

CP10/140.



Premier of New South Wales

Tabled by Ms Premier Keneally
14/9/10 SW.

Mr Harry Danalis
President
Greek Orthodox Community of NSW
Post Office Box 324
LAKEMBA NSW 2195

Ms Nia Karteris
Festival Chair
Greek Festival of Sydney

Dear Mr Danalis and Ms Karteris

I refer to your letter of 21 December 2009 to my colleague, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, Minister for Citizenship requesting funding from the New South Wales Government for the 2010 Greek Festival of Sydney.

The Festival is a dynamic and significant occasion in Sydney's calendar of events celebrating the Greek-Australian story and its rich cultural heritage. It provides an opportunity for all Australians to enjoy the Festival's many artists and the diverse contribution of Hellenic culture to our nation.

On behalf of the New South Wales Government, I am pleased to provide a one-off grant of \$50,000 towards this vibrant and inclusive Festival.

In order to ensure proper accountability for this grant I would be grateful if you would complete and return the attached proforma to the Assistant Director, Community Engagement and Events, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

I congratulate the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW on this important initiative and wish you every success with this year's festivities.

Yours sincerely

Kristina Keneally MP
Premier

11 MAR 2010

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MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP

8 February 2010

The Hon Kristina Keneally MP
Premier of New South Wales
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

RE: Greek Festival of Sydney

On 22 December 2009 I met with Mr Harry Danalis and Ms Nia Karteris from the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW (GOC) regarding this year's Greek Festival of Sydney. I attach a copy of a letter they presented to me.

For a quarter of a century, the Greek Festival of Sydney has embraced the principles of multiculturalism and strengthened community harmony through inter-community events and dialogue.

Today, the Greek Festival of Sydney has become one of the biggest festivals in NSW and one of Australia's largest and longest-running annual cultural events.

I am requesting for a NSW Government contribution to this important event; one that is aimed embracing the wider community and demonstrating the positive contribution multiculturalism can make.

Yours faithfully


(John Hatzistergos)

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The Hon. John Hatzistergos, BEc LL.M MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice
President of the Executive Council, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Member of the Australian Labor Party

Monday, December 21, 2009

Dear Minister,

Thank you for agreeing to meet and discuss the 2010 Greek Festival of Sydney. As you are aware, the Greek Festival of Sydney is one of Australia's largest and longest running annual cultural events and is the most attended Greek-Australian Community event in NSW, with recorded attendances this year in excess of 200,000.

The Festival launches its' 2 month cultural program with a 2 day celebration at Darling Harbour. The basic costs to fund this event are increasing on an annual basis and are reaching exorbitant levels as is evident in the quote provided by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

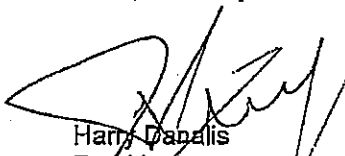
The outlay is substantial and it is becoming progressively more difficult to secure funds and support from organisations that should be involved in sustaining the Greek Festival and all it aims to achieve. In order to continue to host an event to the high caliber and quality that has become the Greek Festival of Sydney the following assistance is being requested:

1. Waving of all fees for Darling Harbour (\$35,000)
2. State sponsorship of \$60K per year for the next two years for the cultural component of the program

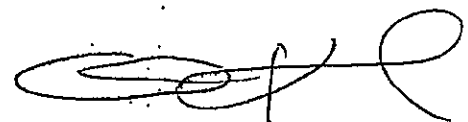
The Greek Festival of Sydney has become a standard in Sydney's event calendar and an event the community looks forward to. It would be an injustice to be forced to forego an event like Darling Harbour Greek Fest due to the lack of funding and support. With the increasing costs and decreasing support, it is almost a certainty that this is the direction the Greek Festival is heading towards and your support is needed to avoid this.

Thank you again for our meeting and for considering our requests.

Yours sincerely



Harry Dapalis
President
Greek Orthodox Community of NSW
Sydney



Nia Karteris
Festival Chair
Greek Festival of