

2025



ABOUT US

Árpád Elderly Welfare Society Inc was incorporated as a charitable non-profit organisation on 10 June 1988. Its Aged Care Facility was built in 1994. It is fully government accredited, with 62 low and high-care-level rooms and 10 independent villa units, enabling it to provide transitional care from independent living through to low and high-level care. The facility is a short walk from the Wantirna Mall Shopping Centre and is only a few minutes from the Hungarian Community Centre and the ecumenical St István Church.

Annual Report prepared by Dr Diana Bossio, Caroline Fazakas, Éva Kövesdy and Zsuzsanna Kollár

Photography by Zsuzsanna Kollár and Árpád Lifestyle Team

Cover image: Sándor Miller, Éva Páldy and László Gaál at the International Women's Day celebration

Árpád Aged Care Facility
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The Árpád Elderly Welfare Society, Inc has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Gifts of \$2 or more to the Society are tax deductible.

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OUR MISSION

To deliver exceptional care that empowers and enhances each resident's wellbeing and belonging to social and cultural community.

OUR VALUES

Honesty

We act with truthfulness and sincerity in how we engage and communicate.

Integrity

We apply strong moral and ethical principles that underpin our decision making and build trust.

Respect

We treat all people with respect and take pride in what we do.

Quality

We are committed to delivering the highest standard of care.

Positive legacy

Our planning for the future recognises and builds upon the contribution of the Hungarian community and the wider Hungarian diaspora.

Cultural heritage

We have a strong connection to Hungarian heritage and commit to meeting our residents' cultural needs, values and lifestyle.

STRATEGIC GOALS

01.

Excellence in high quality person-centred care and governance

Key strategies:

- Meet & exceed strengthened aged care quality standards.
- Maintain a strong clinical and governance framework.
- Maintain an organisation wide IT Plan and ensure effective information management.
- Keep our Constitution under review.

Outcome: Recognised and respected by community and industry

03.

Highly engaged workforce

Key strategies:

- Monitor employee remuneration and benefits
- Maintain workforce recruitment, retention and succession plan with targeted recruitment of Hungarian speaking staff and volunteers.
- Conduct regular staff engagement surveys.
- Continue to deliver workforce training plan
- Ongoing annual performance appraisals of all staff.

Outcome: A skilled workforce that provides high-quality care.

02.

Social and Cultural Heritage

Key strategies:

- Maintain and improve cultural heritage
- Develop a communications plan.

Outcome: Enduring connection to and integration of cultural heritage

04.

Maintain Financial sustainability

Key strategies:

- Develop a bequests policy.
- Develop and keep current an asset management plan.
- Develop site master plan.
- Develop a fundraising plan appropriate for Arpad's needs.
- Develop and implement staged elements of site master plan.

Outcome: Secure financial position and improved assets and site layout

OUR COMMITTEE

Éva Kövesdy - President



Éva is serving as President for the third time. She has been a member of the Committee since 1998, including breaks. Éva has a Master's Degree in Applied Science – Nutrition and Public Health and has been an active member of the Melbourne Hungarian community for many years. Éva is a member of the Governance sub-committee and the Public Relations working group.

Jennifer Cole - Vice President



Jenny was appointed in 2019 and was elected Vice President in 2024. She is a pharmacist with more than 20 years' experience working in residential aged care. She has worked at Árpád and various other facilities for over 10 years as an independent accredited pharmacist, conducting medication reviews in conjunction with the doctors and helping Árpád to meet accreditation standards. She is a member of the Quality and Clinical Governance and the Governance sub-committees.

Mary-Anne Carmody - Secretary



Mary-Anne has been the Secretary since 2019. She has a background in law and in the not-for-profit sector, and has Arts and Laws (Hons) degrees, a Master's degree in Management (Corporate Governance and Risk). Mary-Anne is also a member of the Governance, the Finance, Risk and Audit sub-committees and the Public Relations working group.

Erika Marsh - Treasurer



Erika has been Treasurer since 2022. She has a Bachelor of Education from Hungary, and is a Certified Chartered Accountant (UK) and CPA (Australia). She has significant commercial and management experience, and works as a management accountant. Erika moved to Australia in 2022 after 27 years in the UK. She is a member of the Finance, Risk and Audit and the Governance sub-committees.

Zoltán Borbély - Committee member



Zoltán was appointed to the Árpád Committee in 2024. He is a member of the Finance, Risk and Audit sub-committee. Zoltán is an experienced senior executive with a career in managing customers; risk, quality management and overseeing complex projects. In the last 15 years he has held several volunteer positions as board director of various Hungarian associations. He has qualifications in BSc from Eszterházy Károly University, an MBA from BME and also from Torrens University with a Master of Global Project Management.



Dr Diana Bossio - Committee member

Diana was appointed in 2023. She is Associate Professor of Digital Communication at RMIT University and Program Director of Professional Communication. Dr Bossio's research focusses on journalism, social media, and older people's digital participation and inclusion and has many publications. She is a member of the Public Relations working group.



Richard Horváth- Committee member

Richard was appointed in 2025. He is a Partner of Lowe Lippmann Chartered Accountants, practising in the areas of Taxation Consultancy and Advisory, and Business Advisory. Richard is a graduate of Monash University, with double Bachelor business degrees in Accounting and Computing. He is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) and a Registered Tax Agent. He is a member of the Finance, Risk and Audit sub-committee.



Christina Janka - Committee member

Christina was appointed in 2019. Christina's professional training was in secondary school teaching and translation, and she has a strong Hungarian background. Christina has previously worked as a diversional therapist at Villa Maria, Mercy Health and Tabulam and Templar. She is a member of the Quality and Clinical Governance sub-committee.



Erika Mártonhelyi - Committee member

Erika was appointed in 2021. She is a post graduate qualified emergency trained nurse with 20 years nursing experience. She works with Monash Health as a nurse manager. She has strong affiliations with the Hungarian community, volunteering throughout her life in many groups and clubs that support the conservation of Hungarian culture. Erika serves on the Quality and Clinical Governance sub-committee.



Catheryn O'Brien - Committee member

Cathy joined the Árpád committee at the end of 2024. She is a member of the Quality and Clinical Governance sub-committee. She originally qualified as a veterinarian, working both in the UK and country practice in Victoria. She then worked for many years at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research before moving to the University of Melbourne to take up the position of Director of Bioresources.



Rita Stannard - Committee member - to August 2025

Rita was appointed to the Árpád committee at the 2022 AGM and she is a member of the Quality and Clinical Governance sub-committee. Rita comes to the Árpád with over 20 years' experience in aged care. Her experience ranges from nursing, to clinical to Facility Management.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The new Aged Care Act was introduced on November 1 2025. Management of this transition is being led by the Committee and implemented by Árpád's Executive Manager, Martina Felkel. At our annual strategic planning day on February 1, we discussed both the management of this transition, and our vision for the future. The Planning Day was very competently chaired by Péter Agárdy, barrister, and featured a guest speaker, Roald Versteeg, General Manager Policy and Advocacy from Ageing Australia. The planning day resulted in reviewing our Strategic Plan, which can now be found on our website. We also developed concepts on the building and site improvements that will commence in 2026.

A major feature of Árpád is fostering the Hungarian culture through activities and food preparation. We also benefit from the Hungarian Government funded KCsP program. This year we had Veronika Pryma work with the Lifestyle team, and she was able to develop Hungarian culture in her activities with the residents. I am certain we will continue to be part of this program for 2026. Árpád also continues to be represented at various Hungarian functions and, as for the past number of years, we were sponsors of Hungarofest where we staffed an information booth.

In promoting the importance of Árpád as a Hungarian facility, I visited the office of Lőrinc Nacsa, Secretary of State for National Policy, in Budapest where I had a chance to promote Árpád. In February, Péter Szilágyi, Deputy Secretary of State for National Policy also visited Árpád. In October, Dr Csaba Latorcai, Deputy Minister for Administration and Regional Development, visited the home. Both visitors were most impressed with Árpád, and stressed that the importance of these meetings and visits is to promote Árpád in Hungary.

The Committee monitors the operational and financial position and performance of Árpád. The Committee receives monthly reports on our financial standing. The Finance, Risk and Audit sub-committee meets once a month to discuss, plan and monitor Árpád financial activities. The sub-committee is chaired by Árpád Treasurer, Erika Marsh, with assistance from independent chair Patrick Nolan, who has a wealth of experience in the financial sector. The Quality and Clinical Governance sub-committee also meets three times per year to discuss and review areas such as infection control, medication incidents and wound audits. Thanks to Professor Robert Thomas, who chairs these meetings.

As reported last year, the building is ageing and requires increased maintenance. The kitchen floor was resurfaced last year, and this year the roof was repaired. The carpets have now been replaced and new furniture purchased for both Tisza and Duna wings. The next project is installation of air-conditioning units into all rooms at Árpád.

The committee attends various conferences and webinars to ensure we are continually up to date with the changes in the aged care sector. Earlier this year, I approached society members to ask what types of social and learning activities might be of interest. We hope to have some consolidated activities on offer in the next year.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Martina and the staff for the wonderful work they do. They do an extraordinary job of caring for the residents. Our administrator, Zsuzsanna Kollár's efficient work is invaluable to the committee, and our small team of volunteers and donors who are greatly valued by Árpád residents, staff and the Committee. I also extend my thanks to the Árpád Committee for their dedicated work to ensure Árpád remains independent, well run and proudly Hungarian.

Éva Kövesdy - President

MANAGER'S REPORT



The Aged Care industry has just moved into a new era with a new Aged Care Act and new Strengthened Aged Care Standards. Training and preparing for the reform and major upgrades to the Árpád Home were the focus in the last 12 months.

In 2025, the Árpád had no visit from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. One unannounced visit was conducted by the Knox City Council in January 2025 to check on the Árpád's Food Safety Programme. There were no adverse findings. In April 2025, the Department of Health requested detailed information on care minutes and 24 hours Registered Nurse cover and was satisfied with provided information. Evidence of accuracy of staffing will influence funding through ANACC (Australian National Aged Care Classification) in future. Non-compliance will lead to funding cuts, therefore compliance is very important.

In 2025 the care minutes requirements increased significantly, whilst staff recruitment and sick leave cover remain challenges. We have increased our workforce in nursing, care and catering staff, but agency cover was still required at times to cover personal and annual leave. Many residents still prefer skilled workers that speak Hungarian and we continue to try to fill posts with staff who possess the required skills. We were able to sponsor another Hungarian carer via our visa sponsorship agreement with the Department of Home Affairs.

We had changes in our management team with a new Finance Manager and Quality Manager recruited. The Clinical Manager is currently on parental leave and the role has been filled from our own staff pool, which will ensure continuity of care.

This year we reviewed our induction and annual training plan, and added more competency-based training sessions, with several external training providers on site. Training on the new standards, Dementia care training, intercultural safety, falls prevention, fire warden, and food textures were conducted. As residents have increasingly complex clinical and personal needs, we have supported all lifestyle staff to complete a Certificate IV in Leisure and Health, and two registered Nurses were upskilled to complete comprehensive assessments of the older person.

CompliSpace, a Governance, Risk and Compliance Management Software system was also introduced to the Árpád to provide an online training platform and various online registers for risks, hazards, feedback and non-resident incidents. Feedback, hazard reports and non-resident incident reports can now be provided electronically via QR code. Feedback can still be provided in any form- verbal, email, feedback form, letter- but we experienced an increase of feedback provided via the QR code since CompliSpace went live, including compliments. This is a positive trend, as feedback helps to improve the service and informs our plan for continuous improvement.

Food and nutrition is important to residents, and we have ensured greater variety and flexibility around when residents can access food. To achieve this, we added more training sessions and detailed dietitian reviews to ensure compliance with the Act. Additional cooks were recruited to ensure more choices can be offered to our residents at every mealtime. A snack fridge is available for residents to get a snack at any time.

Based on all data we provided to the Department of Health and Ageing, including the annual resident interviews the Árpád remained a 4 Star Home throughout the year. However we continue to complete significant work to keep the Árpád fit for purpose. For example, the call bell system will be replaced by a wireless system in the next months, and staff will receive mobile phones which will be connected to the system. We will continue to review, adjust and update all policies, processes and services to ensure the accreditation next year is achieved.

Martina Felkel - Executive manager

OUR TEAM



Martina Felkel
Executive Manager



Sagar Shar
Finance Manager (April 2025-)



Nilakshi Perera
Finance Manager (- May 2025)



Ayeshi Silva
Clinical Manager



Kathleen Bagasin
Clinical Manager (September 2025 -)



Ariel Pu
Quality and Compliance Manager
(- February 2025)



Anum Noman
Quality & Compliance Manager
(June 2025 -)



Zsuzsanna Kollár
Committee Administrative Secretary



Zsuzsa Budavári
Lifestyle & Activities Coordinator



Szilvia Szaka
Junior Bookkeeper



Renáta Boros
Receptionist



Réka Ropolyi
Receptionist

ÁRPÁD STAFF

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Ágnes Alexy
Katalin Apáthy
Kathleen Bagasin
Pramila Baral
Thanlita Boonchart Niarhos
Renáta Boros
Grace Brough
Zsuzsanna Budavári
Eszter Bükkösdí
Laura Cadart
Biby Chandy
Sian Chepkoech
Mohan Bahadur Chhetri
Khattri
Mariana Dan
Alessandra Vanessa
De Moncrieff
Helena Ebrahimi
Pramila Eugene
Éva Ezsol
Rózsa Farkas
Ilona Fekete
Martina Felkel
Eva Forcucci
Gursharan Gursharan
Csabáné Hamar
Beatrix Hevér-Szabó
Anita Hornyákné Laczkó
Winthy Hsu
Tamara Izman

Hargundeep Kaur
Karmjeet Kaur
Manjinder Kaur
Shamanpreet Kaur
Mi Young Kim
Zsuzsanna Kollár
Tarun Kumar
Florie Lavapiez
Yuen Lee
Jessica Liao
Krisztina Molnár
Akriti Neupane
Anum Noman Aftab
Dorota Pachacz
Deepti Pandey
Ayeshi Patiharamba Juwan
Hasika Pelaketiya
Rosa Zoraida Pepper
Nilakshi Perera
Christina Powell
Jialiang Pu
Janet Pye
Ruby Ramna
Anita Rani
Ritika Ritika
Réka Ropolyi
Barsha Sapkota
Dulanjali Senarath Semage
Sagar Shah
Megha Sharma

Kritika Shrestha
Lisha Shrestha
Harbhinder Singh
Sirjana Subedi
László Svak
Szilvia Szaka
Frank Tamon
Ildikó Tarján
Orsolya Teknyös
Krisztina Temesi
Jackomina Van Heerden
Katarina Vanyova
Levente Várdai
Ildikó Vargáné Fülöp
Mannat Verma
Novemie Villamater
Hao (Candy) Wang
Jinglin Wang
Qingjuan Wang
Yayi Wang
Xiaoting Wen
Jinghan Wu
Jiarong Yu
Yi Qian Zhu
Yu Zuo

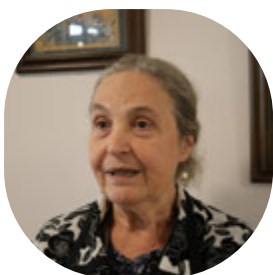


The first frame of the short film, made with the participation of our residents for Aged Care Employee Day

OUR VISITING DOCTORS

We gratefully acknowledge our Hungarian speaking visiting doctors for their ongoing care of our residents.

Dr Éva Herold



Dr Imre Sági



We also acknowledge our other visiting doctors, who are looking after our residents with great care.

Dr Wesley Ko
Dr Jude Gerald



Roses in our garden

QUALITY AND CLINICAL GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT



The Quality and Clinical Governance Sub-Committee is responsible for developing, reviewing, and monitoring Arpad Aged Care's clinical governance and quality frameworks. Working in partnership with management, the sub-committee met three times during the year, contributing to the implementation of high-quality systems and ongoing improvements in resident care.

Sub-Committee Members:

Professor Robert Thomas (Independent Chair), Jennifer Cole, Christina Janka, Erika Martonhelyi, Catheryn O'Brien, and Rita Stannard.

Clinical Systems and Technology

During the year, the facility introduced electronic systems to support resident documentation and care planning. Leecare Solutions and CompliCare were implemented in February and March, with staff completing the necessary training.

Further enhancements are planned through the implementation of Complispace. Its Assurance module includes audit tools, incident reporting, self-assessments, and Plans for Continuous Improvement (PCI). The system has improved efficiency by reducing reliance on paper-based processes through QR-enabled reporting and automated notifications.

Regulatory and Standards Developments

Expectations around safe, high-quality care and workforce capability continue to increase. Standard 5.0 requires providers to continuously improve the safety and quality of clinical care, while ensuring staff are appropriately qualified, competent, and working within their scope of practice.

The commencement of the new Aged Care Act has been deferred to 1 November 2025.

The revised Policy and Compliance system was finalised in May. Updated standards now use stronger language, with "should" replaced by "must," reinforcing accountability. There is also increased emphasis on nutrition and dietetic input under Standard 3, supporting resident wellbeing and choice. There will be no more unannounced assessor team visits, but interviews will take place with the committee members as well as staff and residents.

Safe and Quality Use of Medications

Clinical risks, particularly those with high prevalence, are closely monitored. A good example of best practice is the post-antibiotic review process, where residents are reassessed by their GP to confirm resolution of infection. These outcomes are monitored by Registered Nurses and GPs.

Medication management has improved through:

- Regular 3 monthly polypharmacy reviews
- Ongoing collaboration with pharmacists and GPs
- Strengthened monitoring practices to support safe medication use

Risk Management and Clinical Outcomes

The review of the risk register identified several areas of progress:

- Completion of dementia training for staff
- Focused management of high-risk, high-prevalence conditions
- Improved outcomes in falls prevention and resident safety
- Enhanced overall care delivery

Falls remain a key risk, with 47% of residents experiencing a fall during the year.

Prevention strategies include staff education, strengthened safety measures, and consideration of increased staffing during high-risk periods.

Weight loss is actively monitored through monthly clinical reports, with dietitian involvement to support early intervention and trend analysis.

Minimising the use of restraints continues to be a priority.

Diversity Training and Person-Centred Care

Lifestyle staff completed a two-day diversity training program aligned with Standards 1 and 3.

An action plan template has been developed to capture each resident's individual needs, preferences, impairments, and cultural background at the time of admission. This information contributes to a resource accessible to staff and assessors.

The program aims to ensure care is tailored to each resident, reflecting cultural sensitivities and the diversity of the community. The diversity action plan booklet is nearing completion.

Quality Indicators and Reporting

Quarterly Quality Indicator results for April to June 2025 showed improvement compared to earlier reporting periods.

Enhancements in reporting include:

- More accessible digital platforms
- Improved measurement and evaluation of outcomes
- Increased staff engagement and feedback

These changes have strengthened staff involvement in quality improvement processes.

Christina Janka and Catheryn O'Brien
Committee members

RESIDENT WELLBEING

We gratefully thank the following for their contribution to resident wellbeing.

Audiologist Hanna Street, Cleaners Sylvia Farrell and Dilmi Nishara, Hairdressers: Róza Bogár, Zsuzsanna Edmunds and Gabriella Szabó, Mobile dentist Nikki Rushent, Optometrist Christina Sipor-Ori, Pharmacist Jenny Cole, Physiotherapist Brendon Do, Podiatrists Philip Dolevski and Sam Besnek, Speech pathologist Yvonne Cohen and Wound consultant Linda Howell.

FINANCIAL REPORT



The 2024/25 financial year has brought many changes and challenges to the home and the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) alike. Now in my third year as Treasurer, I am pleased to report on another productive year for Árpád. The Finance Committee welcomed two new members: Richard Horváth, Partner at Lowe Lippmann Chartered Accountants (Árpád's former auditors), and Zoltan Borbély, Member of the Australian Institute of Managers, specialising in quality and compliance within the NDIS. Patrick Nolan continued to serve as independent Chair of the FRAC.

Following the departure of Nilakshi Perera, Sagar Shah joined Árpád as Finance Manager in April 2025. Due to this transition, the internal audit scheduled for March/April 2025 did not proceed as planned. The Committee is currently reviewing proposals from several internal audit firms whose future work will strengthen Árpád's financial risk management and control framework.

During the year, the FRAC reviewed and updated several key policies, including the Bad Debt Policy, Depreciation and Asset Management Policy, Investment Policy, and Bequest Policy. The FRAC met ten times throughout the year, with a recess in December and January. The annual financial audit was conducted by Hourigan Partners in July/August 2025—the firm's third consecutive year as auditors and the first full audit cycle using CareSystem, our aged care-specific accounting software.

The audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 reflect a year of stability and continued growth. Revenue from residents, government funding, and investment income all increased, though no COVID-related government support was received this year. Interest income declined slightly due to lower market rates, but our investment strategy remains sound and aligned with the FRAC's risk guidelines. Total revenue increased by \$908,889, but this was offset by higher operating costs, including increased expenses for utilities, cleaning, maintenance, agency staff, and wages.

Net profit for the year was \$1,186,957 (P4).

The decrease in profit compared to the previous financial year was mainly due to higher expenditure on repairs, renewals, and compliance-related building works. Costs such as roof replacement and other maintenance works were expensed rather than capitalised, ensuring transparency. The home now benefits from a watertight roof, with additional upgrades planned– including new air conditioners, an emergency call system, and new communal carpeting.

Occupancy remained strong at over 98%, well above the industry average of 87%. Average total funding per resident per day increased to \$287, up from \$237.50 in FY2024, reflecting sector-wide government increases and the higher care needs of residents.

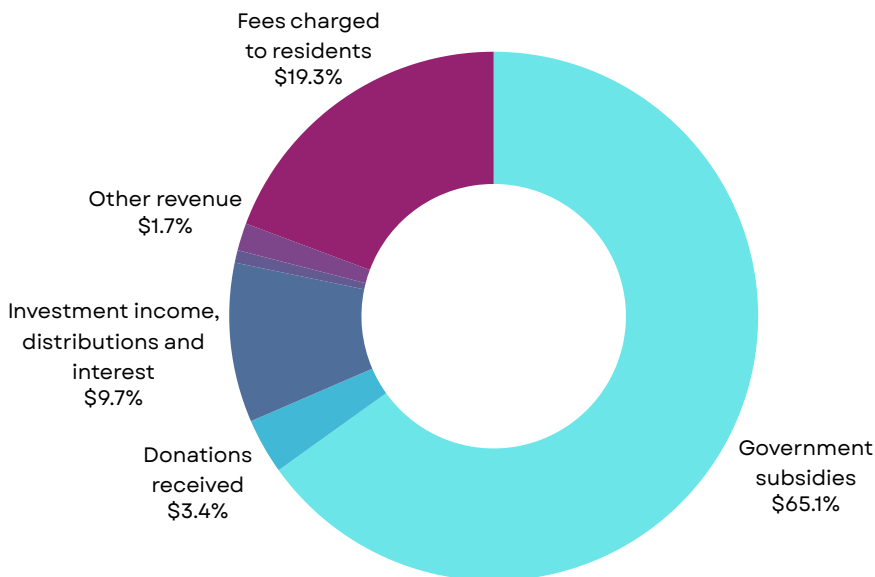
Managing financial and operational risk remained a key focus of the FRAC. The Committee reviewed and renegotiated investment terms in line with Árpád's Investment and Risk Policy. Our diversified, low-risk investment portfolio delivered an average return of 5.18% in FY25. Cash holdings at year-end totalled \$9.4 million, down from FY24 due to major maintenance and capital projects. However, term deposits (three months or longer) increased from \$1 million to \$6 million, ensuring stronger future investment returns.

The external audit conducted by Hourigan Partners was completed without significant issues. Árpád continues to operate as a going concern with a healthy cash flow and strong financial position.

I would like to thank the management and finance teams for their dedication and professionalism throughout the year. Their commitment to Árpád's mission and financial stability has been instrumental in ensuring continued excellence in resident care and governance.

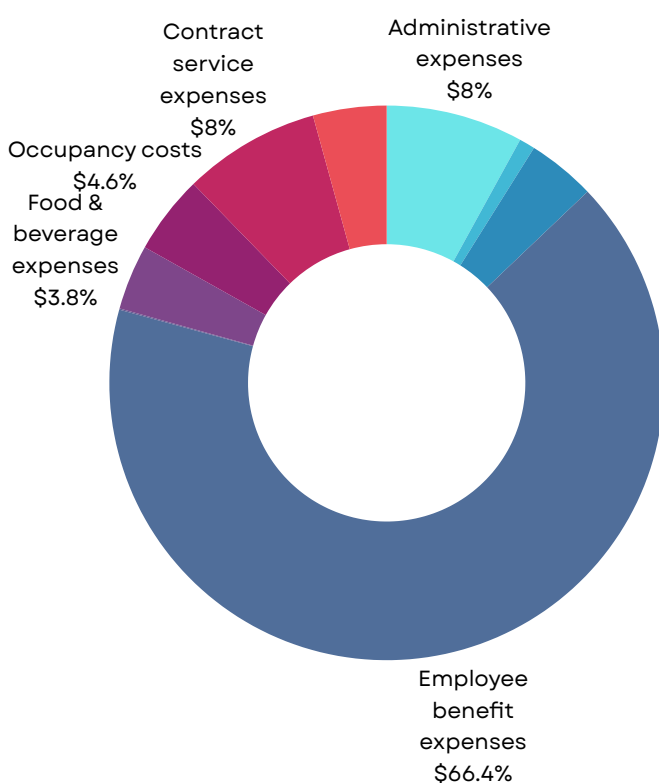
Erika Marsh - Treasurer

INCOME 2025



Investment income, distributions & interest \$970,888
 Rental income \$76,322
 Other revenue \$167,041
 Fees charged to residents \$1,923,260
 Government subsidies \$6,486,294
 Donations received \$338,174
 Government COVID support \$0

EXPENSES 2025



Administrative expenses \$701,469
 Depreciation expenses \$349,243
 Finance Costs \$6,210
 Occupancy costs \$403,493
 Cleaning & Laundry \$80,637
 Employee Benefits \$5,823,257
 Food & beverage \$333,903
 Contract services \$700,740
 Other expenses \$376,070

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ARPAD ELDERLY WELFARE SOCIETY INC.
ABN 65 553 697 438

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	9,411,463	13,546,561
Trade and other receivables	4	364,462	476,257
Other financial assets	5	6,000,000	1,000,000
Other assets	6	67,871	67,503
Total current assets		15,843,796	15,090,321
Non-current assets			
Other financial assets	5	10,374,080	5,484,952
Investment properties	7	5,220,000	5,220,000
Property, plant and equipment	8	5,609,583	5,864,195
Total non-current assets		21,203,663	16,569,147
TOTAL ASSETS		37,047,459	31,659,468
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	302,271	494,092
Employee benefits provision	10	968,087	749,587
Other liabilities	11	17,166,150	13,008,794
Total current liabilities		18,436,508	14,252,473
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits provision	10	128,607	111,608
Total non-current liabilities		128,607	111,608
TOTAL LIABILITIES		18,565,115	14,364,081
NET ASSETS		18,482,344	17,295,387
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		18,482,344	17,295,387
TOTAL EQUITY		18,482,344	17,295,387

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

OUR DONORS

We are very grateful to every donor who has contributed to Árpád in 2025 to help with Árpád's activities supporting older Hungarians, including the following generous donors:

M. Czeglédi
Estate of L. Szathmáry
E. Kocsis
R. Sully

A. Kovesdy
L. Rigó
A. & G. Bartha
Z. Tóth

Anonymous
C. Varga
K. Martonhelyi

Every gift makes a difference to the Society.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

We gratefully acknowledge the following volunteers who add to the residents' quality of life by spending time talking to them, playing music, giving slide shows about their travels, running bingo games, gardening and other activities.

Dr Károly Albert
Hien Albert
Róza Bogár

Erzsébet Hernyák
András Kövesdy
Rosa Oláh

Lajos Oláh
Louisa Rigó - passed away in July 2025
Rita Sully



A group of volunteers with Martina at the Volunteers' lunch

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING PARTY REPORT



The Annual Report 2024 was compiled by Mary-Anne, Zsuzsa, Diana and myself. It is a comprehensive summary of the facility's activities during the year. It is also a document we send to various people, for example, the Ambassador and the local member of parliament to inform them about Árpád.

Everyone here receives the quarterly Híradó that Zsuzsa prepares, with contribution of staff, like Martina and Anum. I would like to acknowledge Zsuzsa for her fantastic and creative work on the Híradó. Zsuzsa also maintains our Facebook page; please visit the page as all of the current activities in the home are posted. We are very lucky to have Zsuzsa with us.

As mentioned in the President's report, we had Hungarian ministers visiting Árpád this year. In February Péter Szilágyi Deputy Secretary of State for National Policy visited Árpád. In October Dr Csaba Latorcai, deputy minister for administration and regional development. Both visitors were very impressed by the home and asked a lot of questions.

We also recognise various significant days, such as Nurses Day, Father's Day, etc., when the committee hands out presents to the residents and the staff.

Éva Kövesdy
Chair

ÁRPÁD LIFESTYLE

Throughout 2025, our four-member Lifestyle Team worked to provide residents with a wide range of meaningful and enriching activities. The team's work was strengthened by a scholarship recipient from Hungary who spent nine months at the home as part of the Körösi Csoma Sándor Program, as well as by several volunteers whose contributions provided invaluable support.

As all of our residents share a Hungarian cultural background and identity, we place particular emphasis on commemorating Hungarian national and cultural holidays. During the year we marked the anniversaries of the 1848 Revolution (March 15), the Day of National Unity (June 4), St Stephen's Day (August 20) and the 1956 Revolution (October 23). Australian national occasions, including Australia Day, ANZAC Day and NAIDOC Week, were also observed. Easter and Christmas were celebrated with rich programs featuring music and literary elements.



Lifestyle Team: Zsuzsa Budavári,
Ildikó Tarján,
Beatrix Hevér-Szabó, Ilona Fekete



Above: residents commemorate St Stephen's Day (August 20)

International Women's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Seniors' Day and residents' birthdays were also acknowledged in a warm and personal manner.

Music plays a central role in the life of our community. Throughout the year residents enjoyed a variety of musical performances, including visits from the Hungarian Baptist Church music ensemble and a chamber performance by Dóra Gyimesi-Horváth and her ensemble. The Taban Dance Group, visiting Melbourne from Hungary, together with the Talleros Folk Music Band, delighted residents with an afternoon of Hungarian folk music and dance.



Above: Father's Day celebration with Sándor Maurer

The twice-monthly Live Music Afternoon was another highlight, with our volunteers Albert and Hien Károly entertaining residents with popular Hungarian and international melodies. These lively gatherings often ended with residents—sometimes well into their nineties—joining visitors on the dance floor. Regular group singing sessions also provided opportunities for residents to revisit favourite songs and memories.



Above: Wednesday music and dance afternoon



Above: József Basa
at the carnival photo session

Our Armchair Travel themed afternoons were also very popular. During the year residents virtually travelled to Nepal, Austria, the Czech Republic, Korea and Scandinavia, exploring the landscapes and cultures of these regions while sampling traditional treats.

We also hosted a number of light-hearted celebrations, including a Hungarian Carnival (Farsang) gathering in February, a St Patrick's Day celebration in March and an Oktoberfest event in October.

Encouraging residents to maintain a connection with nature is an important part of our wellbeing program. Bus excursions were organised to nearby parks and a plant nursery, and residents were encouraged to spend time outdoors and garden in our grounds. We also welcomed a travelling petting zoo, and residents enjoyed observing the hatching and growth of baby chicks over two weeks through the Henny Penny program.



Above: Baby kangaroo at the
travelling zoo



Left: Excursion to the
nearby park:
Nándor Lengyel, Sándor Miller
with Veronika Pryma
KCSP scholarship recipient

Games remain a favourite pastime among residents. Weekly bowling competitions were held, along with regular language and logic games. Monthly Trivia afternoons encouraged teamwork and friendly competition, while Bingo continued to be one of the most popular activities, offered several times a week in two formats.



Above: Daily exercise

Other regular activities included twice-daily exercise sessions, Hungarian-language religious services both online and in person, a weekly reading and discussion group, and a variety of arts and crafts programs.

Zsuzsa Budavári
Lifestyle & activities coordinator



Above: game afternoon with
Katalin Bodor and
Terézia Czudar

DINING EXPERIENCE

Dining experience is not just about the food and drink. It is a social, enjoyable, home-like experience which includes appetizing, freshly prepared meals, and a welcoming environment with nice table settings.

The strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards, effective 1 November 2025, introduced a dedicated Standard 6: Food and Nutrition, mandating that providers deliver safe, appetising, and nutritious food tailored to individual preferences and needs. As food and nutrition becomes more important and a greater variety and flexibility are required on what and when residents can access food, we added more training sessions and detailed dietitian reviews to support this requirement. The number of kitchen staff was increased to ensure more choices can be offered to our residents at every mealtime. As part of the improvement, we have implemented the supper trolley and snack fridges in both Duna and Tisza wings. The snack fridges offer sandwiches, yoghurts, and freshly sliced fruits and are available for residents at any time. Tisza wing's old dining room furniture was replaced with new, modern and comfortable ones.

During meal times, a Registered Nurse, in addition to the kitchen staff, needs to be in the dining area to supervise the dining experience and always try to provide a proper dining experience to the residents with less noise and fewer distractions.

Food and menu planning update is a standing agenda item on the monthly residents' meetings. It is also an opportunity when our chef gives an update on the menu and meals, ideas and feedback are also discussed.

At the end of January, we organized a traditional Hungarian pickle-making session with the residents. Following a traditional Hungarian recipe, residents added garlic, whole peppercorns, and dill to the cucumbers. The filled jars were placed in a sunny spot in the garden. After a few days, the refreshing pickles were ready, providing a delightful culinary experience for everyone involved.



Ilona Fenyvesi preparing pickled cucumber

In August, SBS interviewed residents of Árpád. The article discusses, among other things, the importance of culturally appropriate food and shared meals, which improve overall well-being and quality of life.

Our ice cream trolley, which is going around the facility once a week, is still very popular, on these occasions, we offer ice cream to our residents, staff members and visitors.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteer, Erzsébet Hernyák, residents have the chance to create delicious treats. A group of our enthusiastic residents gathers once a month to bake treats for the others, which are always a hit in the community and usually served with the afternoon tea.

Our menu always includes seasonal and fresh ingredients, vegetables, and fruits, which provide a balanced and nutritious diet and support our residents' choices and preferences.

Zsuzsanna Kollár - Committee administrator



Chef László Svák sweetening
the Kaiserschmarrn



Charles Bánhelyi at the
popular baking session

KCSP REPORT

I never imagined that I would be surrounded by such warmth, kindness, and positivity. Although I had previously visited many different places, I had no prior experience with aged care. Despite this, I felt comfortable and welcomed from the very first moment. The residents and staff showed me genuine kindness, and it was a valuable experience to gain insight into how an aged care community functions on a daily basis.

Over time, I became deeply attached to both the residents and the staff. The aged care home quickly became a meaningful place for me, and it remains close to my heart. I arrived in February, began my work at the end of March, and stayed until the end of November. During these months, I was fortunate to take part in a wide range of activities and events that allowed me to build strong connections within the community.

I organised morning bowling sessions, exercise classes, and various arts and crafts activities. In addition, we established a Solitaire Club that met every Tuesday afternoon. I also participated in several commemorations and community events, all of which contributed to creating a vibrant and engaging environment for the residents.

One of our favourite programs was Armchair Travel, during which I gave presentations about different countries and cultures. This activity allowed the residents to “travel” the world from the comfort of their home, while learning about new places and traditions.

Another highlight, both for the residents and for me personally, was the monthly trivia sessions. I always tried to prepare interesting and engaging questions, and many residents truly enjoyed taking part.



Veronika with Residents
at Santa's visit

One of the most rewarding aspects of my experience was getting to know the residents personally. Listening to their life stories, sharing conversations, and spending time together taught me patience, understanding, and empathy. I gained a deeper appreciation for the dedication and care that staff members provide every day to ensure the well-being of the residents.

It was especially meaningful to witness the existence of a Hungarian aged care home on the other side of the world, surrounded by such a beautiful environment. This experience filled me with pride and a strong sense of connection to the Hungarian community abroad.

Leaving the residents and staff was an emotional moment, as they had become an important part of my daily life. Many people believe that life in an aged care home is quiet and uneventful, but for me, each day was filled with meaningful interactions, inspiring stories, and moments of joy.

Above all, I will always remember the kindness, support, and love I received from both the residents and the staff. This experience has left a lasting impact on me, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a caring community.

Veronika Pryma



Veronika at her presentation about Austria

PHOTO GALLERY



Above: Residents photo collage for the International Nurses Day



Above: A group of residents making greeting cards for staff members



Left: Valentine's Day party

Below: Bingo session with Erzsébet Krasuljak, Erzsébet Hernyák volunteer and Irén Burany



Right: Magdolna Horváth and Erzsébet Olasz commemorate the March 15 1848 revolution in Hungary



Below: Residents playing bowling



Above: Henny Penny program:
Ilona Teleky and Martina with
the newborn chicken



Above: Rosa and Lajos Oláh
at the Melbourne Cup prize-giving
ceremony



Left: Anna Namestovski is decorating the Christmas tree

Below: Sándor Fazakas on his 107th birthday



Above: Júlia Mészáros with Santa



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