



**WORLD MACEDONIAN CONGRESS - AUSTRALIA INC.
AUSTRALIAN MACEDONIAN CONGRESS**

Office of the Premier
Hon. Daniel Andrews
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria
Australia, 3002

27/03/2018

Dear Mr Premier,

I am writing you on behalf of the World Macedonian Congress – Australia Ltd, the diplomatic arm of the Macedonian people throughout the world and as an ‘umbrella organisation’ to over 200 Macedonian-Australian Associations and groups across Australia, in particular, the Macedonian-Australian community of Victoria.

The Macedonian and Australian people have a long history of cooperation, jointly fighting fascism in the Second World War, making a large contribution to the construction of the Snowy Mountain Scheme and other nation building infrastructure projects. Historically Macedonian immigrants have significantly contributed to Australia’s rich modern multicultural society. Macedonians have always held Australia’s democratic values as their ideal, and consequently hundreds of thousands of Macedonians have made Australia their home with the largest percentage living in the beautiful State of Victoria.

As you may be aware there was a recent public rally held in every capital city in Australia about the right to self-identity of the Macedonian Community in Australia and throughout the world. It was collectively attended by over 100,000 Australian Macedonian citizens and supporters concerned at the recent attacks on Macedonian identity by the Greek government.

Your recent comments of support for the Greek stance on the ‘**Macedonian Issue**’ at the Greek Independence Day celebrations, held on the 25th of March 2018, were confronting for the Macedonian community and resonated as a biased approach to a particular view on a highly divisive issue in Australian society. Premier, for your information, no part of Macedonian land was liberated on the same day as Greece in 1821. Macedonia remained under Ottoman rule until 1912-1913 when it was illegally divided among Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia, with Greece taking 51% of historical Macedonia (please refer to the Bucharest Treaty).

To allay some of the fears and disquiet in the Macedonian community in Victoria, we seek from you reassurances that Victoria's Macedonian community will be treated equally with all the other ethnic communities and it will have equal access to all state government services.

Premier, we hope to hear from you where you reaffirm the strong multicultural policy for all Victorians of which the Macedonian community makes up a substantial percentage.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Stefanovski', written in a cursive style.

Jim Stefanovski

National Executive Co-Chairman – WMC-A

Branch President (NSW & ACT)

International Vice President – World Macedonian Congress