

**Submission
No 25**

**INQUIRY INTO THE MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH PROPERTY TRUST BILL 2010**

Name: Mr Dragija Bogoevski

Date Received: 29 July 2010

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Name: Mr Dragija Bogoevski

Date received: 29/07/2010

26 July 2010

The Director
General Purpose Committee No. 3
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee Members

Re: Macedonian Orthodox Church Property Trust Bill 2010

I am a member of the Macedonian Church, St Klimins Ohridski, Port Kembla, and Saint Petka at Kembla Grange. I am a Trustee and one of the foundation members.

I would like to record my objection to the Orthodox Church Property Trust Bill because I have concerns about the motives of the current Bishop Petar of the Macedonian Orthodox Diocese. He tried to impose a Bill in 1998, which was never passed by the NSW Parliament. The Bishop was asked at an annual general meeting if he would attempt to impose another Bill, and his answer was No. His attempt to have the current Bill passed is clearly going against the wishes of the community.

I believe that we live in a democratic country, and every government in Australia – Federal, State and local government - always has communication with the community. Bishop Petar never has had one public meeting, has never talked to any parishioners of any church, and has made decisions after consulting with a couple of priests. He has told the Parliament that he has the support of the community. This is not true.

The Bishop has never presented any financial statements or reports to the community. A fee of \$160.00 has been paid to the church by members of the community for every christening, wedding and funeral service, in addition to a membership fee of \$1,000.00 from each church in the diocese.

The Bishop has a reputation of sacking any priest that goes against his wishes or raises any objections to what he proposes. The community does not approve of this behaviour. The Bishop has told us that he does not parishioners in the church, he just needs the churches.

The Bishop has never done anything to help or support the parishioners. He has never funded any community aid programs. This been done by donations from the within the community.

On reading the Macedonian newspaper on the internet, we read a comment by Bishop Petar that pensioners in Australia do not go to church, but rather spend their day gambling in pubs and casinos. There is a general feeling of disapproval against the Bishop from within the community.

We ask that this Bill be rejected as it does not have community support, and that before any further action is taken, a public meeting be held in this regard because we live in the democratic country of Australia and not the ex communist country of Macedonia.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D Bogoevski'.

DRAGIJA BOGOEVSKI