BRUNSWICK ALP CANDIDATE JOINS GREEK LANGUAGE CAMPAIGN

As the ALP candidate for the state seat of Brunswick, I am giving my full support to the campaign to have the Modern Greek Language included in the National Schools Curriculum. By signing the petition, I am adding to Victorian Premier John Brumby's call to back the campaign and have Greek named as one of the languages of national importance.

I feel it is essential that I add my voice to those of the broader Greek Australian Community and Modern Greek Language stakeholders, in asking that the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) give full consideration to the inclusion of the Modern Greek Language.

My strong connections with Brunswick and its extensive Greek community continually remind me of the important contribution the Greeks have made to Australia's history and their essential role in our countries future. Six generations of my family have lived in Brunswick and we have always admired the Greek communities' work ethic and core values that have made the area what it is today. It is through the Greek communities efforts, especially over the past 60 years, that Brunswick has become known as one of the pillars of Greek language education. As a result, today, we can reap the benefits of the vast infrastructure of afternoon schools, Saturday morning schools, church schools and long distance teaching schools already in place to support the inclusion of the Modern Greek language in the curriculum.

Picture caption: Federal Member for Calwell Maria Vamvakinou with ALP candidate for the seat of Brunswick Jane Garrett signing the petition to include the Modern Greek Language in the National Curriculum.

My decision to support the campaign is strengthened by the substantial ongoing financial support the Greek Government provides to Australia every year to support Modern Greek Language teaching. As a resident of a state with the largest Greek population outside of Greece, my work experiences and my history of community involvement have taught me the importance of working with people who make a difference, not only to their lives, but also to their workplace and the community around them.

I feel the inclusion of Greek in the curriculum, will provide a link for third and fourth generation Australian-Greeks to identify with the cultural roots that have made our society what it is today. I have fought for working families all my life and feel this is a key issue to maintaining the core values of the community that has made an enormous contribution to Australian society.

In addition to the language's importance to the local community, it is significant to note that Greek is one of the top five languages other than English spoken in Australia. There are also more than 365,000 Australians identifying with Greek ancestry. Modern Greek is seen globally as a relevant, working language and is recognised as one of the five official languages of the European Union. It is for these reasons I would stress the importance of including the Modern Greek Language in the National Curriculum and making it available to all in the Australian community.

Jane Garrett is a national union services manager for Slater and Gordon and works closely with unions to represent and advance workers rights across the country. As a Senior Legal and Policy Advisor for Steve Bracks, she worked on a number of key reforms to justice in Victoria.

Η ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ ΣΑΣ ΘΑ ΒΟΗΘΗΣΕΙ ΝΑ ΣΥΜΠΕΡΙΛΗΦΘΕΙ Η ΝΕΟΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ ΣΤΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑΣ!!!

Ensure the Modern Greek language is included in the National Schools Curriculum by signing the petition and sending it to the address below

Υπογράψτε την αίτηση και στείλτε τη στην αναπληρώτρια πρωθυπουργό Τζούλια Γκίλλαρντ

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Education

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

F: (02) 6273 4115
E: Julia.Gillard.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

RE: AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES CURRICULUM

In March 2008, you announced that the National Curriculum will include a languages curriculum from 2011. A later announcement committed $62.4 million to Asian language education by then.

As an Australian of Hellenic descent, I share the Federal Government's concern that only thirteen per cent of Year 12 students in this country study a language. **I believe part of the solution is for study of languages (including Modern Greek as an option) to be compulsory for all students (K-12).**

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Group of Eight Universities have all called for greater emphasis on the teaching of languages. The Australian Federal Police, the Australian Defence Force and non-government aid agencies continue to cry out for multilingual personnel, as did *The Flood Report* on intelligence.

According to as John Byron, Director, Australian Academy of the Humanities, **"There is plenty of anecdotal and research evidence that we are failing to pursue all the alternatives we can in trade to do business with those willing to speak their language"**.

The Australian Curriculum should include compulsory language education (including Modern Greek) alongside English, Science and History. Integral to the study of a particular language is the study, and understanding, of the cultural context that developed that language.

Numerous studies have illustrated how the systematic study of grammar improves students' written expression. This is also borne out by multilingual students, who transfer their learning of their second language (such as Modern Greek) into their learning of English.

Parents, principals and other stakeholders in Australian education need to be reminded that the Federal Government thinks that the study of the rest of the world is important. The introduction of language education (including Modern Greek) as a formal part of the Australian Curriculum cements learning and Australia in its regional and global context.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

PETITION | ΑΙΤΗΜΑ

GREEK

Προς τον Αξιότιμο Πρόεδρο και τα Μέλη της Βουλής
Το παρόν αίτημα

Ορισμένων Αυστραλών πολιτών συμπεριλαμβανομένων αντιπροσώπων της κοινότητας, εκπαιδευτικών, πολιτικών οργανισμών και ιδρυμάτων σε ολόκληρη τη χώρα,

φέρει στην προσοχή του σώματος

Το σημαντικό θέμα της περίληψης της Νεοελληνικής γλώσσας στο Εθνικό Πρόγραμμα Διδασκαλίας, ως γλώσσας πολιτισμικής, κοινοτικής, ιστορικής και οικονομικής σημασίας για την Αυστραλία και τον αυστραλιανό λαό.

Ως εκ τούτου ζητάμε από τη Βουλή

Να μεριμνήσει, ώστε να περιληφθεί η Νεοελληνική γλώσσα στο Εθνικό Πρόγραμμα Διδασκαλίας, που διαμορφώνει η Επιτροπή Διαμόρφωσης του Εθνικού Προγράμματος.

Translation by Kostas Nikolopoulos (Professional Translator, No 10811)

ENGLISH

To the Honourable Speaker and the Members of the House of Representatives
This petition of

Certain citizens of Australia including representatives of community, educational, political organisations, institutions and establishments across the country

draws to the attention of the house

The matter of the importance of including the Modern Greek language in the National Schools Curriculum as a language of cultural, community, historical and economic importance to Australia and the Australian people.

We therefore ask the House to

Ensure that the Modern Greek language is included in the National Schools Curriculum currently being developed by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority.

NAME | ΟΝΟΜΑ	SIGNATURE | ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ

Please post this petition to the following address:
Neos Kosmos Petition,
P.O.Box 42, Carlton North, Victoria, 3054

Παρακαλούμε να αποστείλετε το συμπληρωμένο απόκομμα στην ακόλουθη διεύθυνση:
Neos Kosmos Petition,
P.O.Box 42, Carlton North, Victoria, 3054