



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF NSW LTD

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ Ν.Ν.Ο.

ESTABLISHED 1898

ABN 50 000 018 128

206 – 210 Lakemba Street, Lakemba 2195

5 November 2007

PRESS RELEASE

The "Greek Approach to Indigenous Affairs" Forum was held on the 4th of November 2007 and sponsored by the Women's Committee of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW.

Over 100 people listened with great interest to several speakers including Dr Christos Mantziaris (Barrister), Jenny Munro (Aboriginal Activist) and Dr Thalia Anthony (academic) who spoke about topical Indigenous issues, including Land Rights, the impact of the Howard Government's 2007 legislation on Indigenous Communities and recent changes to the Welfare System in relation to Indigenous Australians.

The Forum resolved the following:-

- The incoming Federal Government regardless of its political persuasion should have as one of its highest priorities the addressing of past and present injustices experienced by Australia's Indigenous peoples.
- Reconciliation must be urgently addressed by the incoming Government and should not be limited to constitutional recognition and an apology for past wrongs. It should include legal, social, economic and political guarantees which promote and safeguard the rights of all Indigenous Australians including rights to land, self-determination and sovereignty.
- While we wholeheartedly reject the paternalistic and racist attitudes reflected in the 2007 Legislation we continue to be concerned and saddened by the enormous social and economic problems being experienced by Australia's Indigenous peoples and communities.

- The 2007 Northern Territory Emergency and Social Security Amendment Legislation should be repealed and replaced with policies and laws that are designed genuinely to assist Indigenous women and children and Indigenous communities, rather than deprive them of their land, minerals and welfare. We believe such laws and policies should have as their aim the empowerment of Indigenous communities and their Elders.

In the forthcoming Federal elections we urge all Australian voters, and particularly voters of Greek migrant descent, to examine the policies of all candidates and parties on Indigenous affairs. We urge them to support candidates and parties whose policies reflect a genuine commitment to Reconciliation, social and economic equity and justice for all Indigenous Australians.

End

For further information please contact Dorothy Bassil on 0417 049358.