

The importance of modern Greek as the basis on which fundamental texts that we use today were developed cannot be overstated. An understanding of the Greek language will serve to allow us to develop Australia's research capabilities, because it is in understanding the fundamentals of language from which theories are developed that researchers are able to understand the roots of ideas that are relayed to us through theory. The Greek language has become a significant resource for our nation from which we are able to stay in touch with the rest of the world. Having said that, modern Greek is not only a language confined to the Greek-speaking community but a modern, working language that is one of the five official languages of the European Union and one of the top five spoken here in Australia. We need to get the balance right when choosing languages for the national curriculum.

Extract from Maria Vamvakinou's speech at the House of Representatives on the 23rd February 2010



MP Steve Georganas



Senator for South Australia Nick Xenophon



Calwell MP Maria Vamvakidou



Dr Panayiotis Diamadis President of AHC

Campaign for the Modern Greek Language gains momentum



The Minister for Education Julia Gillard

The campaign to include the Modern Greek Language in the National Curriculum took another step forward, after Greek Community representatives attended a meeting at Parliament House in Canberra.

The meeting was aimed at strengthening the case for Modern Greek Language in Australia, and attended by Hindmarsh MP Steve Georganas, Calwell MP Maria Vamvakidou and Senator for South Australia Nick Xenophon. The Minister for Education Julia

Gillard was represented by her Senior Education Advisor Rhonda Rietveld, who undertook to relay proceedings to the honourable minister.

The meeting was seen as a valuable opportunity to impress on the ministers office, the importance of the Modern Greek Language to the community and its educational, cultural and historical value to the wider Australian society.

Among others, the President of the Australian Hellenic Educators' Association Peter Diamadis, highlighted the case from a teaching perspective by making valid points about the Modern Greek Language.

Ms Rietveld detailed the consultation process for the second phase of the National Curriculum, and acknowl-

edged the Greek Communities efforts so far. Importantly, she reminded all stakeholders that no decisions regarding the number or type of languages have been made. She said that anyone who wished to make a submission to the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA), who will be releasing the shape paper in coming months, would have ample opportunity to do so via the ACARA website at <http://www.acara.edu.au>

Msw Vamvakinou, Mr Xenophon and Mr Georganas said the meeting had set a good dialogue for the positive future direction of the campaign.

**Indi MP Sophie Mirabella put in an apology for the meeting, as she is on maternity leave*



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