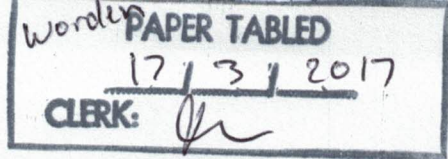


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**Adjournment – Greek Traditional Dancing Group of Darwin  
March 2017**

Madam Speaker I stand this evening to put into Hansard the efforts of a wonderful community group recently to take themselves to Melbourne.

Madam Speaker, the Greek Traditional Dancing Group of Darwin is a small local group based in the Sanderson Electorate. I am very fortunate to have quite a number of members as both my constituents and as a group that falls within my remit as Assistant Minister for Multicultural affairs. A great intersection for me.

Darwin is so far from other major centers and the idea of travelling to another major Centre to highlight the expertise and skill of your group in another place is often daunting, particularly without strong financial help.

Madam Speaker I know of several sports groups locally that no longer travel to national competitions because it is so financially and time onerous on individuals and families.

So when this small dance group approached me for support I was more than happy to help them strategise ways for them to



raise some much needed funds. This group approached the task with great gusto – they pulled together some good prizes including some from my colleagues the Member for Brennan and the Member for Karama - and so began their fundraising with earnest.

Madam speaker, I don't think in the history of the Northlakes Shopping centre has there ever been such an excited nor energetic group of raffle sellers in such a sustained way – there was no way you could come in and ignore them.

The group spent the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday leveraging more than \$1000 in funds from the community around them in order to represent the Greek Traditional Dancing group of Darwin, and the Territory itself at the Melbourne Glenti festival – a celebration of Greek culture which we ourselves celebrate each Easter.

The Greek Traditional Dancing group are a not-for-profit group who faced expenses having to purchase:

- 30 Traditional Costumes
- Airline Tickets 35 people x \$500 each person
- Hotel Rooms 35 people x \$450 5 days per person
- Transport \$50 per person every day
- Tours (museum, zoo) \$50 per person



- Food (Lunch, Dinner) \$50 per person each day

This trip was the group's first to Melbourne - was their first trip inside Australia. I know that the parents and students, along with their main organizer Anastasia Mastrandreas met all their expenses and their fundraising was of some relief to offset what would have been a difficult ask.

From all accounts the group were well received and danced their hearts out, representing the Territory in a way only a Greek Traditional Dancing group can do. From speaking to some of the dancers since they returned they really enjoyed the trip and learnt a lot that they have brought back to their group. In fact, I look forward to seeing them perform at our own Glenti this year.

Madam Speaker – with some difficulty as I know I will get some of them wrong I would like to put the names of the dancers who travelled on the record tonight.

Andreas Mastrandreas

Simeon Skoufetzis

George Platsis

Nikolas Karanikolas

Theofilis Sisois

Harry Magoulias



Nikitas Magoulias

Eleni Kypreos

Anna Mastrandreas

Yvon Mailis

Evdokia Kortesis

Katerina Kavouklis

Vaggelitsa Lelekis

Katerina Lelekis and

Kalliopi Skoyfetsis

I also know that there are another 12 kids in the group but it was impossible for them to travel this time – I say to them next time, keep dancing!

Madam Speaker I look forward to assisting the group further with a sausage sizzle in the coming months and for that matter to support their efforts over my full term in office to ensure that they are able to continue the good work they do, particularly with our young people.

Thank you Madam Speaker