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LETTER

A health system in need for change

Regretfully the coronavirus continues to kill more people, to traumatise physically, psychologically and economically billions on our planet, in Australia and particularly in Victoria - currently an average of 20 deaths daily and over 200 cases, most in the privately owned homes for the aged. The stage 4 measures have slowed down the rate of explosion but the virus flames are spreading in country Victoria and interstate.

And whilst it is human to feel the pain, to talk and write about this catastrophe, to seek explanations and demand accountability from those responsible, and to also express a heartfelt thank you to nursing and medical staff, professional and volunteers, and so many others in the health services who fight the virus in the front lines, our first duty is what we are doing not just to patch up things but how to radically change the health system itself.

A system that has been declared guilty by ordinary people, prominent medical professionals and scientists, the Royal Commission's Interim Aged Care Report, the NSW judicial Ruby Princess investigation, and the evidence before a Victorian judicial and parliamentary committee into aged homes and the use of security guards in quarantined hotels.

The Federal and State health system has been found inadequate and unprepared to face up to the crisis, not by mistake or even omission - though these factors have contributed - but because of Government policies, which in essence programmed the aged

people's homes and aged care in general, not for older people to live well and longer, but apparently how to finish off with them and their pension. One may very well say but this is cruel and inhuman. Yes it is, but compassion and humanity is lost in the pursuit for profit, or in the inability or weakness of even some well meaning authorities to deal with the root of this evil: the health and lives of people being in most cases in the hands of profit hungry, milking cow individuals and 'institutions'.

Yet public health, aged care, must become in fact the nation's most important service - publicly owned and managed, well funded, freely accessible and multilingual with well trained and paid staff. This should be a major strategic objective on the way to a new people friendly normal, along with immediate progressive reforms and strict implementation of protective measures.

Australia is not a poor country. It has all the human and material resources to achieve this. The much hoped for changes will not come about with wishes and appeals but through individual and collective action. Those who die and suffer are fellow citizens, friends and relatives. They are the ones who created the nation's wealth but for a few to enjoy. Working class and Ethnic Minority organisations whose members are carrying the heaviest of all burdens, should vigorously demand and campaign for such beneficial radical changes.

George Zangalis
Vice President Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition

New Covid-19 restrictions in South Australia

According to SA Government's COVID-19 Response website, from 14 August 2020, gatherings at private residences may not have more than 10 guests, to a maximum of 20 people per gathering. For example, a house of 5 residents may have 10 guests but a house of 12 residents may have only 8 guests.

Gatherings at a private place, other than a private residence (indoor or outdoor) are now

restricted to no more than 100 people.

From 21 August 2020, COVID Marshals will be required across a number of industry sectors to ensure venue capacity, physical distancing and infection control requirements are met.

Cross border community members will not be able to enter South Australia from Victoria unless they can apply under a different category of Essential Traveller.

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EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Large scale power build up

As Turkey forcibly pushes ahead with its controversial activities in the Eastern Mediterranean, it is facing increasing opposition from international powers as well as regional states, many of which have formidable navies.

Turkey's ongoing drilling for natural gas in the Republic of Cyprus' economic exclusion zone (EEZ) has sparked widespread opposition in the wider region.

Ankara insists it has the right to drill for gas off Cyprus' coast, claiming that those waters are within the boundaries of the internationally unrecognized "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus".

Last week, there was a serious incident involving the Kemal Reis, a Turkish frigate, one of five escorts sent to protect the Oruc Reis, an exploration ship designed to hunt for undersea oil and gas. The Limnos, an elderly Greek frigate charged with protecting Greece's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from such predations, watched warily from a distance. On August 12th

they collided after a clumsy manoeuvre.

Both governments tried to keep the incident under wraps, but it was leaked to the media.

"We have fewer and older ships, but we protected Greece's maritime rights," boasted one veteran naval officer. Greece's defence minister is said to have congratulated the captain of the Limnos.

"If this goes on, we will retaliate," thundered Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's president. "We shall not leave either the dead or the living of our kin alone."

After a call to the Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Emmanuel Macron, France's president, said that he had decided to "temporarily reinforce" France's military presence in the region with two fighter jets and a pair of warships in order to "make sure that international law is respected."

It should also be mentioned that currently the Russian Navy amasses large force in eastern Mediterranean. US navy is also present as well other navies from eight countries including



Large scale built up of war ships in the Mediterranean

Germany, Italy and Britain

In the meantime Greek Australian organisations have called on the Australian Prime Minister to take a stand on the issue and condemn Turkey's provocative illegal activity in the region which ignores already established EEZs in the area.

A letter to Mr Scott Morrison by the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne signed by the President Mr Bill Papastergiadis says that Australia cannot stay silent on this matter any longer.

"It is in Australia's interest to join the international community in defending the territorial rights of Greece and Cyprus which are based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"We respectfully encourage you to join the many other world leaders, including many in the European Union and the United States to ensure that all the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean respect the International law and the existing EEZs", the letter concludes.

Newspaper closures, job losses in the regional media industry

Mount Gambier's only newspaper, the Border Watch, has announced that it will close down after 159 years.

Steeped in history, the newspaper has been part of Mount Gambier's social and cultural fabric for generations.

Management of the media group has blamed a downward spiral in advertising revenue, along with the pandemic, for its shock demise.

According to the ABC, nearly 40 employees - who were given just three days' notice of the closure - have rallied together last Thursday to produce the final edition, which paid tribute to the newspaper's extensive history and editorial achievements.

In the meantime, Media company Southern Cross Austereo

has announced a restructure of its radio operations, resulting in the loss of 38 jobs.

Regional radio stations within the Hit Network bore brunt of the bad news, in which SCA will delete local breakfast shows in favour of a statewide networked program.

The changes will take effect from this week.

SCA chief content officer Dave Cameron blamed the move on the challenges presented by the COVID-19 environment.

"The changes will mean that unfortunately a number of our local breakfast shows will be impacted, and we would like to thank our dedicated and talented people who are affected today by this new approach," he said.

The announcement came on

the day SCA reported an 18.2 per cent drop in revenue.

Revenue was \$540.8 million across the business for the 2019-20 financial year, compared to \$661 million the year prior.

In making the announcement, SCA chief executive Grant Blackley said radio continued to be a focus of the company.

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) said the job and show cuts means regional communities will lose their voice.

MEAA spokesman Adam Portelli said the loss of jobs and shows would be a great loss to the regions.

"It means that the majority of regional communities are now losing their particular voice," he said.

"All of this, for us, highlights the need for the Federal Government to actually get serious about supporting regional journalism and start putting their money where their mouth is."

Mr Portelli said the radio job cuts came off the back of recent TV and print restructures that have seen the closure of many local newspapers and the loss of nightly local television news.

The loss of local radio shows took away what had been a traditional training ground for young broadcasters, he said.

"You do find people who get their start, learned their trade at the local radio station or the regional newspaper, who then go on to work in the capital cities for bigger newspapers, broadcasters or TV stations.

Croydon Panayia church Name Day celebrated

The Greek Orthodox Community of S.A. along with Greeks around the world, celebrated the Assumption of Virgin Mary, namely Dekapendavgoustos, on Saturday 15th of August, one of the most important religious events in the Orthodox Calendar.

During these unprecedented times, the Assumption of Virgin Mary, was celebrated with a much smaller crowd inside the Croydon church due to the coronavirus restrictions.

GOCSA's Croydon Church of 'Koimisis Theotokou' which bears the name of the divine milestone was the epicentre of the celebration in Adelaide.

Due to social distancing, only 120 people were allowed to enter the church, including Ms Angela Evans, Mayor of

Community Life



The photo, from the procession of the holy icon of Virgin Mary around the block where the church is located

the City of Charles Sturt, the President of GOCSA Mr Bill Gonis and members of the Administrative Council.

Many more members of

the Greek community, however, came through the church over the two day religious event, lit their candle, paid their respects and

moved on.

The celebration for The Assumption of the Virgin Mary annual began on Thursday night with the Great Evening Vespers and the Mystery of the Unction of the Oil conducted by Archimandrite Mark and the GOCSA clergy.

Saturday morning saw a smaller than usual number of parishioners attending the Great Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Five Loafs conducted by the Clergy of the Autocephalic Greek Orthodox Church of America and Australia.

The Great Divine Liturgy was followed by the procession of the holy icon of Virgin Mary around the block where the church is located, with parishioners, guests and clergy attending.

The two-event concluded with a restricted service of take away souvlakia and delicious loukoumathes prepared by the churches women's fellowship.



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



LEFT: Celebrations of the Assumption of Virgin Mary on 15 August at the Greek Orthodox Church at Croydon, were held under restrictions for the Coronavirus. Numbers in the church were limited to 120 at all times. In the photo, left, with the Mayor of Charles Sturt Angela Evans, the President of GOCSA Bill Gonis, Peter Ppiros General Secretary and Peter Gardiakos Treasurer of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA.

Labor unveils team for the 2022 State Election

Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas has unveiled the new Shadow Cabinet which Labor will take to the March 2022 State Election.

The Shadow Cabinet is now made up of 50 per cent women, a first in South Australian history.

New Shadow Minister Andrea Michaels of Greek Cypriot background, will take on the portfolio of Small and Family Business, drawing on her extensive experience in that area. She will also have responsibility for Housing and Urban Development and Consumer and Business Affairs.

New frontbencher Blair Boyer will take on the important portfolio of Education, as well as the related Training and Skills. He will also be Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas will take on the role of Shadow Minister for Jobs, signalling the importance of job creation in South Australia's post-COVID-19 recovery and in Labor's agenda for government.

Deputy Labor Leader Susan Close will take on responsibility for Climate Change, as well as Industry and Higher Education – both of which will form key planks of Labor's policy platform at the next election. This will be in addition to her existing portfolio of Environment and Water.

Katrine Hildyard will take on responsibility for Child Protection, as well as Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, which have been long-held areas of interest.

Clare Scriven, who lives in the south-east, picks up Primary Industries and Regional Development, in addition to Forestry.

Jayne Stinson will be the new Shadow Minister for Planning and Local Government, as well as Shadow Minister for Multicultural



Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas with the eight women members of the new Shadow Cabinet. From left, Katrine Hildyard, Emily Bourke, Clare Scriven, Jayne Stinson, Nat Cook, Susan Close, Andrea Michaels and Zoe Bettison

Affairs.

Emily Bourke will be Assistant Shadow Minister for the City of Adelaide and Joe Szakacs will be Assistant Shadow Minister to the Leader of the Opposition.

"I am thrilled with the team we will present to the people of South Australia at the next election", SA Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas said.

"Our team is a great mix of youth and experience and, for the first time, a 50-50 split of men and women".

The Labor Shadow Cabinet also includes Kyam Maher, MLC, Shadow Attorney-General, Industrial and Aboriginal Affairs,

Tom Koutsantonis, MP, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure & Transport, Mining and Energy,

Stephen Mullighan MP, Shadow Treasurer,

Zoe Bettison MP, Shadow Minister for Trade, Tourism & Investment,

Chris Picton MP, Shadow Minister for Health & Wellbeing,

Lee Oldenwalder MP, Shadow Minister for Police & Road Safety, Emergency Services and Correctional Services,

Nat Cook MP, Shadow Minister for Human Services

Blair Adams MP, Shadow Minister for Education, Training & Skills and Veterans' Affairs,

Joe Szakacs MP, Assistant Shadow Minister to the Leader of the Opposition, Assistant Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Greek culture for Australian Greeks

PART C

Characteristics of Culture:

A broad lay person's definition: Culture is the way the mind's eye; sees, perceives, and interprets the world and leads our actions in both behavioural ways as well as intellectual ways.

It is the gyroscope that positions us within a moving and changing world and gives us some sense of belongingness and a valuable reference base. Culture only exists within the context of social living with other humans. Our sense of who we are is referenced against others who share most of our cultural perceptions. These others may be; groups, larger masses, or the whole world. And so there are; dominant cultures, subcultures within dominant cultures, mini cultures within subcultures, cults and sub cults, and so on. Culture incorporates a

value system and a system of rationalizing the world. In other words, it has unique rules and an ideology upon which its rationality is founded.

When a substantive number of persons share the same interpretations of the world, through their mind's eye, and use more or less the same social ideological rationality and values, they constitute a culture.

Culture is learned. It has its own ideology based on a collection of philosophies and may or may not have a dominant philosophy. The philosophy incorporates a belief system and has its own underpinning assumptions.

A person can learn more than one culture and operate with equal comfort in more than one culture without identity conflicts or rejection by the host cultures.

The notion that culture is in the blood is only a metaphor that implies complete and blind conditioning to the norms and values of the culture that

has been learned. It implies that the conditioning is so entrenched that no amount of rational thinking will precipitate a change within a person in this complete culturally saturated state. The degree of conditioning has elevated this learning to the subconscious level thus determining autonomous responses that are not based on logic or reasoning but pure reflexive behavior. A bit like tying one's shoe laces without consciously thinking about it. Do you remember tying your shoelaces this morning? Or did you do this autonomously because your skill in tying has become part of your subconscious knowledge to a point that you don't consciously think about the complexity of the act of tying them up? Just think how readily the term Gooday emerges as a form of greeting amongst Australianised people! I was taken back when upon entering a London shop I was greeted with Good

morning and without thought replied Gooday! To which the response was Ah you are from Australia! Well, I am an Australian Greek! Mate, I thought quietly to myself that means I am different from your understanding of what an Australian might be. I despised myself for making such an assumption about this gentleman's perception.

So! Let's accept for a moment that we have all learned to be what we are and move the debate further by asking another question. What is the underpinning philosophy upon which Greekness rests? Is it the Existentialist, Marxist, Liberal, Christian, or a conglomeration of some or all of these as well as others, and what is the nature of the arena where this philosophy is learned? And are we all philosophers of some sort without knowing it.

Elias Hadjisavas. ADELAIDE

GREECE

New restrictions on Mykonos and Halkidiki

Last week, the Greek General Secretariat for Civil Protection announced in a statement that from this week, all religious processions will be banned as well as open-air markets and even parties on the cosmopolitan island of Mykonos and the region of Halkidiki after a steep rise in the number of coronavirus cases.

As of Friday, and for the next ten days, no more than nine people are allowed to gather together in one place and there is a limit of only four people dining together at a restaurant unless they are members of the same immediate family. In that case, up to six members may sit and dine together.

The use of facemasks — both indoors and

outdoors — will also be mandatory from Friday onward, for the next ten days.

These measures are in addition to the continuing curfew placed on bars, which must close their doors between midnight and 7 AM.

All measures were decided at an extraordinary meeting called by Vassiliis Pappageorgiou, the Secretary General of Civil Protection. Epidemiologist Dr. Sotiris Tsiodras was consulted on the new measures.

These much more stringent measures may be enforced by special units of the Greek Army and the National Transparency Authority in order to see that they are being properly observed.

GREEK - TURKISH ISSUES Georganas calls for resolution through negotiations

The Member for Adelaide Steve Georganas has written to the Prime Minister of Australia Mr Scott Morrison, informing him on recent provocative activities by Turkey in the Mediterranean in an attempt to establish its own illegal exclusive economic zone within other nations' territorial waters.

"As a member of the international community, Australia cannot stay silent on this matter. We should play our part to ensure that the delicate peace and stability in the region is preserved".

Mr Georganas calls on Australia as a member of the international community to defend the territorial waters according to the UN Convention

on the Law of the Sea. "If a precedence is set as a result of a territorial dispute in the eastern Mediterranean, this may have unintended consequences on other nations including Australia", Mr Georganas warns.

Mr Georganas says he intends to move a motion in the Parliament, calling the Government to:

(a) Join the rest of the EU to urge the Turkish Government to cease such provocative actions in the Eastern Mediterranean.

(b) Urge that the limitation of exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf should be addressed through negotiations and in good faith.



It is really important that women keep up their regular screening to check their breast health, even during COVID-19.

BreastScreen SA invites all women aged 50 to 74 years to book in for a screening mammogram (breast X-ray) every two years. Women from aged 40 are also eligible to make their own appointments to screen.

Each year in South Australia, close to 100,000 women will have their screening mammogram at one of our 7 metropolitan clinics, or at one of our 3 mobile screening units visiting rural and remote parts of our state.

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic BreastScreen SA is committed to providing screening in a safe environment for our clients and our staff. Social distancing measures have been implemented at all of our clinics, along with strict hygiene and infection control practices.

Specific measures include:

□ Social distancing – We have increased appointment times, seating arrangements and are maintaining 1.5 metre distance where possible.

□ Increased cleaning – We are regularly cleaning our clinics, including door handles, benches and seating.

□ Hand hygiene on arrival is required.

□ Client only area – we are restricting the number of people inside this clinic to only clients and staff.

□ Zero tolerance of illness – staff and clients who are ill are asked not to attend appointments.

Detecting breast cancer at an early stage saves lives!

... and we are keen to ensure women attend and keep their appointments up to date during this time.

Phone: 13 20 50 for more information and to make appointments