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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### Rise in activity from right-wing extremists in Australia

Australia's domestic security agency ASIO has warned of a surge in activity among right-wing extremist groups, despite the recent ban on Nazi symbols.

The Home Affairs department has reported an increase in the importation of Nazi symbols and has expressed concerns of extremist groups targeting LGBTQ+ supportive councils in Victoria.

ASIO's submission to a Senate inquiry has revealed that a quarter of its counter-terrorism efforts are focused on

ideologically motivated violent extremists.

Home Affairs Minister Claire O'Neil said that social cohesion was a major focus of the government in combating extremism, as the radicalisation environment becomes more complex, particularly online.

The Department has shared that a comprehensive response involving various sectors is necessary to address the complex landscape, as radicalisation efforts continue to evolve.

### Welfare payments not covering basic essentials

A new report by Anglicare Australia has revealed that Australians living exclusively on welfare payments are struggling to cover the basic necessities of life, amid one of the harshest cost-of-living crises in decades.

Despite soaring expenses for essentials like housing and food, social security payments have remained stagnant, leaving many struggling to make ends meet.

The report has revealed that households with the lowest incomes are disproportionately affected by inflation, as hous-

ing costs have surged by 22 per cent and food and electricity expenses have risen by 17 per cent, over the past two years.

Anglicare Australia has urged the government to raise social security payments above the poverty line, and establish an Independent Social Security Commission to adjust payments according to the cost of living.

Executive Director Kasy Chambers emphasised the urgent need to prevent the further impoverishment of Australia's most vulnerable citizens.

### Young Australians may be working till they're 70

New figures from consulting firm KPMG have revealed that over 20 per cent of Australia's workforce is aged over 55, with retirement ages holding steady.

The workforce saw a significant increase in those aged 55 and over, accounting for almost 70 per cent of the growth from 2019 to 2021.

Urban economist Terry Rawnsley noted that during the COVID era, older individuals remained or returned to work due to travel restrictions and job availability.

Despite a shift towards semi-retirement and flexibility in career changes, the average

retirement age has gradually risen.

This trend has aligned with the shift towards white-collar jobs from manual jobs and changes in the superannuation access age.

While the report noted that working longer benefits an individual's personal income and lessens the tax burden on younger generations, it poses challenges for those doing physically demanding roles.

If the trend persists, some forecasts predict that future generations may work until 70, impacting both individuals and the economy positively.

## Sydney mass murder, one of the worst in Australian history

The victims of a stabbing spree at a Sydney shopping centre, which left six dead and a number of others in hospital, have been identified.

Among those killed was first-time mother Ashlee Good, 38, who has been described as an "all-round outstanding human" who died while protecting her nine-month-old baby, who was also injured in the horror attack.

Others include security guard Faraz Tahir, who has been praised for his "bravery" in protecting others at Westfield Bondi Junction and

25-year-old Dawn Singleton, who worked at a clothing boutique.

Jade Young, 47, who worked as an architect, 27 year old Chinese student Yixuan Cheng, and 55-year-old artist Pikria Darchia were also killed, while the identity of the sixth victim remains unconfirmed.

New South Wales Police said they had identified the attacker as Joel Cauchi, of Queensland, with his family describing his actions as "truly horrific". It has since emerged that he had attempted to join gun groups.

The 40-year-old from Queensland, had been known to police, particularly over the last five years, but had not been arrested or charged before he committed the attack. He suffered from a mental illness.

Shoppers were left terrified after Cauchi began attacking random members of the public on Saturday afternoon, before he was shot dead by a lone police officer.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hailed the "extraordinary" bravery of Australians after the stabbing at the



Victims Faraz Tahir and young mother Ashlee Good

Sydney shopping centre.

## Fatal stabbing of 21 year old Flinders Park man in Welland

Police investigating the fatal stabbing of 21-year-old William Holdback, whose body was found in the morning of the previous Wednesday, say the victim was chased down a suburban Adelaide street before being murdered.

A 27-year-old man, Liam Slann from Adelaide's northern suburbs and his 51 year old father Brian Slann, were arrested and charged with the murder of William Holdback. They appeared before the Adelaide Magistrates Court last week and they will return to court in October.

Emergency services were called to Barrpowell Street at Welland in the city's inner north-west at about 1:30am after musicians practising at a nearby industrial premises "heard screaming and shouting" outside, police said.

"After a little while they went outside to investigate and found Will lying on the road critically injured. They



21-year-old murder victim William Holdback

did their best in what would have been extremely difficult circumstances," Detective Superintendent Des Bray said.

Police said Mr Holdback had earlier agreed to what appeared to have been a "clandestine meeting", possibly related to drugs, on Musgrave Avenue, and that he had walked to the scene

from his home at Flinders Park about a kilometre away.

"Along that way he'd been carrying a skateboard and he arrived at the location before the people he was going to meet," Superintendent Bray said.

"Shortly after he got there a car arrived and there was communication between Will and the occupants of that car and we know, that conversation became heated."

Superintendent Bray said Mr Holdback then ran from the car but was "pursued by a man from that vehicle".

"We know that that man caught up with Will and ultimately is responsible for Will's murder about halfway along Barrpowell Street," he said.

Police said the man then got back into the passenger side of the car, which was described by police as a dark-coloured four-door sedan with a sunroof and mag wheels.

Superintendent Bray said

CCTV had captured various images of the vehicle, which U-turned and was last seen travelling west along Musgrave Avenue.

He said police had not yet recovered the weapon, and that while it was "not certain" why Mr Holdback had gone to the scene, the reason may have been drug-related.

"Given that it's 1:20am, given that it's a remote location in an industrial area, it has all the appearance of a clandestine meeting," Superintendent Bray said.

Superintendent Bray said Mr Holdback's family had been left "devastated" by what had occurred, and described those responsible as "pathetic".

"They've taken a young man's life and I think when we get to the bottom of it, it will be just a senseless murder for something trivial," he said.

Last week police were still looking for a BMW which may be linked to the incident.

## A point of view on 25th March

By Kostas Karamarkos\*  
MELBOURNE

Honour, respect and recognition to the roughly 3,500 people, students, parents, grandparents and representatives from roughly 70 Greek-Australian community organisations, who participated at the Greek National Day Parade in Melbourne (on 14 April) and who, year in and year out, try to hold and to carry the baton of the Greek-Australian community from one generation to the next.

Sadly though, as time goes by, the numbers dwindle, the nature of the celebration changes, the overwhelming majority of the multifaceted and diverse 180,000 strong Australian Greek community residing in Melbourne is becoming less interested and less attracted to an event that no longer has its previous glory, to an event that no longer tries to be as representative as possible, of the overwhelming majority of present day Greek-Australia. A reflective observer might have noticed the following five

## Community Life

indicative points, relating to the parade in Melbourne.

1. It was the second year in a row, that the event took place at a sports facility, Lakeside Oval, away from mainstream Melbourne.

2. It was the second year in a row, that the front row of "officials" on stage was occupied by males. It was an "improvement" from last year, when students and community organization representatives marched in front of a stage packed exclusively with males, but...

3. The three female MPs from the Parliament of Greece, members of the Parliamentary Committee for the Greek Diaspora, amongst them two vice chairs of the Committee from Syriza and PASOK, MPs who were invited and travelled to Australia especially for this parade, these three female MPs were relegated to the second row of the "official" stage and... They were not allowed to say a single word honouring the heroes of the

Greek War of Independence of 1821. This "honour" was reserved by the organisers for the former Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece responsible for Hellenism Abroad, New Democracy (governing party of Greece) MP Kostas Vlassis, who is not a member of the Parliamentary Committee for the Greek diaspora...

As for the other female MP, Victorian Parliamentarian Kat Theophanous, she was "relegated to the third and last row..."

4. What is also worth mentioning is the fact that the president of the GOCMV, still the largest (and oldest) secular community organisation in Australia, was also sitting in the very last row. For many decades in the past, it was the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria that used to organise the celebration for the Greek National Day in Melbourne...

5. Centre stage at the parade, sitting right in the middle of the front row, we had the leadership of the

Melbourne branch of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

This is historically grossly inaccurate. Given that the hierarchy of the then Orthodox church denounced the Greek revolutionaries of 1821.

We are witnessing the takeover of almost all major community events by the church and... No one, from the institutionally organized community, seems to care, or seems to be able to understand the implications of this, that is, that their days as community leaders answerable only to their membership are numbered...

Honour, respect and recognition to the roughly 3,500 people, students, parents, grandparents and representatives from roughly 70 Greek-Australian community organisations, who participated at yesterday's Greek National Day Parade in Melbourne, and who, year in and year out, try to hold and to carry the baton of the Greek-Australian community life from one generation to the next.

Honest, hard and self-reflective thinking is needed, urgently, I think...

\*Journalist

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## Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

Contact: Harri on 0484 387 818 - or email your community's news or a photo: info@greektribune.com.au



the Premier of South Australia Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, together with the Consul-General of Greece Hon George Psiachas, hosted a reception to celebrate Greek Independence Day on 25th of March at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Left, Mrs Psiachas and their two children



At the Premier's Reception at the Convention Centre were many invited guests from the local Greek community associations. Among others, were, Adelaide Councillor Mary Couros, SA Multicultural Commission Adriana Christopoulos and chief magistrate Maria Panagiotidis



LEFT: Last month, the Opposition Leader Peter Dutton addressed the Parliamentary Friends of Greece and Greek Australians event in the Great Hall at Parliament House. In the photo, Mr Dutton with Archbishop Makarios.

RIGHT: Member for Adelaide Steve Georganas and Minister for Trade Don Farrell, met in Canberra with Greek deputy interior minister Livanios. The discussion included ways to strengthen Australian-Greek ties, trade, tourism, electoral reform in Greece and an exchange on how our electoral legislation works. Mr Livanios was keen to hear about our Postal voting and how it operates. Minister Livanios also attended the Greek event in Parliament to celebrate the Greek Independence Day.



## ADF members and veterans need help every four hours

One veteran or serving member of the Australian Defence Force, has suicide-related contact with emergency services every four hours.

That's according to new research conducted for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide by the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research.

The study revealed current and former members had a 24 per

cent higher chance of suicide-related contact, than the rest of the population.

Researchers used data from Queensland and examined the results to get a more complete picture of the situation across Australia.

The researchers also described the findings as conservative for several reasons, including that it did not cover those who made contact multiple times.

## Minister Penny Wong: Death of any aid worker is outrageous!

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong said the death of any aid worker is outrageous and unacceptable.

"It is with overwhelming sadness that the Australian Government confirms the death of an Australian aid worker in Gaza.

"The tributes flowing for Lalzawmi 'Zomi' Frankcom tell the story of a life dedicated to the service of others, including her fellow Australians during natural disasters.

Her tireless work to improve the lives of others should never have cost Ms Frankcom her own.

The Government expresses its deepest sympathies to her family and loved ones, just as we mourn all civilian

deaths in this conflict.

Throughout this conflict, Australia has called for restraint, for the protection of civilians and safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance.

The Australian Government condemns this strike. The Government has made representations to the Netanyahu Government and seeks a thorough and expeditious review. We expect full accountability for these deaths.

We repeat our demands for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire leading to a sustainable ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and that international humanitarian law be upheld", Minister Wong said.

## Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese inspects largest defence export capability

Rheinmetall, the largest supplier of military vehicles to the Australian Defence Force has recently hosted the Honourable Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia.

Mr Albanese visited Rheinmetall's 11 hectare facility at Redbank in South-East Queensland that encompasses key production line, armour producing, welding and test track facilities.

Nathan Poyner, Managing Director of Rheinmetall Defence Australia said Mr Albanese's visit to the Military Centre of Excellence was to celebrate the largest ever defence export and import order of more than 120 Heavy Weapon Carrier vehicles to the German Army (Bundeswehr).

The Centre of Excellence is a key supplier into security and defence for land and naval along with ammunition and naval defence.

Mr. Poyner said The Heavy Weapon Carrier for the Infantry is based on the Boxer Combat Vehicle (CRV), the wheeled armoured reconnaissance vehicle of the Australian Defence Force, also supplied by Rheinmetall.

This is the proven 8x8 combat vehicle with an armoured reconnaissance mission module including the two-person Lance turret. The main weapon is the Rheinmetall MK30-2 ABM automatic cannon, which is also installed in the German Puma infantry fighting vehicle. In addition, the multi-role guided missile system ("mehrrollenfähiges leichtes Lenkflugkörpersystem" or MELLs), which enables the Heavy Weapon Carrier for the Infantry to provide anti-tank defence, is also fitted.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaking during his visit at Rheinmetall, the largest supplier of military vehicles to the Australian Defence Force

The Heavy Weapon Carrier, or "schwerer Waffenträger Infanterie" vehicle is based on the Australian Army's BOXER Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV).

Delivery is scheduled to start in 2025.

Rheinmetall has more than 900 employees in Australia, high-tech capabilities and an established manufacturing facility in Redbank that produces vehicles, armour and electronics. Our Australian and global supply chain will grow and bring

further prosperity to small and medium sized businesses as we secure new orders to complement existing export programs.

"We welcome the close defence industry partnership between Australia and Germany as the two nations work together to enhance global security," added Mr. Poyner.

The Boxer is a modern 8x8 armoured vehicle that is in service or under procurement with various armed forces around the world. The Boxer provides increased safety and protection for crews and has a high level of firepower and mobility for prolonged peacekeeping operations as well as near-peer conflict.

In Australia, Rheinmetall is the largest supplier of military vehicles to the country's armed forces. In addition to the 211 Boxer vehicles delivered as part of the Land 400 Phase 2 project - 133 of them in the CRV variant with the crewed Lance turret - the company also supports the Australian Defence Force's HX fleet, which comprises over 2,900 vehicles. Rheinmetall also provides the Multi-Ammunition Soft-Kill System to the Royal Australian Navy, manages training systems for Defence and has delivered more than 200 HX Trucks to the New Zealand Defence Force.

Mr. Poyner added that the depth of sovereign system design and manufacture vested into Australia with more than 300 Australian partners reflected the advanced manufacturing that this country is capable of with support from the Australian government.