

Labor's 'fresh new face' is a seasoned party operator

She is being hailed by party bosses as a "fresh face" for Labor in the Legislative Council who represents a clean break from the factional appointments of the past.

But there is little doubt that **Sophie Cotsis** is very familiar with how government operates.

The 37-year-old worked as an adviser to the former NSW transport minister Michael Costa, before stepping into a private sector job with the multinational infrastructure company Parsons Brinckerhoff in March 2008. She has advised the company, which since 1999 has donated almost \$100,000 to the NSW branches of the Labor and Liberal parties, on how to deal with government.

Parsons Brinckerhoff was involved in construction of the Lane Cove Tunnel and the Epping to Chatswood rail line.

A company spokeswoman said Ms

Cotsis was employed to "help the firm with its understanding about government. What government requires, how it works".

Now, two years on, Ms Cotsis is set to jump back into government, this time as a Labor MLC.

She is one of four new faces due to be elected to the Legislative Council in a joint sitting of Parliament this evening.

The others are the former head of the Nature Conservation Council, Cate Faehrmann, and Woollahra councillor David Shoebridge, both of the Greens, and the former head of the Game Council NSW, Robert Borsak, of the Shooters Party.

However, the new MLCs will not be sworn in by the NSW Governor, Marie Bashir, until Friday. This means they will not be allowed to take their seats and vote on legislation until September 21, the next time the Legislative Council sits.

Ms Cotsis was preselected for the

Legislative Council position yesterday by a unanimous vote of the party's administrative committee following her endorsement by Labor's dominant Centre Unity faction on Friday.

The only other candidate, Ashfield councillor Lucille McKenna, positioned herself as an anti-head office candidate.

A senior Labor source yesterday insisted Ms Cotsis was "a quality candidate" who has "future potential" and "the type of person NSW Labor needs to be preselecting more of".

However, her selection has upset some party members, who criticised the "behind closed doors" selection process. Three Labor councillors, Darcy Byrne of Leichhardt, Alex Lofts of Ashfield and Mary O'Sullivan of Marrickville, issued a statement supporting Ms McKenna and calling for future positions to be filled by a rank and file ballot.

"It is important for the future of the Labor Party that rank and file candi-



Labor's "fresh face" ... Sophie Cotsis.

dates like Lucille, who have real world experience, continue to put their hands up to be parliamentarians," Mr Byrne said.

A Greens MLC, John Kaye, criticised the method of her appointment. "Ms Cotsis's easy moves from a ministerial office to a corporation with substantial dealings with government and then into the Parliament will reinforce the strong perception that the NSW government is captive to cronyism and powerful minority interests," he said.

Article from SMH

ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΛΩΣΣΑΣ

The Australian Hellenic Educators' Association NSW-ACT-QLD

invites

all educators (Primary-Secondary-Tertiary)
to a professional development seminar on

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING HELLENIC AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

on Sunday 24 October 2010
at the Ilion House
279 Forest Road, Bexley
from 1.00pm

PRESENTATIONS

Dr Panayiotis Diamadis (St Andrew's Cathedral School, Sydney): «Teaching Hellenic language through Australian Hellenic history»

Mr Dimitrios Kametopoulos (Marrickville High School and Saturday School of Community Languages Liverpool Boys High School Centre) with Mrs Charoulla Themistocleous (Earlwood Public School): «NSW child protection legislation»

Mrs Charoulla Themistocleous with Mrs Mary Faletas (St Spyridon College): «Drama and teaching Hellenic language»

The 2009-2010 Annual General Meeting will follow the seminar.

Registration is \$30 (includes the seminar and one year's AHEA membership)
Cheques should be made out to "Australian Hellenic Educators' Association".

Registration:

1. Telephone (business hours): (02) 9550 0251. Mobile: 0414 714 807 (after 4.30pm weekdays and weekends).
2. Facsimile: (02) 9588 2112
3. Email: nswmgta@yahoo.com.au

Payment:

1. Cheques payable to Australian Hellenic Educators' Association. Send cheque and registration form to AHEA PO Box 289 Dulwich Hill NSW 2203.
2. Confirm attendance by telephone, email or facsimile and pay registration fee on the day.

REGISTRATION CLOSES FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2010

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**Recognising and Dealing with behaviour:
Helping parents know when and how to respond**
Sept. 9th, 2010

**Changing Behaviour :
Helping children become better managers of their emotions**
Sept. 16th, 2010

**Strengthening your relationship:
Reinforcing the bond between you and your children**
Sept. 23rd, 2010

WHERE: Salvation Army Earlwood - 58 Earlwood Ave

WHEN: Thursday September 9th, 16th and 23rd

TIME: 10:00am - 12:30pm

COST: FREE

FREE CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS on 9559 4013

Morning Tea will be provided

The sessions will be presented by a Greek/English speaking Early Childhood Professional.

*To get the most out of this parenting program we encourage participants to attend all three sessions.

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