



ΠΟΝΤΙΑΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΜΕΛΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΙΚΤΩΡΙΑΣ PONTIAN COMMUNITY OF MELBOURNE AND VICTORIA

18 November 2020

Mr John Brumby AO
Chancellor
La Trobe University
By email: chancellor@latrobe.edu.au

Dear Chancellor,

On behalf of the Pontian Community of Melbourne and Victoria Inc. We are writing to you requesting your intervention in what we understand will be the termination of the University's Greek Studies Program.

The La Trobe University Greek Studies program is an important Victorian institution that for 38 years had been an important Tertiary proposition for Modern Greek students in Victoria.

We understand that the program has in the last 3 years experienced an increase in class enrolments and has been building its postgraduate candidates as well.

The program is active in our community and is regularly highlighted in programs like the Greek Language and Culture Seminar series.

Melbourne is the world's largest Greek speaking city outside of Greece and the La Trobe Greek Studies program plays a titular roll in providing the tertiary level of language and cultural engagement that then cascades throughout the community. Many of the programs Graduates go on to work as teachers in Greek language programs which educate in themselves over 10,000 primary and secondary students each year.

Multicultural Melbourne values its tertiary assets because they are cosmopolitan. Whilst we understand that Covid 19 presents its problems, the Greek Studies program is not a significant part of those problems and in fact remains partly funded by external means.

We urge you to reconsider the University's decision and not allow for this program to be halted.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Pontian Community of Melbourne and Victoria
Apostolis Alexiadis, President
Roma Siachos, Secretary