



Christopher Deligiannis contributes to the Australian Political Debate!!

A young Hellene's report and ideas from Sydney... make it to Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Canberra!

It is always important to bring to the surface young Hellenes, 1st, 2nd or 3rd Greek-Australians, who make a contribution to the Australian political scene and contribute to the various debates that may shape the future of the country. Our young Hellenes appear to have the genes of their ancient ancestors, who had a stake in the political "bios" of Classical Greece and formed policies on a variety of issues!!

Sydneysider, Christopher Deligiannis is a seventeen year old year 12 student, undertaking his HSC at the end of this year, and school officer at Trinity Grammar School, in the inner western Sydney suburb of Summer Hill. Christopher is a second generation Greek Australian whose origins are from the Peloponnese and the Dodecanese; he is the only child of Charles (Kyriacos) Deligiannis, whose parents Peter and Maria Deligiannis emigrated from Neapolis town in the southern Peloponnese and Helen Deligiannis,

daughter of Irene and Nicholas Tritsaris both from the island of Kos in the southern Dodecanese islands in the Eastern Aegean Sea. Living in the Greek-predominant south western suburb of Earlwood his whole life, Christopher has been raised by Greek parents that have taught him the value of both a proper education as well as family, values that have allowed him to adopt a position of leadership at his school. Being a keen, first-grade, debater for the better part of eight years, Christopher recently won into a federal government initiative, the 'National Constitutional Convention'. This has to be seen as a success for Christopher and the wider Greek-Australian youth.

After submitting a written report on the topic of 'Aboriginal Rights under the Constitution', he was accepted into a debate and open forum late last year at the NSW State

Parliament. As he was elected chairperson by the other year 12 participants, he saw himself being chosen to represent NSW, in the Australian capital, Canberra. Meeting with delegates from the other states and territories, they debated topics under the umbrella term of 'Federalism: Unite or Divide?' Upon listening to arguments for and against the nationalisation of water and health, by Federal Senators Kate Lundy and Cory Bernadi, Christopher participated in forming a communique based on the outcomes of the debates. This was in turn presented to the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon John Hogg. This communique was then passed on directly to the Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd to be considered!

Christopher's interview in tomorrow's English edition



REPLY LETTER TO MR STEVE GEORGANAS MP from the Hon Julia Gillard MP



THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Mr Steve Georganas MP
Member for Hindmarsh
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

01 APR 2010

Dear Mr Georganas

Thank you for your letter of 23 February 2010, concerning the inclusion of Greek in the Australian Curriculum.

The Australian Government is committed to languages education in Australian schools and recognises the importance of young people learning a second language, including Greek. Greek is one of Australia's major community languages, a reflection of the significant contributions the Greek community has made to the cultural and social development of Australia, in particular since 1945.

Under the National Education Agreement (NEA), the Government is providing significant funding to the states and territories for languages education in government schools and community language schools. The NEA allows state and territory education authorities the flexibility to target resources according to individual jurisdictional priorities and educational needs. Funding can be used to support Greek language programs.

The Government is also providing \$56.4 million over 2009 to 2012 through the *Schools Assistance Act 2008* to support the teaching of languages, including European languages, in non-government schools.

As you are aware, the second stage of national curriculum development will include languages, along with geography and the arts. An initial shaping paper for languages will be released in mid-2010 for public consultation. As you note, Associate Professor Angela Scarino of the University of South Australia is currently engaged in leading the development of this paper.

In its work to develop the Australian Curriculum, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to date, has drawn upon the considerable curriculum expertise of the states and territories. ACARA has also engaged in extensive consultations with the education community, including parents, teachers, principals, professional organisations, academics, and representatives from the business and industry sectors.

It is anticipated that public consultation about languages education may include issues such as:

- which languages should be selected for the development of language specific curricula
- how to cater for the diversity of language learners and their distinctive pathways (such as heritage and background speakers)
- how to address transition and continuity of language learning.

This consultation, as with all other learning areas, will assist in shaping the future direction of a national curriculum for languages.

I would therefore encourage you and your constituents, as well as members of the Greek community to provide feedback on the languages shaping paper once it is released. You may wish to monitor the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority website at www.acara.edu.au to keep up to date on progress in the development of the languages curriculum.

I would also encourage you to communicate your views on the importance of the inclusion of Greek in the Australian Curriculum to ACARA. For your information, ACARA's contact details are:

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
Level 10
255 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone: 1300 895 563

I trust this information is of assistance and I thank you for your interest in languages education in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Julia Gillard
Minister for Education