



# Stavros Kritikos has a vision to help promote and flourish our rich culture

## Tough new measures to tackle motorcycle gang violence

Premier Nathan Rees announced tough new measures to tackle motorcycle gang related violence.

“The NSW Government will immediately boost the Police Gang Squad with an additional 75 police officers from around the State, building this force to 125 officers.

“A reference will also be made to the NSW Crime Commission on recent outlaw motorcycle gang activity.

“The Crime Commission has significantly increased powers and is in place to deal with serious organised crime.

“We are responding swiftly to these recent brazen acts – I will not stand by while these criminals put innocent people at risk.

“The Government is considering toughening legislation to enable:

- The declaration of prohibited criminal groups and their members;
- The increase of police intelligence networks; and
- The restricting of access of gangs to industries identified as high risk.

“We will also review legislation around the confiscation of the proceeds of gang related crime.”

The Premier made the announcement following a detailed briefing by NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione on outlaw motorcycle gangs and recent gang related violence.

Mr Rees said the Government would provide the Police with the powers they need to tackle these gangs.

“Let me make it absolutely clear – we will not tolerate this type of violent behaviour,” Mr Rees said.

“We will throw every resource into attacking the violent and criminal behaviour being undertaken by these gangs.

“We will not allow these thugs to terrorise our streets and innocent members of the community.”

Mr Rees said these tough new measures come on top of additional Police powers and resources, including:

- Operation Ranmore established in May 2007 to target activity by Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and has resulted in a total of 902 arrests and laid 2027 charges;
- Anti-gang legislation in 2006 which has resulted in 232 charges for 252 offences including 164 charges for participating in criminal group and 40 for assault person as part of criminal group; and
- New covert search warrants announced earlier this month which will allow police to enter premises and conduct searches without informing the owners.

Stavros Kritikos, son of Panayiotis & Marika, was born in Mytilene – Greece in 1954.

He completed Primary & High School in Mytilene and he was actively involved with the Scouts in Mytilene from a young age and then as a Leader. During those years, he was also a member of the “Nautiko Omilo Mytilenes” (NOM) as a competitive swimmer and polo player.

He studied Electronics in Athens (1072-1975) and in May 1977 he came to Sydney-Australia to further his studies. He successfully completed a six-year Degree Course in Electrical Engineering at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). During his studies, he got involved with the Greek Student Association at the UTS, and helped to promote the Greek culture, values and traditions, by participating in a number of Greek theatrical plays and other social & cultural activities.

In 1982, he got married to Vicky Speros – a Pharmacist and together they started a new Pharmacy in Marrickville – Illawarra Pharmacy – while he was still pursuing his career as an Electrical Engineer with the Public Works Department (PWD) where he worked for 11 Years. During those years, he also attended a number of additional computer orientated courses and in 1990 he started his own business with computers in Kogarah. Currently he is still working in his computer business as a computer consultant & support, looking after his clients – primarily the medical professional people in Kogarah & St. George area.

In 2006 he got involved with the Greek Scouts in Sydney and in particular, with the 6th Bankstown Greek Scout Group, where he is currently the Group Leader.

Stavros and his wife Vicky, travel to Greece on a regular basis to see their

relatives & friends and for their holidays. They spend most of their time on the island of Lesbos where they stay in Mytilene. Stavros keeps in touch with most of his school mates & friends and his friends from the Scouts in Mytilene and other cultural groups & associations, like “To Delfini” in Skala Loutron, to “Horeutiko Singrotima Epano Skalas” in Mytilene, etc.

In May 2008 he has joined our Mytilenean Brotherhood as a Life Member after an invitation from the current committee and he is currently a member of the Committee.

His vision is to help promote and flourish our rich culture, values and traditions of our beautiful island of Lesbos and Greece in general, to all people here in Australia and abroad, in a bi-directional way, through the Mytilenean Brotherhood.

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## FUNDING FOR YOUNG LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS

**Y**oung Australian athletes aged 12 to 18 years and junior sports teams will be able to apply for funding to help cover the cost of attending major sporting events, Blaxland MP Jason Clare announced.

Twelve individual grants of \$500 and one team grant of \$3,000 will be available to help meet costs such as travel, equipment, uniforms, and accommodation.

The Local Sporting Champions program is another example of the Rudd Government’s commitment to supporting young people.

“This program is about recognising and supporting our young sporting talent,” said Mr Clare.

“It will give our local up and coming stars an opportunity to represent our community, an opportunity that they may not have been able to take for financial reasons,” said Mr Clare.

“In these tough times, things like sporting trips are often the first thing to go from the family budget.

“This will help ensure that local sporting talent is nurtured,” Mr Clare said.

In order to be eligible to receive a Local Sporting Champions grant, applicants:

- must be aged 12 to 18 years (inclusive);
- must be required to travel a distance of 250 kilometres or more, return;
- be participating in an official national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state or national sporting competition, or national school sport competition.

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is responsible for the management and coordination of the program and all applications will be assessed by the ASC.

A list of applications that meet the eligibility criteria will then be provided to the Blaxland Local Sporting Champions Committee for their consideration and decision. The Committee will consist of Dick Phillips, Tony Re and Olympian

Rebecca Rippon:

Dick Phillips has been a valuable member of the Bankstown Sports Club since 1971. He has been involved with community sport through his various roles on the Bankstown Sports Club Committee for 28 terms and was the Sports Director for 23 years. Dick is a regular attendee to junior teams in a wide variety of sports and is a patron to 11 different sports clubs. Tony Re is a life member of the Bankstown Sports Athletics Club. During the 25 years he has been at the club, he has often sat on the committee and through his role as a teacher and school principal in the local community; Tony was the program manager of sport for the

South-West Region of schools, managing school sport for over 200 schools.

Rebecca Rippon is one of the finest athletes our local area has produced. After a fourth place in Athens in 2004, Rebecca won a bronze medal for Water Polo at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. As a junior, she competed for the Birrong and Bankstown Sports Swimming Club and is currently a swimming coach for Bankstown Sports.

“Dick, Tony and Rebecca are leaders in our local community and will do a great job in nurturing our up and coming sporting champions,” Mr Clare said. Tony Re said, “Sport is an excellent way of uniting young people.”

Rebecca Rippon said, “This money will be a welcome relief for parents who want to support their children in their sporting endeavours.”

“It’s a positive step to keeping kids in sport, helping out financially where their parents may not be able to,” Ms Rippon said. The committee will provide independent advice on the selection of the candidates. Applicants for the Local Sporting Champions grants are encouraged to visit [www.ausport.gov.au/champions](http://www.ausport.gov.au/champions) or contact the office of Jason Clare MP on (02) 9790 2466

