

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

**Name:** Mr Steve & Mrs Jenny Anastovski

**Date Received:** 30 July 2010

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29<sup>th</sup> July 2010

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

Dear General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3,

We decided to write this letter regarding the Macedonian Orthodox Church Property Trust Bill (MOCPTB) 2010 to express our deep concern about the potential impacts such a bill would have on the Macedonian Community of NSW.

Our family is part of the Illawarra Macedonian community. We are blessed with two Macedonian Orthodox churches in the area. The two churches, through the many years, were built by the Macedonian community for the Macedonian community. The churches are a symbol of a small immigrant group who through hard work and respect built a place of worship and a home in a new homeland.

The Macedonian Orthodox Church has acquired property and other capital through the continued and generous support of the local Macedonian community. The Bill being introduced has both an immediate and potential impact on the property the Macedonian Orthodox Church holds and may acquire in the future. Such a bill will also impact other activities the Macedonian Church conducts within the community.

The local Macedonian churches, like many throughout NSW, were built by the generous and benevolent support of the local community. The Church and all the interests of the Church are property of the Macedonian community in NSW and Australia.

The MOCPTB 2010 which seeks to transfer all property to a statutory corporation is simply a legal means of transferring what belongs to the community to a "corporation" not representative of the community. The gain is of a financial nature for a small self-interested group where the Church and its interests/activities have been and will continue to be a reflection of the local needs of the Macedonian community.

We thank the Committee for taking the time and respect for such an important issue regarding the Australian Macedonian community in NSW. We trust the Committee understands the serious implications such a bill will have, on our Macedonian community and other ethnic communities with such assets. The Church is a place of religion but for many immigrant cultures is a reflection of the local community's ambitions from the past generation and the future.

Yours sincerely,

Steve, Jenny, Justin and Dean Anastovski.