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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Inquest for boy who died sleeping rough in skip bin

A coronial inquest has heard that 13-year-old First Nations boy Budda Spencer was missing from home for five days before he died in a tragic incident involving a garbage truck in Port Lincoln in May 2021.

Budda, whose family has requested he be referred to by that name for cultural reasons, was sleeping in an industrial skip bin with two boys aged 11 and 12 when the bin was emptied during a routine collection. The two younger boys escaped unharmed.

Counsel assisting the coroner, Rebecca Schell, told the court the boys had decided not to return home that night and had never slept in the bin before. Seeking shelter from the cold, they used cardboard to keep warm.

The inquest heard the boys woke moments before the bin was tipped into the truck. One of the younger boys managed to escape and

alert the driver, who stopped immediately after seeing him waving frantically. Budda died while attempting to escape.

Ms Schell described Budda as a kind young boy and a gifted storyteller who made his friends laugh. During the five days he was missing, he attended a youth event, slept rough at a football oval grandstand and was located by police, who attempted to return him home.

The inquest will examine whether Budda and his family received adequate support from government and community agencies before his death. His mother, Deborah Betts, had reportedly contacted several organisations seeking help and expressing concerns about her son's well-being.

Evidence is expected from SA Police, Youth Justice, West Coast Youth and Community Services, and the Department for Child Protection.

2,000 New Homes Planned for West Lakes

The South Australian Government has unveiled plans for a major mixed-use redevelopment of the Westfield West Lakes shopping centre, which could deliver up to 2,000 new homes in apartment buildings of up to 20 storeys. Premier Peter Malinauskas said the proposal reflects the government's vision that "Adelaide must grow up" by increasing housing density in areas already supported by transport, parking and community infrastructure.

A planning code amendment has been initiated to begin the rezoning process, allowing residential towers to be developed on parts of the shopping centre site, including some existing ground-level car parks. The government argues West Lakes is an ideal location for higher-density housing due to its proximity to frequent bus

services, existing infrastructure and the growing AUKUS submarine construction precinct at Osborne, which is expected to attract thousands of workers and their families.

Mr Malinauskas said increasing housing supply was essential to addressing South Australia's housing shortage and ensuring future generations could afford homes. While acknowledging that large developments often face community opposition, he stressed that governments must make difficult decisions to tackle the housing crisis.

Housing Minister Nick Champion described the proposal as a practical solution, noting that the site already has roads, public transport, parking and community services in place. He said the development would make a significant contribution to easing housing pres-

ures in South Australia

The project is supported by Scentre Group, owner and operator of Westfield shopping centres. Chief executive Elliott Rusanow said the company's long-term vision is to create new housing while improving public spaces, connectivity and amenities around the centre. The shopping centre will continue operating throughout investigations and future construction.

The proposal follows broader discussions about building housing above major shopping centres across Adelaide. Research by the Master Builders Association suggests more than 22,000 homes could potentially be developed on shopping centre sites if height restrictions were relaxed. Westfield Marion, Tea Tree Plaza, Colonnades, Salisbury City Centre and Kurralta Village



Premier Peter Malinauskas

have also been identified as suitable locations for future apartment developments.

The announcement comes amid rising housing demand and follows plans for more than 1,300 new homes at nearby Seaton.

Students Across Australia Protest Against One Nation

Thousands of students across Australia left their classrooms to take part in protests against One Nation and its leader, Pauline Hanson. Rallies were held in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide, organised by student groups including the National Union of Students.

Participants carried signs and banners opposing racism, sexism and discrimination, saying they were advocating for equality, diversity and inclusion. Many students argued that young people should have a voice in political issues, even if they are not yet old enough to vote.

In Melbourne, hundreds gathered outside the State Library. Speakers included students and former Victo-

rian Greens leader Samantha Ratnam. Year 12 student Corey Zalchandler said peaceful protest was an important way for young people to participate in democracy, while student Georgia Newton said she opposed policies she believed threatened equality.

Sydney's rally outside Town Hall attracted large numbers of students. Greens MP Jenny Leong encouraged attendees to remain politically engaged. Some students said their parents supported their participation, while others reported opposition from schools.

In Brisbane, around 200 people gathered in King George Square. Police removed a One Nation supporter who interrupted

the protest and later issued him with a move-on direction. Organisers described the turnout as a strong statement against political extremism.

Perth also recorded a large turnout, with organisers claiming students from more than 100 schools joined the march. Participants said the event was empowering and fostered a sense of solidarity.

In Adelaide, demonstrators gathered outside Parliament House, where One Nation MP Cory Bernardi spoke with protesters. While discussions were at times heated, both sides defended the right to express differing views.

Pauline Hanson criticised the protests, arguing schools should teach students "how to think, not what to think."



She said young people should focus on issues such as the cost of living and economic pressures.

Several political leaders supported students' right to express political opinions but encouraged them to remain in school, saying education was the best way to influence Australia's future.

26-Year-Old Man Dies in Workplace Incident

South Australia's workplace safety watchdog is investigating the death of a 26-year-old man following a serious workplace incident in the Adelaide Hills.

Police said emergency services were called to the incident in Charleston, near Lobethal, shortly after 6:15am.

"Sadly, the 26-year-old man from the southern suburbs was found deceased at the worksite this morning," police said. "SafeWork SA have been notified and are investigating."

SafeWork SA confirmed it had been notified of a "serious workplace incident"

and said investigators and inspectors were at the scene conducting further inquiries.

The Adelaide Hills Council said it was aware of the fatal workplace incident in the Charleston area and confirmed that SA Police, the Country Fire Service and SafeWork SA were attending.

"Council is working with emergency services to provide information and support," the council said.

"Our thoughts are with the family, first responders and staff impacted."

Police said a report would be prepared for the Coroner.

Odyssey Festival Art Prize

Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival ODYSSEY celebrates its 23rd year as the Greek Orthodox Community of SA Inc. (GOCSA) once again presents a series of exciting arts and cultural events starting on October the 2nd, 2026.

The Odyssey Festival Art Prize is an annual competition run in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia's (GOCSA) Odyssey Festival. Entries for the 2026 Art Prize are now open, and artists have until 5:00pm on Friday 18 September 2026 to lodge their submissions.

Prizes

Three main award categories are available. Guardian Award – \$2,000

Community Life



The GOCSA Dance Academy performing at the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Saturday, 15 August

GOCSA Award – \$1,000
Emerging Artist – \$750

Who can enter?

Artists of any age can enter. Entrants may sub-

mit up to three original artworks based on the theme announced by the GOCSA Cultural Committee. Staff from the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, Cultural

Committee members and/or people involved with the administration or judging of the Art prize are not eligible to enter. Artworks shall not carry artists' names or signatures when they reach the judging panel to the 2026 Odyssey Festival are available online via www.gocsa.org.au or at the office of GOCSA, 262 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA.

More information

For further information please contact the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia on 8231 4307 or gocsa@gocsa.org.au.

Download or pick up your entry form from our Office, 262 Franklin Street, Adelaide.

Please note: Greek Film Festival this year opens on Thursday 15 October.

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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 Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos was celebrated on Saturday, 15 August, at the Holy Church of Koimisis tis Theotokou in Croydon.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a festive luncheon was organised by the dedicated volunteers of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia in the Community Hall and adjoining marquee



specially erected in the church car park.

An unprecedented crowd of parishioners from across Adelaide, together with many distinguished guests and dignitaries, including Aria Bolkus MP and Tung Ngo MLC on behalf of the Malinauskas SA Government, Mayor Angela Evans of the City of Charles Sturt and President of GOCSA Peter Ppiros

Semaphore Workers Club Condemns Neo-Nazi Vandalism

A historic Adelaide workers' club has condemned a neo-Nazi attack on its premises, describing the incident as an act of "modern-day fascism".

Staff at the Semaphore Workers Club discovered extensive damage after intruders broke into the venue earlier this week. The offenders smashed a heritage bay window and spray-painted swastikas on two of the club's 120-year-old billiard tables.

Dave Kirner, a member of the club's administration committee, said staff were shocked by the vandalism when they arrived after receiving reports of the break-in.

"A group of people broke into the building, smashed a heritage window and sprayed Nazi symbols onto our historic billiard tables," Mr Kirner said. "Everyone who saw it was appalled and disgusted." Mr Kirner said the attack

appeared to be politically motivated, citing the club's long-standing links to the trade union movement and its support for progressive causes. He said the incident had only strengthened the community's resolve to stand against extremist ideologies.

"There has been increasing activity from these types of groups across Australia, often involving aggressive and intimidating behaviour," he said. "We strongly reject their racist and hateful messages."

South Australia Police confirmed they are investigating a break-in at premises on the Esplanade, Semaphore, which occurred between Monday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon. Police said offenders gained entry by smashing a window, caused damage inside the building and stole alcohol.

The incident comes amid growing concern about extremist activity and follows the vandalism of another



Adelaide property with antisemitic messages in July.

Club president Sally Mitchell described the attack as outrageous and unacceptable. While the venue is insured, she estimated repair costs would exceed \$15,000. She said planned security upgrades, including the installation of additional cameras, would now be fast-tracked. "The premises will retain its character and its political

identity," Ms Mitchell said. "We don't shy away from fascists."

Police investigations are continuing, and anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers.

A solidarity meeting condemning the cowardly attack was held at the club's premises on Friday, 14 August, attracting hundreds of workers, unionists and progressive members of the community.

Legal Dispute Over Sydney Cypriot Community Continues in Federal Court



The future of the multi million dollar Cyprus Community Club in Sydney will be decided by the Federal Court

The legal dispute involving the Cypriot Community of Sydney continued on Wednesday, 19 August, in the Federal Court of Australia, with Justice Shariff suggesting that elections be held while the matter remains unresolved.

During a case management hearing concerning Cyprus Community of N.S.W. (Holdings) Limited, which is currently under administration, counsel appearing included James Mack for the plaintiff, Dr Con Costa; Tony Ryan for David Kennedy and the administrators from Ernst & Young; and Ralphed Notley for directors Michael Kyriacou and others.

Mr Mack requested that the substantive hearing be scheduled for October or November, citing the need for an urgent resolution due to the

impending elections and the potential deregistration of the company. Mr Notley, however, indicated that the hearing could take up to three days.

Justice Shariff stated that he was unable to schedule a hearing within such a short timeframe and proposed the holding of elections as an interim solution. He further emphasised that the elections should be open to all members and conducted before the company is deregistered. Mr Ryan advised the Court that his clients had no objection to such a process.

The Court ordered the parties involved to meet within seven days. The three barristers are expected to meet in the coming days and report back to Justice Shariff on the progress of the electoral process.

Delayed Flu Season Could Bring More Cases After Winter

South Australia's health experts say an unusual flu season could lead to increased cases even after the traditional winter peak.

Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier said flu numbers have only recently started rising in the state, despite it already being August.

"We've had an unusual year because we're only now seeing flu numbers increase," she said.

Professor Spurrier believes the delayed rise may be linked to last year's atypical flu season. While cases peaked during winter as expected, a second wave emerged in October and continued into summer. She said the northern hemisphere subclade K strain, known as the "Super K" strain, contributed to that surge.

Adelaide GP Dr Daniel Byrne said flu activity this winter has been significantly

lower than in previous years, estimating case numbers at about one-tenth of normal levels.

He said changing patterns of international travel and the global movement of viruses may be influencing when influenza circulates in Australia.

"The world is changing," Dr Byrne said. "We may now be seeing more flu during our summer, which is very different from what we experienced 15 to 20 years ago."

He warned that South Australia could face a late flu season and encouraged people to get vaccinated.

"It's still not too late to get your flu shot because the flu could still be coming later this year," he said.

While flu cases remain relatively low, other respiratory illnesses are placing pressure on healthcare services. Dr Byrne said rhinovirus, the

virus responsible for the common cold, is currently the most common illness being seen by doctors, followed by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

South Australia has recorded 5,702 RSV cases so far this year. The highly contagious virus is a leading cause of hospitalisation among young babies.

Dr Byrne has called for broader access to free RSV vaccination. Pregnant women have been eligible for a free RSV vaccine under the National Immunisation Program since February 2025, while newborns without maternal protection can receive the monoclonal antibody nirsevimab through state and territory programs.

Adults aged over 75 became eligible for a free RSV vaccine in May, and Western Australia has expanded access to residents aged 65



and over in aged care facilities. Dr Byrne said he would like South Australia to adopt a similar approach.

Professor Spurrier said

health authorities will continue monitoring RSV trends and compare results with other states before considering future policy changes.