

Grech sent letter to Howard

GODWIN Grech, at the depth of his despair last week, wrote to former prime minister John Howard. He also sought the counsel of former Howard chief of staff **Arthur Sinodinos** as he prepared to break his silence before the devastating findings in yesterday's Auditor-General's report.

Mr Sinodinos, now with the NAB, has been one of Mr Grech's two special confidants during his weeks in the psychiatric ward at a Canberra hospital. The other is former Howard cabinet secretary Peter Conran, who is now the director-general of the Western Australian Premier's Department.

The contacts with Mr Howard, Mr Sinodinos and Mr Conran show the closeness Mr Grech felt to leading figures in

the former government — as the email to Malcolm Turnbull that the Opposition released yesterday showed him casting himself as part of Team Turnbull.

The public servant at the centre of the OzCar affair first met and bonded with Mr Sinodinos when they were in Treasury many years ago. Mr Grech, who is of Maltese extraction, has told friends that when he arrived at Treasury he found the whole place filled with white Anglo-Saxon males, with the exception of Mr Sinodinos, who has a Greek background.

He has spoken with Mr Sinodinos several times in recent weeks. Sources said Mr Grech is feeling extremely isolated and was anxious to know people were prepared to take his calls.

It is believed Mr Grech had at home a

letter, or letters, from Mr Howard that allegedly were taken by Australian Federal Police when they raided his house after he gave evidence before the Senate committee in June. It is not known when they were written.

Mr Howard, speaking last night after delivering a lecture at Melbourne University, said: "Godwin Grech is a very good and sincere public servant".

When he was in the prime minister's department, Grech gave informal information to the Howard government. He is also being investigated overleaks obtained by the Opposition before the OzCar affair.

Treasury has already indicated it will suspend or terminate his employment, but has agreed not to act while he re-



mains in hospital. He is now extremely fearful about his future, including the possibility of charges.

Community saddened



The Earlwood community lost one of its most caring and generous residents when Waratah Florist owner Paul Bertuzzi passed away last month. After battling cancer for almost 12 years he passed away on July 16.

Working in the area for more than 35 years Paul and his wife Pauline were pillars of the community.

Diagnosed with bowel cancer at just 58 years of age, Paul went through copious amounts of chemotherapy and radiation.

It was at the Sydney Cancer Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital that he met Nia Karteris.

Nia, who was there to help her mother with her treatment, forged a friendship with Paul that would see them raise more than \$500,000 to support the Sydney Cancer Centre Foundation.

Holding Greek Gala charity events Paul and Nia's plight ensured a meeting with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the late RPA cancer surgeon Professor Chris O'Brien.

Pauline Bertuzzi said that Paul attended Professor Chris O'Brien's funeral in June, though as Professor O'Brien was Paul's inspiration, his death took an emotional toll on Paul.

"Psychologically, the death of Professor Chris O'Brien threw Paul down. In the end, his bowel cancer progressed to liver, lung, bladder, bone and brain. I think that I might continue with his charity work, but believe even if I do not, my children will", Pauline said.

Surrounding store owners and residents were saddened to hear the news of his passing and hundreds attended the funeral.

Earlwood Real Estate owner Sandra Marano said that Paul was a generous man who loved doing what he did.

Meeting Paul and Pauline in 1980 when Sandra too owned a florist in Earlwood, the trio would borrow equipment from each other and had a lovely working relationship.

"Paul and I had a great working relationship". Every time I went into Waratah Florist Paul would give me a bunch of flowers, even about four months ago, he gave a gorgeous bunch of red roses", Sandra said.

Commonwealth Bank Customer Service Specialist Maritsa Lionatos also knew Paul.

Attending the funeral, Maritsa said that he was a charitable person that was always joking around.

Survived by his wife Pauline and children Ann and John, Paul's contribution and heartfelt generosity will be something that will help the family ride the tide of their enormous loss.

Article from Valley Times

Greek coastguard stops Turkish journalists

The Greek coastguard stopped a group of Turkish journalists and the captain of their boat as they attempted to take photographs near the Greek island of Rho on Tuesday, Turkish and Greek officials said.

The journalists were questioned by the Greek coastguard until contact was made with the Turkish coastguard, when they were returned to the Turkish seaside resort of Kas, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"There was no situation such as Greek authorities detaining the Turkish journalists," the statement said.

Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency cited one of the journalists, Bekir Oner San, as saying the group had been briefly detained near the island, called Karaada in Turkish, and were told not to use their mobile phones before they were released.

The group had attempted to film Greek military personnel on the island, Anatolian said.

Greek authorities also said the group had not been detained. A Greek patrol boat intercepted the journalists as they neared Rho and checked their identification without boarding the boat, the officials said.

"Today at 17:35 (local time) we spotted a Turkish boat near the island of Rho," Theodoros Rentzeperis, chief of the Greek coastguard, said in a statement

We went to check it, and after that we asked them to leave Greek waters immediately. The Turkish boat left at 18:10."

Rho is close to the Dodecanese island of Kastelorizo, Greece's eastern-most island located 1.3 kilometres off the Turkish coast. A Greek Foreign Ministry official said Rho's territory is not in dispute.

Historical rivals Turkey and Greece nearly went to war in 1996 over control of the uninhabited island of Imia, or Kardak in Turkish. Relations have since improved significantly and Greece now backs its

Muslim neighbour's bid to join the European Union. Nearly a decade of negotiations over their territorial disputes have yielded little progress towards a settlement. The two nations are also in dispute over the divided island of Cyprus.

