



MEDIA RELEASE –
AUSTRALIA’S FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER MEETS WITH
MACEDONIAN COMMUNITY

Wednesday, 28 July 2021

Representatives from the Macedonian community in Sydney met with Senator The Hon Marise Payne, Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and The Hon David Coleman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to discuss matters of strategic importance and concern to the Macedonian community.

The meeting was attended by Joshua Sherman, Chair of the Australian Macedonian Council of NSW Inc. together with other representatives from Sydney’s Macedonian community.

The meeting was an important step in strengthening ties with the Macedonian community in Australia, with the Foreign Minister acknowledging the Macedonian community’s efforts in raising funds to support communities affected by the 2019-20 Bush Fires in NSW.

An important focus of the meeting was the so-called bilateral 'Prespa Agreement' signed between the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Greece, and any potential impacts to Macedonian Australians. Specifically, the rights to self-identification, language, religion and place of birth as Macedonians in Australia; the impacts of foreign geopolitical issues on Australia’s domestic policy with regards to multicultural communities; and in combating foreign interference in Australian multicultural community relations.

The upcoming Australian Census 2021 and the recognition of the Macedonian Australian community in official Australian statistics and data, as well as the rights to self-identification in interactions with Government Departments, agencies and officers by Australian and State/Territory Governments was also a key matter discussed.

Joshua Sherman said that *“the Australian Macedonian Council of NSW is committed to advocating for and supporting the Macedonian community, and in ensuring the rights of Macedonian Australians to self-identification with regards to ancestry, language, religion and place of birth, including in all interactions with Australian and State Government Departments”*.

For more information or any media enquiries, please email info@macedoniancouncil.org.au