



MCCA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26 OCTOBER 2022

Dear Members of the Macedonian Communities Council of Australia it gives me great pleasure to present you this brief report on our second year of operation.

The formation of this council has been an objective that Macedonian communities in Australia have strived for a very long time and we had unfortunately failed to achieve this important goal until only 2 years ago in 2020 when the MCCA was formed, registered and incorporated.

The Covid Pandemic which has shaken Australia over the past 2 and a half years has meant we have not had a physical meeting to date and have had to make use of electronic meetings using the ZOOM platform. This has at times been technically challenging but we have almost mastered this process at this point in time and have been able to communicate effectively and economically without the need for the expense involved in interstate travel.

Over the past year we have made several important press releases and taken some policy standpoints which appear to have been well received by the general Macedonian Community in Australia.

We continue to monitor the very disappointing and dangerous political situation that is evolving in Macedonia and have strongly and openly condemned the criminality, corruption and treachery of the incumbent quisling regime. Our policy of not engaging with any of the diplomatic corps or governmental organizations of this regime has been in place since our inception and has unfortunately led to some disgruntlement amongst some of us. This policy will need to be revisited in the coming year to ensure we have a degree of consensus on whichever path we choose to take in this regard.

Similarly, we expressed our deepest concerns with the rather clumsy and obsequious attempts of the Macedonian Orthodox Church to appease the demands of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for recognition of the Macedonian Orthodox Church by accepting a degrading and demeaning "Clayton's" recognition in which we could not use the word "Macedonian" in the name of our church or our religion. Thankfully, as things played out, more by good luck than intelligent or strategic planning, the recognition of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by the Greek Orthodox Church and the relatively respectful recognition of the Macedonian Orthodox Church by the Serbian Orthodox Church, granting the MOC autocephalacy under our rightful name, motivated the Russian Orthodox Church, the largest Orthodox Church, to recognise the Macedonian Orthodox Church under its rightful name. This matter has still not been completely finalised and we eagerly await the final outcome. However, with the Serbian and Russian Orthodox Churches firmly accepting our autocephalous status under our rightful name we are hopeful that our concerns will be allayed.

As a federal council the MCCA must always operate in a professional and courteous manner and we must always be prepared to show courage and stand up for what is right and proper in the defence and promotion of the Macedonian cause without fear or favour, whether this be here in Australia, in the Republic of Macedonia or in the occupied territories of Aegean Macedonia, Pirin or Mala Prespa.

I would take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the MCCA Executive Committee for their efforts and support over the past year. Our second year has had some challenges but I believe we have made some progress and look forward to developing our Council further in coming years to a level becoming of the Macedonian Community in Australia.

I would like to see our membership grow by inviting other Macedonian communities to join us and in particular I would like to see some younger, capable and committed younger Macedonians join our ranks and take over the reins of our organizations and the MCCA to bring us into the future and ensure the longevity of Macedonian Communities in Australia for many years to come.

Chris Angelkov

Chairman, Macedonian Communities Council of Australia Inc.

26 October 2022