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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### Wage theft to be targeted as a crime

The newly appointed Fair Work Ombudsman has issued a stern warning to businesses, pledging to use yet to be legislated criminal penalties against employers who deliberately underpay their employees.

Anna Booth became the new Fair Work Ombudsman last month and is keen to make use of harsher deterrents, in order to ensure that businesses do not exploit workers.

Sanctions including greater fines and potential jail time, would be some of the

tools that would be at her disposal if new wage theft laws are passed by federal parliament.

Ms Booth's term as Ombudsman will last for five years, following eight years as a Deputy President of the Fair Work Commission from 2012 to 2020.

Speaking to ABC Radio, Ms Booth noted that as long as the criminal standard had been met, then criminal penalties could flow, and that the office of the Ombudsman would not hesitate to enforce them.

### Massive health problem identified as children hooked on gambling

New research has found that an increasing number of young Australians, have developed depression, anxiety, and experienced relationship breakdowns due to gambling addiction.

Figures from Gambling Health Online found that there was a 16 per cent increase in the number of young people aged under 25 contacting the service.

Another recent study also found that fourteen people aged 17-24, had committed suicide because of problem gambling.

Professor Samantha Thomas from Deakin University said that the gambling industry was

one of the most agile, hi-tech, health-harming industries in the world.

The NSW Office of Responsible Gambling said that the most popular modes of gambling for those aged 24 and under were poker machines and sports betting.

To respond to the rise of gambling, public health experts have called for a comprehensive ban on all forms of marketing for gambling products.

Some have noted that youth gambling should be described as a public health problem and that industry self-regulation simply doesn't work in addressing the problem.

### Public servant stabbing leads to stricter responses

In response to an attack on a Services Australia officer, the Australian government is implementing security enhancements.

These measures include hiring an additional 278 trained security personnel at key offices, taking the total to 513.

Penalties for assaulting public officers will be increased, and it will become easier to obtain apprehended

violence orders against perpetrators.

The government will also have the authority to initiate protection orders on behalf of its employees, closing a current legal loophole.

The physical layout of numerous offices will be assessed to maximise staff safety in service centres, supporting around 10 million Australian workers, annually.

## Greek Orthodox church was bombed by Israel in Gaza

A Greek Orthodox church in the Gaza Strip which was sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians was hit last week by an Israeli air strike, the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem said, and Palestinian health officials said at least 18 people were killed.

The Church of Saint Porphyrios, holds immense historical and cultural significance as one of the oldest churches in the world.

Days earlier, the people of Palestine suffered one of the most horrific tragedies in the latest conflict with Israel, with at least 500 people mainly children and women killed by a

blast which struck the Gaza City Hospital last week.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that respect for international humanitarian law was paramount, and that the protection of innocent life must be a priority. Mr Albanese also condemned attacks which targeted civilian infrastructure, including hospitals.

More than 4,500 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have been killed since a Hamas terrorist attack on October 7, followed by relentless air strikes by Israel and a continued siege of Gaza.

In Australia, thousands of people have taken part in pro-



At least 18 people were killed inside a Greek Orthodox church

Palestinian demonstrations in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth on Saturday.

Michelle Berkon, from the group Jews Against the Occupation, told the crowd

she defied Israel's "exploitation of our history", and that the Palestinian people had "a right to sanctuary in their own home".

Sources: www.rel-tour.com/abc.net.au/news

## "GOVERNMENT MUST CONDEMN KILLING OF CIVILIANS FROM BOTH SIDES" Leader quits Multicultural SA, claiming anti-Palestinian bias

A leading multicultural advocate has quit his South Australian post in protest against the state government's stance on the Israel-Gaza war, which he says has been characterised by anti-Palestinian bias.

According to the ABC, Muslim community leader Ahmed Zreika was one of 15 board members with the state's Multicultural Commission, but said he resigned on Saturday after sending a letter to Premier Peter Malinauskas.

Mr Zreika, who is the president of the Islamic Society of SA, said he had urged the premier to show the same solidarity with Palestinians in the firing line as he had demonstrated towards Israelis in the wake of Hamas's initial deadly attack of 10 days ago.

"As a Muslim community, we want to send our sympathy to the Jewish community here in Adelaide, and we condemn all kinds of killing of civilian people," Mr Zreika said.

"But we see the state government — they support only one community, at the expense of the other community."

Mr Zreika said he had been especially disappointed

by the fact that, while the SA government had chosen to illuminate Adelaide landmarks with Israel's blue and white colours, it had not since made a similar gesture of support for the Palestinian community.

"We have seen the premier and the state government stand up with Israel and the civilian people of Israel," Mr Zreika said.

"I fully understand his position to light up the Israel flag on Adelaide landmarks, but I couldn't understand why he couldn't illuminate the Palestinian flag just to show [sympathy] for the almost 1,000 kids who have been killed so far by the Israeli army."

"All we need from him is to condemn the killing of civilians from both sides."

Mr Zreika said that the local Islamic community was in no way supportive of Hamas or its recent actions, and that they "just don't want the civilian people to be killed".

In response to the criticisms, the SA premier described Mr Zreika as a "fine gentleman" who has been a "proud advocate for his community".

Mr Malinauskas said that, while there was now a



Thousands of protesters, including members of the Jewish community, marched in solidarity with Palestine in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. (ABC photo)

"humanitarian crisis" unfolding in Gaza, the people there were "suffering the consequences of Hamas's attack in Israel".

"What was initiated by Hamas against Israel ... was an unprovoked terrorist attack," he said.

"As a government, we wanted to show solidarity with the Israeli people ... but I am very conscious of the fact that as recent days have unfolded we've seen some pretty tragic scenes come out of Gaza too."

"It's been reported that there is a genuine humani-

tarian crisis currently underway in Gaza — something to the order of 6,000 bombs have been dropped on Gaza.

"The great tragedy here is that, both on the Israeli side and the Palestinian side, innocent people are losing their lives. That is heart-breaking."

Mr Malinauskas said that both his government and he himself had been "supporters of a two-state solution for some time. We call out acts of violence wherever we see them."

(source: abc.net.au/news/sa)

### Panayia Virginia Spring Festival

With reasonably good weather conditions hundreds of Adelaideans made their way to Virginia on Sunday 1 October to participate in the annual Virgin Mary Festival held at the Kaporis farm as their private chapel located in the premises bears the name of the Birth of Virgin Mary.

The first part of the two-day event commenced on Sunday September 7 at the private chapel with the clergy of Greek Community conducting the Great Evening Vesper as well as the Blessing of the Five Loafs.

A few hundred people attended the event, with

## Community Life



Members of the Kaporis family and the Chian Association celebrating the annual Spring Festival at the Virginia Chapel

the Chian Association members working voluntarily to prepare the food

and serve the public.

Meanwhile the Kaporis farm was transformed into

an open-air Greek funfair with grills working at full swing and volunteers preparing the delicious loukoumathes.

The Spring sunshine, the traditional dances from the community's dance group, the music by the Zorbas Greek music band and the culinary aromas of the Greek grilled delicacies added to the festive atmosphere.

The event attracted people from all parts of the Adelaide Metropolitan area as well as regional towns such as Renmark, Berri, Walaroo and many more.

Proceeds from the Festival are donated by the Kaporis family towards the community's afternoon Greek schools.

### GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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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



Federal Member for Adelaide Steve Georganas spoke on behalf of the YES campaign for the Voice, at a public meeting held at the Olympic Hall on 29 September. Also in the photo the State Member for Adelaide Lucy Hood and other members of the YES campaign



Secretary of the Chios Association of South Australia, Sylvia Cassoudakis, Irene Hoimes and Sophia Psarianos, volunteering to sell the Greek sweets and loukoumathes at the Spring Festival held annually at the Chapel of Panayia Despina, Virginia, courtesy of the Kapiris family

## Cafe Aman II, Greek Cabaret music at Nexus Arts venue

Meraki Music is pleased to present Café Aman II, Greek cabaret music inspired by the cosmopolitan atmosphere of early 20th century Ottoman society.

Café Aman was a diverse repertoire of folk and urban popular music that was all the rage around the turn of the 20th century in the cities of the Ottoman Empire - Constantinople, Smyrni, Thessaloniki, Athens.

This music was first performed in summer open air cafes and due to its popularity quickly spread to classical music theatres and the taverns of town squares. We know about Café Aman from Athenian newspaper reports as early as the 1870s and from thousands of commercial recordings made in Asia Minor, the United States and Athens in the first half of the 20th century.

Meraki Music is dedicated to the exploration of the treasure trove that

is Greek song, music and dance. This treasure trove originates from rural, island, urban and ecclesiastical cultures, some of which reach back hundreds of years. Other songs are composed by major proponents of the Greek urban tradition (Spyros Peristeris, Markos Vamvakaris, Tanburi Cemil Bey, Markos Sifnios, Thodoros Derveniotis, Manolis Pappos, Dimitris Gongos, Vasilis Tsitsanis, Apostolos Chatzichristos, Kostas Kaplanis).

Café Aman II embraces a diversity of instrumentation, songs, modes and rhythms to honour the beauty of this music. The Meraki Ensemble will bring this passionate Greek music to life in a casual cabaret atmosphere where people can listen to the music with their favourite beverage and mezes (appetiser), or get up to dance if the mood takes them.

The Meraki Music ensemble will

feature the magical talents of Adelaide singers and musicians: Michael Tyllis (vocals, oud); Vasilis Ioannides (vocals); Sofia Dimitrakopoulou (vocals); Stamatis Dimitrakopoulos (vocals); Kostas Barlas (vocals, bouzouki); Mary Raptis (violin); Alexander Ioakim (clarinet), Joachim Kalapatsonis (bass); Con Dalas (percussion), Demeter Tsounis (piano, baglamas, musical direction).

### An event not to be missed!

Date: Sunday, 12th November, 2023

Program 2:30-5:30pm. Doors open: 2:00pm

Venue: Nexus Arts Venue (Lion Arts Complex), cnr North Tce & Morphett St, Adelaide

Tickets: \$35: General Admission (fees apply)

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CMFKK>

Bar & Mezes: available

## Australians reject Indigenous recognition via Voice to Parliament

Australians have rejected recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the nation's first people in the constitution through the establishment of a Voice to Parliament advisory body.

Nationally, a majority of voters, 60% to 40% said No to the proposed constitutional change.

The ACT, is the only jurisdiction to return a Yes vote.

The Voice to Parliament proposal was Australia's 45th referendum, of which only eight have passed.

The double majority requires both a majority of the national vote and a majority of the states voting Yes for a referendum to pass.

Mr Albanese has repeatedly said that the call for a Voice was a "modest request" from First Nations Australians.

The Voice to Parliament would have been an advisory body with no power of veto but permanently enshrined in the constitution, meaning a future government of the day could not abolish it without holding another referendum.

The Voice was first proposed after hundreds of Indigenous Australians, who took part in the Uluru Dialogues, issued the Statement from the Heart six years ago. That statement called for a constitutionally enshrined Voice along with truth telling and treaty.

"While the result is not one that I had hoped for, I absolutely respect the decision of the Australian people and the democratic process that has delivered it," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

He said the nation must now come

together to overcome the disadvantage that Indigenous Australians face because "no one could say more of the same is good enough".

Mr Albanese said the "real division" in Australia was one of disadvantage, which he defined as the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in life expectancy, education and the rates of suicide and disease.

"A great nation like ours can and must do better for the First Australians," the prime minister said.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said the result was "good for the country".

"This is a referendum that Australia did not need to have," he said.

"What we have seen tonight is Australians literally in their millions reject the prime minister's divisive referendum."

Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young has blamed federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton for making the referendum "divisive".

"The moment Peter Dutton decided to campaign No against the Voice was the moment this referendum became divisive," she said.

The Yes campaign said it had 80,000 volunteers across the country helping its effort Saturday.

"I'm devastated" said Thomas Mayo, one of the leading Yes campaigners.

"The proposal that we have made is the right one. We need a Voice, we need that structural change and we got it right at Uluru.

"History will reflect poorly on [Opposition Leader] Peter Dutton, [One Nation Leader] Pauline Hanson, all that

have opposed this."

Academic and Yes campaigner Marcia Langton, one of the key people in designing a model for how a Voice could work, described the result as an enormous rejection.

"It's very clear that reconciliation is dead," she told SBS.

"A majority of Australians have said no to an invitation from Indigenous Australians."

Independent senator Lidia Thorpe, a leading No campaigner, said she was not surprised by the referendum outcome.

The first aboriginal woman elected to the Victorian parliament, said Australia needed a treaty with First Nations people before the constitution was changed.

Waving a copy of the Australian constitution on the ABC camera, senator Thorpe, said "a bunch of white men wrote this in 1900 with no regard to the aboriginal people and no regard to women. Now they want to put us in it, she asked.

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney, who became emotional while speaking after the results were declared, said in the months ahead she would announce renewed government commitments to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

She insisted the result was not the end of reconciliation.

"I know the last few months have been tough, but be proud of who you are, be proud of your identity, be proud of the 65,000 years of history and culture you are part of," Ms Burney said.

Source: ABC

## Police bust \$40 million international cocaine operation

Five men charged last weekend, have been accused of participating in an international plan to import approximately 40 million dollars' worth of cocaine, concealed in the cargo hold of a passenger plane.

Australian Federal Police revealed that they had been monitoring the group for a year, after they had received a tip off from an airline company, following suspicious behaviour near a grounded Sydney-bound flight in Johannesburg.

Two of the men that were arrested were baggage handlers at Sydney International

Airport, who used their access to facilitate the operation.

Police will allege that the two airport workers transferred five bags of cocaine from the cargo hold to a car outside the terminal.

The driver, the two workers and two organisers were all arrested shortly after the handover of the drugs.

Detective Superintendent Kristie Cressy said that people with trusted access in airport precincts were critical to Australia's tourism and trade and that the police would not hesitate to prosecute those who abused that trust.

## More social housing in Victoria and Queensland

More than a hundred homes will be built in Melbourne's outer north under Victoria's second social housing project.

This second accelerator project comes amid poor housing supply and continual rising rental costs.

Premier Jacinta Allan visited Broadmeadows to announce that 80 million dollars would be spent on building the social-housing homes on vacant land.

There will be a mix of one, two and three-bedroom homes and properties built specifically to cater for disability inclusion.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and former Premier Daniel Andrews, last month announced the first accelerator

project would involve demolishing and redevelop two vacant red-brick towers in Carlton.

In the meantime, more federal funding is being provided for social housing across Queensland. A further six hundred homes will be built across the state, after a growing demand for social housing.

Almost 400 million dollars from the federal government's Social Housing Accelerator fund will deliver the homes. This will add to the Queensland government's five-billion-dollar social and affordable housing investment, that will help start 13-and-a-half thousand homes by 2027.

## Significant change needed in disability sector

The recent conclusion of a royal commission into disability has produced a 12-volume report and 222 recommendations to improve the lives of people living with disability in Australia.

About 1-in-5 Australians identify as having a disability according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The report found that this group is more likely to experience abuse, neglect and violence in comparison to the wider community.

The Royal Commission heard from more than 10-thousand Australians over the course of four years and accepted numerous submissions in order to inform its

recommendations.

These outcomes will address areas of human rights law, disability advocacy, guardianship, schooling, employment and the justice and housing system.

Some of the key recommendations also call on the federal government to implement a Disability Rights Act and raise the age of criminal responsibility of people with disabilities to 14 years.

The Minister for Social Services Amanda Rishworth acknowledged the experiences of people with disability and said the federal government will carefully consider the report and its recommendations.

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