundreds of older people, we have observed that Personal Care often begins with light tasks and gradually progresses to more complex needs. Recognising this, we sought to create a model that makes Personal Care approachable, culturally appropriate, and culturally specific, ensuring that older people feel respected and comfortable in the service setting. This approach also helps break down barriers to accessing services for older Filipinos who may feel hesitant or unfamiliar with mainstream aged care options.

Our Community Based Personal Care initiative was designed to do just that. Delivered in a warm, home-like environment at our Filipino Charity House, the program offers services such as haircuts, manicures, pedicures, and facial shaves, simple yet meaningful acts of care that encourage clients to leave their homes, connect with others, and enjoy a sense of community.

Participants get to see friends over coffee and snacks in the Reminiscing Garden, have service chats with bilingual staff, and even potter around in the garden and harvest some taro!

*“ They come for the service and leave with so much more! ”*

— Maria Yap, our Care Coordinator for Aged Care Services

This pilot has demonstrated that Personal Care can be more than a task. It can be an experience that promotes dignity, confidence, and cultural connection. By embedding care within a culturally specific community setting, we are not only meeting physical needs but also addressing social isolation and reducing the hesitation many older Filipinos feel about accessing aged care services. This culturally specific service is proudly funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

## Recognition

Our innovative approach received national attention when it was featured in KeepAble's Reablement in Practice video series, highlighting how culturally appropriate, community-based models can empower older Australians to maintain independence and wellbeing.

Australian-Filipino Community Services



### Community-Based Personal Care

- Haircuts
- Manicures
- Pedicures
- Men's Facial Shave



This aged care service is supported by the Department of Health and Aged Care



Tito Reynaldo Dela Cruz harvesting some rosemary and taro in the Reminiscing Garden while his wife has her haircut

Scan the QR code to view KeepAble's Reablement in Practice video: Personal Care with Social Benefits



# Message from the Mayor of City of Casey

It has been a privilege to witness and support the incredible work of the Australian Filipino Community Services (AFCS) throughout the past year. As a lead organisation and valued partner of the City of Casey, AFCS continues to make a profound impact—not only within our municipality, but across the broader Filipino community in Victoria.

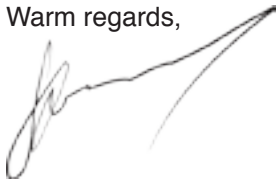
Casey has proudly been home to AFCS for over a decade, and in that time, we've seen the organisation grow in strength, reach, and heart. From cultural celebrations to vital community support programs, AFCS exemplifies the spirit of service and unity.

This year, I was honoured to attend and support several AFCS-led initiatives, including the Celebrate Filipino! Community Gathering in Berwick, the Let's Tinikling! Community Dance Class in Doveton, the expansion of the Community Pantry program, and the inaugural Philippine Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony at Bunjil Place—a particularly moving moment that highlighted the pride and resilience of our Filipino community.

On behalf of the City of Casey, we are proud to have supported these initiatives through Council funding, recognising the importance of AFCS's work in empowering individuals, fostering cultural connection, and strengthening community wellbeing.

To Corina Dutlow and the entire AFCS team: thank you for your tireless dedication and for enriching the lives of so many. Casey is stronger because of your presence, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in the years ahead.

Warm regards,



**Cr Stefan Koomen**  
Mayor, City of Casey



# Message from the Federal Member for Bruce



## Julian Hill MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRUCE



Dear Australian Filipino Community Services team,

Warm congratulations to the Australian Filipino Community Services (AFCS) on another remarkable year of service and community impact.

For more than three decades, AFCS has stood as a symbol of compassion, resilience, and cultural pride. From its humble beginnings as a volunteer-led initiative in 1991 to the dynamic, statewide organisation it is today, AFCS continues to embody the spirit of *bayanihan*—the Filipino tradition of communal unity and support.

Your work supporting Filipino families and individuals across Victoria through culturally appropriate care, advocacy, and community-building initiatives is deeply valued. The organisation's leadership in areas such as aged care, dementia support, spiritual care, and multicultural events—including this year's vibrant Filipino Fiesta at the Point Cook Pop-Up Park—reflects a profound understanding of community needs and a joyful celebration of Filipino heritage.

This year, the introduction of the Engage! Filipino Youth Career & Leadership Development Program marks a significant milestone. As the largest government investment in Filipino youth in Victoria to date, it is a testament to AFCS's forward-thinking leadership and unwavering commitment to empowering the next generation.

I commend your tireless efforts to promote wellbeing, inclusion, and opportunity—not only for Filipino Australians, but for the broader multicultural community. As Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I am proud to support organisations like AFCS that strengthen the social fabric of our state and nation.

Thank you for all that you do. I look forward to continuing our partnership in building an even more inclusive and vibrant Victoria.

Hon. Julian Hill MP

Federal Member for Bruce

Date: 12.11.25

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# CEO's Report

I am humbled to present this year's Annual Report, a visual compilation of the tremendous work our organisation has produced over the year. 2024-25 has truly been a time for behind-the-scenes work and brewing growth. This work included:

- Preparing our organisation for the new Aged Care Reform
- Planning the service expansion to Sydney, New South Wales
- Applying for numerous grants to unlock community activities and events
- Building collaborative partnerships to increase our service offerings and reach

## Key highlights from this year include:

- **Service expansion to the Grampians (Ballarat) and Gippsland**

Transport support was unlocked for older Filipinos aged over 65, enabling access to medical appointments and community activities. This was made possible through CHSP funding from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

- **Launch of the Charity Meals Program and Community Pantry**

At the start of 2025, we formalised our Charity Meals Program, delivering culturally appropriate meals via home delivery, community dining, and shared meals in the Reminiscing Garden. The Community Pantry extended grocery support to families in need, ensuring access to culturally familiar ingredients and emergency food relief.

- **National recognition through KeepAble's Reablement in Practice film project**

AFCS was selected to represent Victoria in a national filming initiative with iLA and KeepAble. Filming showcased reablement activities at the Filipino Charity House, Reminiscing Garden, our Head Office in Doveton, and clients' homes, highlighting our culturally specific aged-care approach.

- **Dementia-inclusive day respite services**

In partnership with Australian Multicultural Community Services, we delivered culturally safe, dementia-aware day activities across Geelong and Melbourne's south-east. Over 100 people living with dementia and their carers participated in programs designed to reduce isolation and provide meaningful engagement.

- **Introduction of Transport as a new CHSP service type (from November 2024)**

This service offers safe, culturally appropriate transport to medical appointments, wellness groups, and community activities, addressing mobility barriers and enhancing access to care.

- **Expansion of the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme**



Following a successful funding application, AFCS extended culturally appropriate companionship to Filipino seniors in the Eastern Metro region, strengthening support for HCP clients across Victoria.

- **Launch of the AFCS Filipino Performing Arts Collective**

This year marked the official launch of the AFCS Filipino Performing Arts Collective, a new initiative dedicated to preserving, teaching, and celebrating Filipino performing arts. It unifies years of grassroots engagement, cultural education, and senior-led performances under one platform.

- **Inaugural Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony in the City of Casey**

On 12 June 2025, AFCS proudly hosted the first-ever Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony in Casey, endorsed by the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne. The event welcomed over 200 attendees and honoured both Philippine Independence Day and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

- **Expansion of Healthy B rain, Healthy Life Seniors Walks in the Philippines**

As part of National Seniors Week 2025, our Seniors Walks expanded from one municipality to three. The program promotes movement, mental wellbeing, and cultural pride among ageing Filipinos in regional communities.

With this growth also comes a growth in our team. Our team expanded to a total of 58 passionate and dedicated staff.

With each of these milestones, it reflects our unwavering commitment to culturally safe care, community connection, and the dignity of our ageing Filipino community. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who continue to make this work possible.

**Corina Dutlow**  
Chief Executive Officer

# The Year in a Snapshot



**OVER**  
**29,000**  
**HOURS**  
 OF VOLUNTEERING AND  
 STUDENT PLACEMENT  
 HOURS TO SUPPORT AND  
 ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY  
 ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES.



**MORE THAN**  
**700**  
**OLDER PEOPLE**  
 RECEIVED REGULAR  
 SERVICES



**OVER**  
**50,000**  
**HOURS**  
 OF AGED CARE SERVICES  
 DELIVERED TO SUPPORT  
 OLDER PEOPLE LIVING WELL  
 AND INDEPENDENTLY AT  
 HOME, AND ACTIVE IN THE  
 COMMUNITY



*Serbisyo*  
**sa Kapwa Filipino**  
**Our Reach**



# Thank You AFCS Team

**We thank our incredible team at AFCS. Their commitment to operational excellence and service delivery has been instrumental in achieving the organisation's objectives and supporting the community.**

**We thank all team members for their professionalism and dedication to maintaining high standards across all areas of our work.**



# Thank You to Our Partners

**We thank our Partners for working with us to expand our support to the community.**

Acknowledge Education College, Alfred Health Carer Services, At Your Service Home Care, Australian College of Applied Professions, Australian Multicultural Community Services, Australian Institute of Technical Training, Baljit Dhillon, Baltazar Tatlonghari, Better Health Network, Blue Lotus College, Brighton College, Brimbank City Council, Centrelink, Chisholm Institute, City of Casey, Community Data Solutions, Philippine Consulate General Melbourne, CoLocal, Creativeye Design, Dementia Australia, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Doveton Baptist Church, Doveton Baptist, Benevolent Society, Doveton Show, Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, Federation University, Good Things Australia, GRD Land Pty Ltd, Hume City Council, James Brewer Carpentry and Building, Jim's Mowing and Jim's Cleaning (various contractors), Just Home Care, KeepAble, Larimar Cleaning, Let's Get Care, Link Community Transport, Mainscape, Masagana, Filipino Asian Grocery, Maurice Gozum, Maurice (Bong) Sanosa, M.D., MiCare, Philippine Herald Community Newspaper, Phil-Aus, Risen Life Church Philippines, Rosalina Colot, RMIT University, SBS Filipino, Southern, Cross Education Institute, Sparks OT, St Albans Uniting Church, Stirling Institute of Australia, Stotts College, Super Rapsa, Talyer Auto Group, The Gift Society Melbourne, The Philippine Times Australia, Victoria Australia Samoa Seniors Inc., Virginia Wright, Western Melbourne Institute of Technology, Wilson Botanic, Park Berwick.2TripleO Radio, 3:16 Paramount Care

## International Partners

Alzheimer's Disease Association of the Philippines, Bethany Compound Livelihood Center Mindoro, Bukal Life Care, Chaplain Urduja Saspa (Palawan Missionary), Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Dementia Society of the Philippines, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Dr Marian Lynn de Laza (Community Educator, SAM), Life Changers Ministry Baguio, Luzon Baptist Women Missionary Union, Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches, Moonwalk Baptist Church, National Center for Mental Health, Paco Baptist Church Manila, Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Precy Cruz (Dementia Specialist Nurse), Regenesis Church Philippines, Risen Life Church, The Chaplains Office Dr Yanga Hospital, Tuguegarao Baptist Church Community, Quezon City Government, Quezon City Memorial Circle, United Christian Church Philippines, World Changers Community Bulacan.

# Volunteering and Student Placement Program

**AFCS' dedicated team of volunteers and placement students comprise of Centrelink volunteers, placement students studying VET or tertiary education, and general volunteers dedicating their free time to serve the community.**

Our team of volunteers worked to improve the quality and effectiveness of services for younger people in the Home and Community Care Program for Younger Persons (HACC PYP) program, which supports individuals aged 16-64 with a disability, frailty, and mental health conditions that impact daily living tasks. Volunteers played a key role by helping with meal preparation, providing social support through wellness calls, home visits and friendly chats at local coffee shops, as well as assisting in the facilitation of service information sessions for HACC PYP participants. The HACC PYP program is funded by the Victorian Department of Health.

Our team of volunteers also play a vital role in enhancing our aged care services and charity initiatives. They assist with tasks such as setting up and packing down events, helping in the kitchen, serving meals to the community, providing transport support, and delivering friendly calls and visits.

This financial year, we hosted students from VET and tertiary institutes including Community Services, Aged Care and Social Work. As part of their training, students received cultural awareness education focused on supporting Filipino clients, which included learning the respectful use of terms such as 'tita', 'tito', and 'po'. Students had opportunity to gain hands-on experience in providing community-based support that is tailored to individual needs, focused on reablement, and designed to enhance a sense of belonging in the community.

We thank all our volunteers and placement students for their dedication, talents and compassion in supporting the community.



**6,432 hours  
of volunteering**

**22,620  
of student  
placement hours**

**16  
Education Partner  
Universities and  
Registered Training  
Organisations**



# Making History

## Inaugural Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony in Casey

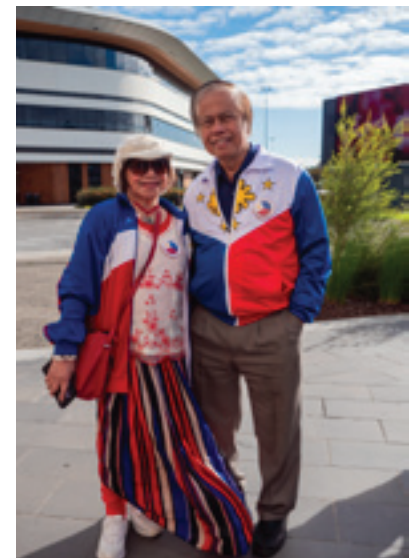
On 12 June 2025, our organisation proudly hosted the first-ever Philippine Flag Raising Ceremony in the City of Casey, commemorating 127 years of Philippine Independence. This landmark event was a vibrant celebration of our shared heritage, resilience, and cultural pride, bringing together over 200 community members in unity and reflection. It brought together over 200 community members in unity and reflection. The event was endorsed by the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne, with the purpose of providing a more accessible local celebration for seniors, carers, and community members with mobility limitations who may find it difficult to attend the official city flag raising ceremony hosted by the Consulate

For several years, we have honoured Philippine Independence Day (12 June) alongside World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15 June). This dual observance continues to be a cornerstone of our community engagement efforts, highlighting both national pride and social responsibility.

The event also paid tribute to local retired servicemen, who shared stories of their time in service. Their presence offered attendees a powerful reminder of sacrifice, honour, and community legacy.

We were honoured to welcome Mayor Stefan Koomen, Cr Jennifer Dizon (Tooradin Ward), and Cr Kim Ross (Casuarina Ward) as special guests. Their presence reflected the City of Casey's strong commitment to cultural inclusion and civic partnership.

We thank the City of Casey for their support in making this historic event possible. We look forward to continuing this annual tradition, fostering deeper connections and celebrating the rich tapestry of our multicultural community.



**“ It is both a day of reflection and a call to action. We must ensure that older people in our community can live freely, autonomously, and with the dignity and respect they deserve. ”**

— Vice Chair Katrina Del Rosario



Scan the QR code to see the event highlight video

# A Joyful Celebration of Culture, Connection, and Community

## Celebrate Filipino! Community Gathering 2025

On Saturday 22 March 2025, Australian–Filipino Community Services (AFCS) proudly hosted the 4th annual Celebrate Filipino! at Wilson Botanic Park in Berwick, Melbourne. The event brought together families, friends, and community members to honour the rich culture of the Philippines through music, art, food, and play.

This year's celebration introduced several new features to enhance accessibility and engagement for all ages and abilities:

The Jeepney Ride provided transport for attendees with walking and mobility challenges, ensuring easier access between the entrance and event area. Guests also enjoyed scenic tours around the park, with the driver sharing cultural insights about the Philippines.

An arts exhibition showcased works by local seniors in Casey, including the Young Generation Filipino Senior Citizens Club of the South East, highlighting creativity, resilience, and community pride.

Wilson Botanic Park Berwick's Scavenger Hunt was adapted by AFCS for the first time into an accessible scavenger hunt, designed for older people, wheelchair users, and families with prams—making inclusive play a central part of the day.

The program featured traditional Filipino music and dance performances, interactive workshops including Tinikling and other folk dances, and a variety of Filipino games and activities. Attendees immersed themselves in cultural learning through food,



storytelling, and play, while connecting with local services and support networks.

AFCS was honoured to welcome distinguished guests:

Viv Nguyen OAM, Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission

Cr Jennifer Dizon, City of Casey, Tooradin Ward

Consul Jan Wenceslao, Philippine Consulate General Melbourne

Ann-Marie Hermans MP, Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Their presence underscored the importance of cultural pride, representation, and community connection.

AFCS extends heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers whose tireless planning and delivery made the event possible. We also thank Wilson Botanic Park Berwick for their ongoing collaboration and partnership, which continues to make each Celebrate Filipino! event special and memorable.

Celebrate Filipino! is an annual initiative of AFCS, proudly supported by the City of Casey. The event aligns with National Neighbour Day and promotes social cohesion, cultural pride, and community wellbeing.



Scan the QR code to view the highlight video

# Annual Colours of the Philippines Cultural Show

On Saturday 2 November 2025, AFCS proudly hosted the 2nd Annual Colours of the Philippines Cultural Show. It was an evening of vibrant performances, cultural pride, and community connection. Held as both a fundraiser and a showcase, the event brought together families, artists, and supporters to honour the rich and diverse traditions of the Philippines.

The program featured captivating dances representing various regions and historical periods, from folk to contemporary. Each performance reflected the depth and beauty of Filipino heritage. A highlight of the evening was the Let's Tinikling! Community Dance Class, whose energy and precision brought the iconic bamboo dance to life. The group also presented a special number introducing the mother-and-daughter Tinikling, a heartfelt performance that celebrated intergenerational connection and cultural continuity.

This year's event also marked the official launch of the AFCS Filipino Performing Arts Collective, a new initiative dedicated to preserving, teaching, and celebrating Filipino performing arts. The Collective is not only a new chapter. It is the culmination of AFCS's ongoing work across its services and activities to embed Filipino cultural expression in community life. From intergenerational dance classes to senior-led performances, the Collective brings together years of grassroots engagement, cultural education, and artistic leadership under one unified platform.

AFCS extends heartfelt thanks to Mama Ludy Dellamas and Tita Babie Grant, Filipino Performing Arts Directors; Manny Varga and Francis Yap, Let's Tinikling! Community Dance Class Facilitators; and our dedicated volunteers and staff, whose passion and commitment made the evening a success.

We also extend special thanks to the talented AFCS performers, and to our senior community performers from the Filipino-Australian Seniors Association (FilAus) and the Young Generation Filipino Senior Citizens Club of the South East (YG). Their artistry and cultural pride brought warmth, depth, and joy to the stage.

We celebrated the achievements of our youngest performers as well. Children from the Let's Tinikling! Community Dance Class received plaques in recognition of their first year of tinikling, a milestone in their cultural journey.

All proceeds from the event support the continued growth of the Filipino Performing Arts Collective. This enables AFCS to expand access to culturally meaningful programs and performances. The initiative aligns with our broader mission to foster cultural pride, intergenerational connection, and community wellbeing.



Scan the QR code to see the event highlight video



# Annual Filipino Fiesta at Point Cook Pop Up Park



On 22 February 2025, AFCS proudly partnered with CoLocal to deliver the 3rd Annual Filipino Fiesta at the Point Cook Pop Up Park. Held under the summer sun, the event brought together performers, volunteers, families, and community members to celebrate the richness of Filipino heritage through music, dance, food, and shared joy.

The Filipino Fiesta was part of Kaleidoscope 2025, CoLocal's 10-week multicultural festival that transforms the Pop Up Park into a vibrant hub of creativity and connection. For the third consecutive year, AFCS collaborated with CoLocal to ensure Filipino culture was powerfully represented. The park was filled with the spirit of bayanihan, intergenerational pride, and artistic excellence.

Audiences were treated to dynamic performances, including traditional dances and contemporary showcases. A standout moment came from Liwaliw Di Cordillera, whose cultural storytelling through gong rhythms and graceful movement offered a powerful reflection of Filipino identity.

The program also featured the art of Arnis, Filipino martial arts, and performances from the Luzviminda Association of Filipino Senior Women & Friends in Vic. Inc., AFCS seniors groups and the Let's Tinikling!

Community Dance Class, and Filipino youth singers. Community stalls lined the park, storytelling, yoga, and fun activities kept families engaged throughout the day.

AFCS thanks the talented performers and dedicated volunteers who braved the heat to deliver yet another unforgettable celebration. The event was made possible through the support of CoLocal, Wyndham City Council, Stockland, and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Since 2023, AFCS has worked with CoLocal to create meaningful cultural experiences that promote learning, appreciation, and community connection. The Filipino Fiesta continues to grow as a platform for cultural pride and public engagement, strengthening AFCS' efforts in celebrating and preserving Filipino heritage across generations.



photo credit to Jasper Lalwet

“With the powerful rhythms of our gongs and the graceful movements of our dances, we bring you a glimpse of our identity, our history, and our spirit.”

— Kyla Holman, performer, Liwaliw Di Cordillera

# Fundraising Fun at the Doveton Show 2024

AFCS takes part annually in the Doveton Show at Myuna Farm, and on 22 September 2024, we had two fundraising stalls to support our Let's Tinikling! Community Dance Class.

Visitors enjoyed delicious Filipino Pork BBQ at our food stall, and explored handmade crafts created by our Tinikling kids in the pavilion. Our Tinikling kids shared Filipino culture by teaching the traditional game of Sungka and creating paper Parols. Support came from a wonderful team of parents, volunteers, and placement students who helped run the stalls.



## FECCA Conference 2024: Our Experiences. Our Future.



AFCS representatives attended the FECCA Conference at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre on 16-17 October 2024, joining national conversations under the theme "Our Experiences. Our Future."

Over two days, AFCS representatives connected with government and non-government organisations to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Our team also connected with Filipino community leaders from across Australia to learn about their work, community issues, and challenges.



# Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) Program 2024-25

The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) is a Commonwealth funded program that provides companionship to older people through regular friendly visits. AFCS proudly delivers this program with a culturally specific approach, supporting Filipino seniors across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

In 2024–25, AFCS received \$66,313.58 to deliver ACVVS visits. We supported 46 seniors living with Home Care Packages (HCP). This included an increase in funding following a successful application to expand our services and strengthen support for HCP clients. The additional funding enabled AFCS to unlock the Eastern Metro region, extending culturally appropriate companionship to more Filipino seniors across Victoria.

Our team of 27 trained volunteers completed 855 face-to-face visits, offering meaningful connection through coffee catch-ups and home visiting. These visits took place in seniors' homes, local cafés and community spaces, creating safe and familiar environments for social engagement.

Volunteers brought culturally appropriate snacks, games and conversation starters, including Filipino traditions and shared stories. These interactions helped reduce isolation, promote emotional wellbeing and strengthen cultural identity among ageing Filipinos.

The program reached seniors in Melbourne's south, north, west and Gippsland regions. Volunteers were matched based on language, interests and location, ensuring each visit was personal and impactful.

We sincerely thank our dedicated and compassionate volunteers for their time, warmth and commitment. Their presence brings joy, comfort and connection to the lives of our seniors.

AFCS continues to expand its volunteer base and training with a focus on cultural safety, dementia awareness and respectful communication. The ACVVS program remains a vital part of our commitment to supporting Filipino seniors to live independently, joyfully and with dignity.



## Home Care Services

The Commonwealth Government's Home Care Package (HCP) program supports older people with increased care needs to live independently in their homes. AFCS continues to partner with multiple HCP Providers to deliver culturally appropriate home care services through our team of Care Workers.

In 2024–25, AFCS supported 68 HCP clients with over 13,000 hours of services, including personal care, domestic assistance, meal preparation, transport, respite, meals, and social support. Our Care Workers provided companionship and culturally familiar support, such as preparing culturally appropriate meals, assisting with personal grooming, and accompanying clients to medical appointments and community outings.

We also expanded access to respite care through Maharlika Lodge™, offering day and overnight respite to HCP clients with culturally tailored activities that promote wellbeing and connection.

AFCS continues to deliver culturally appropriate home care services that honour the language, culture, and lived experience of older people. We gratefully acknowledge our Home Care Package provider partners, our dedicated team of 36 Care Workers, and our engaged contractors, whose collective efforts ensure high-quality, respectful support for seniors across Victoria. Together, we are building meaningful employment pathways and strengthening culturally safe care in the community.



Photo credit: KeepAble

# Commonwealth Home Support Programme

## Culturally Responsive Care for Filipino Seniors

AFCS continues to deliver high-quality, culturally appropriate aged care services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), supporting Filipino seniors aged 65 and over to live independently, stay socially connected, and access essential care in their homes and communities.

In 2024–25, AFCS expanded its CHSP offerings across in regional Victoria, responding to growing demand and evolving needs. We thank the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for unlocking the new service type Transport in Gippsland and Grampians (specifically Ballarat) regions.

### Social Support Groups

AFCS delivers culturally responsive Social Support Groups across metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria and online, creating safe and welcoming spaces for Filipino seniors to connect, participate and thrive.

Throughout 2024–25, our groups met weekly, fortnightly, monthly and throughout the year, offering a rich calendar of activities that promote wellbeing, cultural pride and social inclusion. Programs included wellness sessions, cultural celebrations, storytelling, music, movement and community outings, all designed to reduce isolation and foster a sense of belonging.

### Southern Metro

- Community Rhythm
- Barkadang Young Once (BYO) Men's Group

### Eastern Metro

- Knox Wellness Group

### Western Metro

- St Albans Wellness Group
- West Fishing Group
- Supported seniors outings with Philippine Cultural Society for Families & Friends Inc. (PCSFFI), and Filipino-Australian Senior Citizens Advisory Council in Australia (FASCACAI)
- Supporting seniors activities with Thorns and



Roses ng Melbourne, and Pangkat Pinoy of Melbourne

### Northern Metro

- Craigieburn Wellness Group
- Sunbury Wellness Group
- Supported seniors outings with St. Francis Filipino Senior Citizens Club of Whittlesea Inc.

### Gippsland

- Gippsland Wellness Group

### Online Gatherings

AFCS also facilitated online social support groups, connecting Filipino seniors from across Victoria. These gatherings ensured continued access to community, culture and companionship from home.

- Group Bible reading, prayer and reflections led by Chaplain Norminda Forteza, offering spiritual nourishment and connection
- Other online gatherings such as virtual coffee chats, cultural storytelling and seasonal celebrations, tailored to meet the needs of seniors with limited mobility, transport or geographic barriers



# Commonwealth Home Support Programme

## Enabling Filipino seniors to live healthy, independent and active lives in the community and at home

AFCS continues to deliver culturally specialised aged care services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), providing Filipino seniors with support that honours their cultural values, traditions, and language. Through tailored care, AFCS empowers Filipino older people to live independently, remain socially connected, and access essential services within their homes and culturally familiar communities.

### New and Expanded Services

#### Transport (New service from November 2024)

AFCS introduced Transport as a new CHSP service type, offering safe, culturally appropriate transport to medical appointments, wellness groups and community activities. This service addresses mobility barriers and enhances access to care, especially in Gippsland and the Grampians region (Ballarat).

#### Community-Based Personal Care (Innovative expansion of Personal Care piloted from November 2024)

AFCS launched a Community-Based Personal Care service focused on Personal Grooming, enabling seniors to access culturally appropriate grooming support in community settings. This innovative approach promotes dignity, confidence and reablement, and is a key highlight of our personal care offerings.

#### Social Support Individual

Friendly calls, home visits and accompanied shopping or medical appointments helped reduce isolation and maintain independence for Filipino seniors across Victoria.

#### Flexible Respite

Day and overnight respite options—including stays at Maharlika Lodge™—provided carers with essential breaks while ensuring culturally safe support for care recipients.

#### Personal Care

Assistance with grooming, hygiene and daily living tasks was delivered by trained Filipino staff, now complemented by our new community-based grooming service.

#### Specialised Support Services

In-language support and information were provided for dementia, incontinence, vision impairment and hearing loss.

AFCS also offered in-language navigation and advocacy during aged care assessments, empowering seniors to articulate their needs and access appropriate care.

#### Home Maintenance

Garden maintenance services ensured safe and accessible outdoor spaces, supporting mobility and wellbeing.

#### Domestic Assistance

Help with cleaning, laundry and unaccompanied shopping supported seniors in maintaining a clean and functional home environment.

#### Meals

Nutritious Filipino meals were delivered to seniors, with additional support for meal preparation and culturally familiar food choices.



“Awesome ang meals this week. May mga sauce ang meat with veggies and pineapple”

-Viviene, Meals Service Recipient



“Twas a wholesome meeting of fun, friendship, warm fellowship, entertainment, light exercise & competition, good food & drinks. Let's do it again!”

-Billy, BYO Men's Group Participant

# Overnight Respite for People Living with Dementia and their Carers

Meaningful memories at Maharlika Lodge™

In 2024-25, we continued our pioneering work in dementia-friendly respite through Maharlika Lodge™, Australia's first Filipino-specific respite home. In its second year of operation, the Overnight Respite Program for Filipinos living with dementia and their carers has grown significantly both in reach and impact.

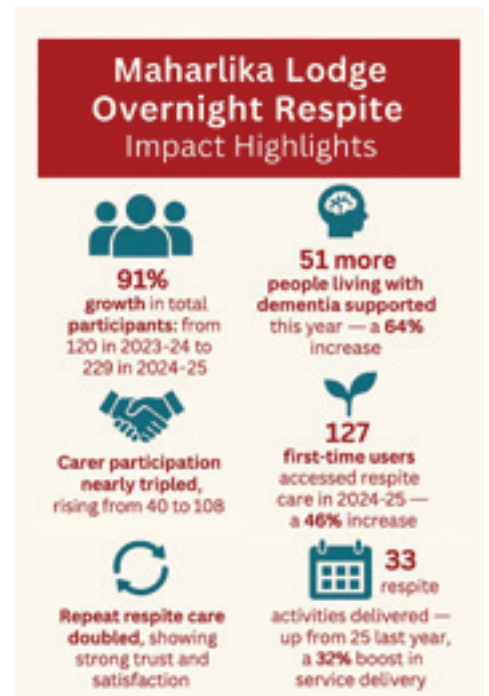
In 2024-25 Maharlika Lodge™ increased its impact as a culturally specialised respite home for Filipino families, expanding access and continuity of care. Our Filipino-speaking staff, cultural activities including dress-ups and photoshoot, and familiar meals continued to create a safe, comforting environment that promotes connection and open conversations about dementia and carer wellbeing.

Carer support and confidence in the service increased markedly, with many carers describing the Lodge as a restorative space where they can rest and reconnect while their loved ones receive culturally safe care. Repeat bookings and returning families demonstrate growing trust in our model and its ability to deliver consistent, respectful respite.

We acknowledge the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as lead supporter, and thank the families, volunteers, staff, education partners and contractors whose collaboration, care and professionalism sustain Maharlika Lodge™ as a trusted place of rest, learning and cultural connection.

## Meaningful Memories at Maharlika Lodge Film Project

We launched the Meaningful Memories at Maharlika Lodge™ Film Project to showcase the Lodge's culturally specialised respite model, with filming in August 2024 and a series of interviews being released across our social channels and website. The film highlights the role of *Filipino Staff*, *Cottage Ambience*, *Cultural Ambience*, *Cultural Cuisine*, *Curated Activities*, *Place of Learning*, *Accessing Respite*, and *Clinicians to Community*.



Scan the QR code to view the film project series

“ Overnight Respite Program for Filipinos living with dementia and their carers has grown significantly both in reach and impact. ”

# Centre-Based Respite and Carer Support

## Activities for Seniors

AFCS continued its partnership with Alfred Health Carer Services in 2024-25 to deliver Commonwealth Home Support Programme Centre-Based Respite activities for seniors aged over 65. We delivered a the Musikahan and Community Fun Day programs in Doveton and Maharlika Lodge™ for involving gentle exercise, karaoke, crafts, dancing, and shared meals in a culturally familiar setting staffed by Filipino-speaking coordinators and volunteers. These sessions boosted social connection, reduced isolation and supported routine engagement and support.

We also delivered, in partnership with Victoria Australia Samoa Seniors Inc (VASSI), Centre-Based Respite activities for Samoan and Pacific Islander seniors in Doveton that included table games, shared lunch, community singing, light exercise and information sessions.

## Activities for Carers

We delivered carer outings to support carers to take a break from their caring roles and provided targeted carer activities for Filipino, Samoan and Cambodian carers. Activities included information about carer services, peer support and social engagement.

We thank the team from Alfred Health Carer Services for their ongoing collaborative efforts with AFCS, to expand and deliver meaningful and culturally appropriate support to the community.



“ *These sessions boosted social connection, reduced isolation and supported routine engagement and support.* ”



# Day Respite for People Living with Dementia and Their Carers

Day respite services for people living with dementia and their carers were delivered in partnership with Australian Multicultural Community Services across Geelong and Melbourne's south-east. Over 2024-25 we engaged over 100 people living with dementia and their carers in culturally safe, dementia-aware day activities designed to promote meaningful engagement, reduce social isolation and provide carers with reliable daytime breaks.

Activities included meaningful conversations with guest health professionals, structured peer support and informal carer chats, information sessions, fun group activities and delicious shared lunches reflecting cultural tastes. Trained bilingual activity coordinators and passionate volunteers facilitated each session to ensure dementia best practice and to enable informal conversations with families about behaviour, health and care planning.

The partnership with Australian Multicultural Community Services enabled AFCS to break ground in Geelong and formally continue our support to Filipino seniors there following our seniors groceries initiative in 2021. We thank AMCS for their ongoing partnership, and look forward to building on partnerships with local providers and government, strengthening connections with seniors and their families to expand our support and impact.

## Connections for Wellbeing

The Connections for Wellbeing Program is delivered by the Australian Multicultural Community Services to support adults over 21 who are experiencing challenges with emotional wellbeing or community engagement, by improving social connection, building practical skills and creating safe, welcoming spaces for participation. AFCS supported the delivery of free Zumba sessions to Filipinos in Geelong and Casey to help participants have fun while exercising, meet new people and support their mental health.



# AFCS Joins the Walk Against Family Violence

On Tuesday, 19 November 2024, AFCS proudly joined the Walk Against Family Violence, marching from Dandenong Market to Harmony Square alongside community members, service providers, and advocates. The event was a powerful show of solidarity and a public stand against family violence.

This walk was part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November to 10 December), a global campaign that invites reflection, raises awareness, and calls for meaningful action to end gender-based violence.

AFCS's participation reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting safety, wellbeing, and dignity for all, especially within multicultural and ageing communities. By walking together, we reaffirmed our dedication to culturally safe support systems and community-led change.

# Carer Consultation at the Reminiscing Garden

On 23 September 2024, Filipino and Samoan carers attended a morning tea at the Reminiscing Garden to participate in a carer consultation led by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria with support from Carers Victoria. The session provided a structured space for carers to share challenges, raise concerns and offer practical suggestions to improve support for unpaid carers such as family members, friends and community carers. Filipino carers shared the role of a community carers which are individuals in the community that support others that may be connected with their church, community group or seniors club. Support includes checking in on the person at home, providing transport to community activities and events, as well as medical appointments and shopping. This was also voiced by the Samoan carers who face similar cultural pulls to ensure vulnerable or disadvantaged members in the community are supported.

Feedback from the consultation informed our service planning, highlighting priorities around respite access, culturally appropriate information and peer support. We thank ECCV facilitators Rosemary and Terry for leading the discussion and creating a welcoming environment that enabled carers to exchange experiences and shape future supports for CALD communities.



**Filipino carers shared the role of a community carers which are individuals in the community that support others that may be connected with their church, community group or seniors club.**



# Filipino Charity House and Crisis Support

## Reablement in Action Across Service Environments

The Filipino Charity House in Doveton continued to provide short-term crisis accommodation and coordinated case support to Filipino individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, elder abuse or homelessness during 2024–25. Operating as an unfunded charitable initiative, the House is sustained through donations, fundraising and in-kind support and provides a safe, culturally aware place for people in urgent need.

### Key supports and outcomes

- **Crisis accommodation:** short-term refuge in a culturally safe home.
- **Casework by our qualified bi-lingual social workers:** practical assistance to navigate housing, income, legal and health systems and referrals to mainstream services

including My Aged Care, Services Australia, Victoria Police, Department of Home Affairs, local government and specialist NGOs.

- **Practical and material support:** food, essentials and connection to follow-up services to stabilise households.
- **Community space and wellbeing:** the property's backyard Reminiscing Garden hosted wellbeing events and gatherings that promoted connection, information sharing and dementia awareness.

We acknowledge the valued partnership of Doveton Baptist Church for leasing the property and supporting the delivery of this benevolent service. Continued fundraising and partner collaboration remain priorities to sustain and grow this vital community safety net.



## Charity Meals and Community Pantry

AFCS has provided charity meals on a needs basis to Filipino families and individuals for many years, with the last formal program delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic through government funding. At the start of 2025 we developed a formal Charity Meals Program to provide ongoing support through cooked, culturally appropriate meals prepared at our Filipino Charity House in Doveton. This unfunded initiative relies on food donations, volunteers and the passionate commitment of AFCS staff.

Meals are delivered via home delivery, community dining at the Filipino Charity House and shared meals in the Reminiscing Garden to ensure access for homebound people and create opportunities for social connection. Menus combine nutritious planning with cultural preferences and dietary needs, featuring traditional Filipino dishes prepared by volunteer cooks and partner organisations. Each meal is paired with

a friendly welfare check and referral information that connects recipients to casework, health services and other supports.

Our Community Pantry complements the meal service by extending groceries to families in need. Donated food is sorted and distributed alongside meal services so households can access ingredients for culturally familiar cooking or receive emergency food support between meal rounds.

We thank Pastor Ben Respicio for extending his connections with the local ALDI supermarket, enabling us to use donated food for community meals and pantry distribution. We also thank our wonderful volunteers, whose time, skills and care make these services and the dignity and connection they bring possible.

## Reminiscing Garden

The Reminiscing Garden continued to be a vibrant, welcoming outdoor space supporting social connection, relaxation and wellbeing for Filipino seniors, carers and community members during 2024–25. It hosted dementia awareness events, spiritual gatherings and community BBQs, provided a tranquil spot for friendly visits and small-group respite, and ran gardening sessions with Samoan seniors where we planted and harvested taro, shared the different cultural uses of the plant and enjoyed harvest time together. The garden's programs were delivered by AFCS staff, volunteers and partner organisations.

## Filipino Charity House and Reminiscing Garden Filmed in Action

AFCS was selected to represent Victoria in a national filming project with iLA and KeepAble that documented Reablement in Practice. Filming at the Filipino Charity House and in the Reminiscing Garden showcased how our culturally tailored aged care services support older Australians to regain, maintain, and improve the skills needed for independent living. The project also captured our Community-Based Personal Grooming service, which supports reablement by encouraging older community members to leave the house for a haircut, manicure, pedicure, or barber shave. These seemingly simple activities play a powerful role in restoring confidence, promoting independence, and fostering social connection.

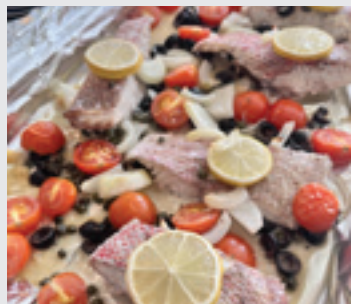
## Reablement in Action Across Other Service Environments

Filming then moved beyond the Filipino Charity House, continuing at the hall of Doveton Baptist Church to capture group activities, staff interviews in our office areas, and visited clients' homes to document our support in action with a reablement focus.

The footage highlights practical Reablement activities delivered across our programs and illustrates the positive impact on our Titas and Titos. We thank iLA Australia and KeepAble for the opportunity to share the AFCS approach to Reablement.



**Scan the QR code**  
to watch Reablement  
in Action videos  
showcasing our  
culturally specific  
reablement in practice.



Charity Meals  
Coordinator and  
Community Social  
Worker Jeffy  
Suana (right) with  
volunteers (left and  
middle) organising  
food deliveries

# Philippines Outreach Projects

The Annual Healthy brain, healthy life is a risk reduction and awareness initiative by the Australian- Filipino Community Services, and commission on Filipinos Overseas, National Commission of Senior Citizens and Alzheimer's Disease Association of the Philippines in partnership with various local governments in the Philippines and Barangay.



In 2024 Walks held in Baguio, Bulacan, Cavite. First Senior Adults Ministry Training for volunteers and community educators 12 Chaplains trained and completed the FREE Preventing Dementia and Understanding Dementia Course offered by the Wicking Dementia Education and Research Centre, University of Tasmania.



Filipinos S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Inc established and initiated by our Chaplain as a Sister Charity Organisation by AFCS to help with sustainable funding sources of our local projects. Attached is photo during the MOU signing between FSI and the Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches who will provide a co-located office for AFCS and FSI.

In 2025, Seniors Walk was held in Mall of Asia, Pasay, Legazpi, Tacloban and Tarlac. About 1500 people were engaged in planning and implementation of Healthy brain, Healthy life events.

The main outcomes of these successive events were: increased awareness about signs and symptoms of dementia and knowledge about ways to prevent dementia by reducing various risk factors associated with this condition.

*“ Working with the barangays in the Philippines opened the door to Senior Adults Ministry. I witnessed a transition in people’s awareness of dementia to their recognition of the need for spiritual awakening. ”*

–Chaplain Norminda



Families who received 20 egg layers have multiplied their eggs and chickens. Mrs Grace Flores leads the team of seniors to care for egg laying chickens to ensure they have sufficient foods. AFCS donated money to purchase a pelletizer to help with large quantity of feeds.



2024 Walks held in Baguio, Bulacan, Cavite First Senior Adults Ministry Training for volunteers and community educators 12 Chaplains trained and completed the FREE Preventing Dementia and Understanding Dementia Course offered by the Wicking Dementia Education and Research Centre, University of Tasmania



The morning scene of the SAM Walk in Legazpi.



Headed by our Chairperson Gerry Ocampo.



Commissioning of AFCS Senior Adults Ministry Chaplains and Community Educators will be held on Nov 18 to coincide with the MOU signing between AFCS and Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches to promote the Senior Adults Ministry and Dementia Action Plan.

“ It is a blessing to see seniors from all walks of life participate and interact well. ”

–Dr Lynn de Laza

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Australian Filipino Community Services Inc

ABN: 72 796 896 282

### Statement of Profit or Loss For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	4	2,897,260	2,141,660
Employee benefits expense		(1,794,897)	(1,360,400)
Project expenses		(374,473)	(568,626)
Rental expense		(173,563)	(167,699)
Charity expenses		(107,305)	(145,145)
Consulting fees		(25,236)	(10,494)
Advertising and Promotion		(7,969)	(17,520)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(8,144)	(2,007)
Other expenses		(86,175)	(66,114)
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>318,898</b>	<b>(196,315)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Australian Filipino Community Services Inc

ABN: 72 796 896 282

### Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	170,239	14,232
Trade and other receivables	6	205,591	138,021
Other assets		11,670	2,446
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>387,500</b>	<b>154,699</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	101,714	109,858
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>101,714</b>	<b>109,858</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>489,214</b>	<b>264,557</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	122,063	234,497
Employee benefits	9	122,190	103,997
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>244,253</b>	<b>338,494</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>244,253</b>	<b>338,494</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>244,961</b>	<b>(73,937)</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		244,961	(73,937)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>244,961</b>	<b>(73,937)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Australian Filipino Community Services Inc

ABN: 72 796 896 282

### Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

2025	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2024	(73,937)	(73,937)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	318,898	318,898
<b>Balance at 30 June 2025</b>	<b>244,961</b>	<b>244,961</b>
<b>2024</b>		
	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	122,378	122,378
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(196,315)	(196,315)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>(73,937)</b>	<b>(73,937)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Australian Filipino Community Services Inc

ABN: 72 796 896 282

### Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Receipts from government funding and customers		2,890,030	2,385,104
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,748,898)	(2,380,695)
Interest expense		14,875	531
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	13	<b>156,007</b>	<b>4,940</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(105,226)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<b>-</b>	<b>(105,226)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		156,007	(100,286)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		14,232	114,518
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5	<b>170,239</b>	<b>14,232</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

A full version of the audited financial statements can be accessed on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website or at our main office upon request.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

ABN: 72 796 896 282

### Board Members' Declaration

The board members declare that in the board members' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2022*.

Board Member 

Board Member 

Dated 19/11/2025



## Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

### Independent Audit Report to the members of Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the board members' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

##### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

##### Other Matter - Prior Year Adverse Opinion

We draw attention to the prior year's financial report for the year ended 30 June 2024, for which an adverse opinion was issued due to the Association's net deficit of \$196,315 and total liabilities exceeding total assets by \$73,937. As disclosed in the current year financial report, these circumstances have been resolved, with a net surplus of \$307,228 and total net assets of \$233,291 at 30 June 2025. Our opinion for the current year is not modified in respect of this matter.

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T +61 3 9894 2500 ABN 64 014 263 347



## Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

### Independent Audit Report to the members of Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

#### Responsibilities of Board Members for the Financial Report

The board members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The board members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the board members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

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## Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

### Independent Audit Report to the members of Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

  
Seward Dawson

  
Matthew Crouch

Partner

Location: Blackburn, VIC

Dated: 19 November 2025

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A full version of the audited financial statements can be accessed on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website or at our main office upon request.

# Secretary-Treasurer's Report

It is with great pride that I present this year's financial report as my first year serving as Secretary-Treasurer of Australian-Filipino Community Services. This year marked a period of financial recovery and growth for AFCS. This was possible through performance monitoring to reduce over expenditure, strategic financial planning, new partnerships and collaborations, and successful grant applications for activities and services.

For the 2024-25 financial year, AFCS had a total income of \$2,897,260, an increase 19.9% or \$482,600 compared to last year. The increased funding has allowed us to provide more services, expand our reach, and continue delivering charity initiatives that align with our organisation's purpose.

AFCS' total revenue for the year was driven by three primary sources:

- Government grants supporting service delivery and community activities: \$1,564,719
- Partnerships with community service organisations to co-deliver programs and activities: \$377,170
- Home care brokerage service income: \$827,049

In addition, we received \$58,899 in Client Contributions under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, enabling us to support 569 seniors and deliver over 25,000 hours of culturally safe care and support services.

We also received \$29,123 in donations and \$18,759 in fundraising, supporting our charity work and purpose.

Our organisation's expenditure was a total of \$2,578,364 with our main expenses comprised of:

- Payroll (\$1,787,176)
- Project expenses (\$374,473)
- Administration expenses (\$292,696)
- Charity expenses (\$107,905)

This expenditure reflects our commitment to delivering high-quality, culturally safe care while expanding our reach and growing our organisation's infrastructure.

We finished the year with a net profit of \$318,898 and total cash balance of \$170,238.82 in the bank. AFCS' total equity as at 30 June 2025 stands at \$244,961, reflecting the organisation's positive financial position and capacity as we move in to the next financial year.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank our service partners, funders and the community for their unwavering support, collaboration, and belief in our mission. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping AFCS recover financially, expand our reach, and deliver culturally responsive programs that

uplift Filipino families across Victoria and beyond. I thank the staff and volunteers for all their incredible work to make AFCS a trusted, compassionate, and innovative organisation. Your dedication, creativity, and care have driven our growth, strengthened our impact, and ensured that every service we offer reflects dignity, cultural safety, and community



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennelyn Eliseo".

**Jennelyn Eliseo**  
Secretary-Treasurer



**Election of the new Board of Directors 2024-26 during the 33rd Annual General Meeting. Absent: Katrina Del Rosario**

**“ On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank our service partners, funders and the community for their unwavering support, collaboration, and belief in our mission. ”**

# Board of Directors



**Gerardo Ocampo**  
Chairperson

*Business Strategy  
and Development*



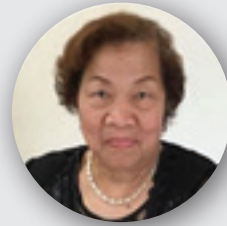
**Katrina Del Rosario**  
Vice-Chairperson

*Clinical Governance  
& Professional  
Development*



**Jennelyn Eliseo**  
Secretary-Treasurer

*Business  
Development  
& Strategic  
Partnerships*



**Norma Clay**  
Ordinary Board Member

*Creative Arts &  
Healthy Ageing*



**Roselle Dolera**  
Ordinary Board Member

*Community  
Engagement*

**Board of Directors of Australian-Filipino Community Services elected on 27 October 2024**



## Australia Day 2025 barbecue with AFCS Financial Members in the Reminiscing Garden.

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