GREECE’S PM GETS TERRITORY WELCOME

Chief Minister Clare Martin has welcomed Greece’s Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis to the Territory.

Chief Minister Clare Martin and Minister Kon Vatskalis met with the Prime Minister and his wife Natasa at Parliament House.

“The Greek community has played a big role in the development of the NT – and it’s a great privilege for Prime Minister Karamanlis to visit Darwin,” Ms Martin said.

“It’s the first visit to Australia by a Greek head of government – his decision to include the Territory on his 5 day tour is a great compliment to our Greek community.

“The Prime Minister was impressed by the local Greek community’s proud history, from the early pearling days to the reconstruction effort after Cyclone Tracy, to now.”

“I congratulated Mr Karamanlis on the reaching a two-way deal on pensions with the Australian Government.

“This has been an issue many people have raised with me, both here and when I went to Kalymnos in 2001.

“I also told Mr Karamanlis our Government fully supports his push to force Britain to return the Parthenon Marbles, also known as the Elgin Marbles.”

In the 2001 Census there were about 4 500 Territorians of Greek background.

“The Martin Government is delighted to recognise the rich cultural contributions of the Greek community.

“Through the Office of Multicultural Affairs we have granted more than $331,000 in funding in 2006/07 for facility development and sponsorship programs.”

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