

# Record number of Greek candidates in SA elections

*A record number of Greek Australians are candidates in the upcoming state elections in South Australia, which will be held on March 20.*

The largest number of the Greek candidates are running on a ticket with a newly formed party called Fair Land Tax (FLT) under the leadership of George Kargiotis.

The FLT is campaigning against high taxation and wasteful government spending.

A total of 20 Greek Australians are candidates in the South Australia elections with eight of them running on the FLT ticket alone.

As for incumbent candidates, Tom Koutsantonis is running in the ALP safe seat of West Torrens. Mr Koutsantonis is also the first SA MP of



Greek descent to become a Minister.

Three Greek Australians are candidates for the Liberal Party, three for the Family First Party (FFP), two are standing as Independents and two candidates for the Save the Royal Adelaide Hospital Party (SRAH).

The polls are suggesting that the race is very tight between the Labor Party and the Liberal Opposition.

The detailed list of candidates in an alphabetical order is as follows: Apostolou Nick, FLT, Adelaide; Bouras Rita, LIB, Legislative Council; Christopoulos Adriana, ALP, Fisher; Coleman-Mastrosavas Dylan, IND, Legislative Council; Desyllas John, FLT, Mount Gambier; Haralamopoulos Andrew, FLT, Legislative Council; Kalogiannis Nick, FLT, Bright; Kargiotis George, FLT, Legislative Council; Katsaros Jim, SRAH Legislative Council; Kourtesis Maria, LIB, Bright; Koutsantonis Tom (Incumbent), ALP, West Torrens; Marantos Denes, SRAH, Florey; Morichovitis Peter, LIB, Colton; Panagaris Peter, IND, Legislative Council; Papageorgiou Jack, FFP, Chaffey; Stamos Yianis, FLT, Colton; Theofanous Paul, FFP, Norwood; Tsekouras Harry, FLT, Mawson; Zafiriou Helen, FFP, Morphett; Zavos Jim, FLT, Newland.

(source: neos kosmos)



## Athens calls on expat pockets

GREECE initially sent a distress call to its wealthier expatriates, but has now extended the appeal to all Hellenes who might have some spare change.

The board of directors of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad has sent word to Australia through its consulate networks that it has established a solidarity account in response to the country's debt crisis.

The council has opened an account with the Bank of Greece dedicated to helping repay the massive debt.

A statement from the council's board of directors says: "We consider that it is our duty, that each and every one of us and all together as one, support and contribute actively to the solidarity fund campaign.

"We are confident on the immediate and positive response of all, in this initiative, so that Hellenism worldwide can stand once again by Greece's side, proving that when we stand united, we become stronger and more proud of our Greek roots."

The Herald has contacted several of Australia's wealthiest Greeks, but only one replied in the negative, saying they would not be throwing good money after bad.

## Australian Immigration Baird Report supports changes

Immigration Minister Chris Evans (foto) has welcomed the final report of the Baird Review on the legislation governing international education. The Baird Report by Bruce Baird was commissioned by the Australian Department for Education to report on the legislation that governs international education in Australia.

Mr Evans says that he is pleased with the support in the Baird Report for the Australian immigration changes announced on 8 February 2010. He goes on to say that the immigration changes mean the removal of incentives for students to apply for course in the hope

of later gaining Australian permanent residence. However, the report also said that there should be tougher national accreditation and that there should be greater protection for foreign students.

The Immigration Minister went on to refer again to the changes such as the ending of the Migration occupations in demand list which is to be replaced mid-year by a new targeted skilled occupation list to be developed by an independent body Skills Australia. He went on to say that the new skilled occupations list will be focused on "high value skills" such as the professions and trades in areas such as healthcare, en-



gineering and mining which it is hoped will deal with Australia's future skills needs. Forecasting future skills needs is not easily done. It remains to be seen how accurate the forecasts will be.

In a number of cases sponsorship may be the way forward. Students currently on a course not on the new skilled occupation list will have until the end of 2012 to apply for a temporary skilled graduate visa for up to 18 months to gain Australian work experience and find an Australian employer to sponsor them. It may also be possible to come under an Australian State sponsorship scheme.

International students in Australia on a vocational, higher education or post-graduate student visa will still be able to apply for permanent residence if their occupation is on the new skilled occupations list.

The Immigration Minister then stresses that the student visa is to study in Australia. It does not give

someone the right to permanent residence. He also said that Australia still welcomes international students who would then have an opportunity to find an Australian employer to sponsor them. Therefore, in practice studying in Australia may lead to greater immigration opportunities in Australia.

The Baird Report by Bruce Baird a former Australian Member of Parliament raised concerns about the treatment of overseas students in Australia. It was felt that some schools were taking advantage of international students. Mr Baird also had the following comments to make about attacks on Indian students in Australia:

"The recent attacks, predominantly on young Indian students, have saddened me as an Australian. I have a strong interest in Australia's successful multicultural ethos through my involvement in refugee issues, and it is extremely disappointment to see Australia's reputation as a safe and tolerant country damaged. I condemn these acts of violence."

Mr Baird felt that international students should have somewhere safe to go if they were facing problems, and also felt that new legislation should be introduced to protect international students.

## Wine Exhibition "Oenorama 2010" in Athens



*Oenorama 2010, Greece's only professional wine trade exhibition concentrating uniquely on wine, closes its doors to the public on Monday night.*

*Oenorama, the biggest and most important event of the Greek wine industry incorporating both wines and viticultural equipment, is organised by Vinetum every even year in March.*

*Thousands of from all over Greece are on display, as well as many imported wines, along with spirits such as Ouzo and Tsipouro.*

*Oenorama 2010 is taking place at the recently renovated Mediterranean Exhibition Center (MEC) in the Peania suburb of Athens.*