



The Greek-Australian Society

2026 GAS Young Leaders Program

Impact Report

This report provides an overview of the 2026 GAS Young Leaders Program held in Canberra on 24-26.03.2026, highlighting key outcomes across attendance, participation, digital performance and partner visibility.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land across Australia on which we gather:

The Gadigal people of the Eora nation in Sydney,
The Ngunnawal country across Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory,
The Turrbal and Jagera people in the Brisbane city area,
The Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation in Melbourne,
The Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains,
The Whadjuk Nyoongar people in the Perth city area,
The Palawa people of Lutruwita, today's Tasmania, and
Traditional owners and custodians of country across Australia.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The Greek-Australian Society acknowledges that this land is, was and always will be traditional First Nations land.

This land has provided a home for our Greek-Australian community, and we recognise the mutual understanding between us and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to historical trauma, spirituality and relationship to home, language and land.

ΑΝΑΓΝΩΡΙΣΗ ΠΡΩΤΩΝ ΕΘΝΩΝ

Αναγνωρίζουμε τους παραδοσιακούς κηδεμόνες της γης σε όλη την Αυστραλία, πάνω στην οποία συγκεντρωνόμαστε:

Τον λαό Γκαντίγκαλ του έθνους Εόρα στο Σύδνεϋ,
Τη χώρα Νάνναουαλ σε όλη την Καμπέρα και της Επικράτειας Πρωτεύουσας Αυστραλίας,
Τους λαούς Τούρμπαλ και Τζάγκερα στην περιοχή της πόλης της Βρισβάνης,
Τους λαούς Γουρούντζερι και Μπούν Γαράνγκ του έθνους Κούλιν στη Μελβούρνη,
Τον λαό Κόρνα στις πεδιάδες της Αδελαΐδας,
Τον λαό Ουάντζουκ Νιούνγκαρ στην περιοχή της πόλης του Περθ,
Τον λαό Παλάουα του Λουτρούιτα, της σημερινής Τασμανίας, και
Τους παραδοσιακούς ιδιοκτήτες και κηδεμόνες της γης σε όλη την Αυστραλία.

Αποδίδουμε τον σεβασμό μας στους Πρεσβύτερους του παρελθόντος και του παρόντος.

Ο Ελληνοαυστραλιανός Σύνδεσμος αναγνωρίζει ότι αυτή η γη είναι, ήταν και πάντα θα είναι παραδοσιακή γη των Πρώτων Εθνών.

Αυτή η γη προσέφερε έναν τόπο για την ελληνοαυστραλιανή μάς κοινότητα, και αναγνωρίζουμε την αμοιβαία κατανόηση ανάμεσά μας με τους Αβορίγινες και τους Κατοίκους των νήσων των Στενών Τόρες σε σχέση με ιστορικό τραύμα, πνευματικότητα και σε σχέσεις πατρίδας, γλώσσας και γης.



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2026 GAS Young Leaders Program

Thanks to the contributions of our Greek-Australian young leaders, the vision of our advocates and the support of our partners in community and government, the inaugural GAS Young Leaders Program in 2026 was a resounding success.

With the establishment of the GAS Young Leaders Program, our organisation has created a new and exciting pathway for the evolving contemporary leadership our community needs.

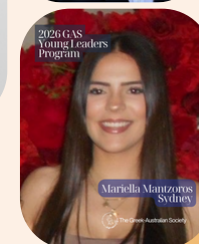
On behalf of our Board, thank you for your generous support, your dedicated partnership and, most of all, your continued trust in our mission at GAS.

Yours in Hellenism,

George Mpliokas
President
The Greek-Australian Society



program participants



a platform for leadership

We are committed in supporting civic engagement and strengthening the leadership landscape of our Greek-Australian community.

Through the establishment of the GAS Young Leaders Program, our organisation is creating another exciting pathway for the evolving contemporary leadership this dynamic constituency needs.

Our GAS Young Leaders Program has been designed to compliment our flagship GAS Mentoring Program, which has grown from humble beginnings in pandemic-era Sydney to an international initiative with more than 150 participants since our first intake in 2021.



program schedule

DAY 1

Tuesday 24 March

Program Open

afternoon

- from 2pm Arrival to Canberra, Check-in to hotel
 - Meriton Suites Canberra
- 4:00pm Last Post Ceremony & Wreath Laying
 - Australian War Memorial

evening

- 6:30pm Welcome Dinner
 - Kivotos – Hellenic Club Canberra
 - HE Stavros Venizelos, Ambassador of Greece in Australia



DAY 2

Wednesday 25 March

morning

- 8:00am Greek Independence Day commemoration
 - St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
- 11:30am Group Photo & tour
 - Parliament House

afternoon

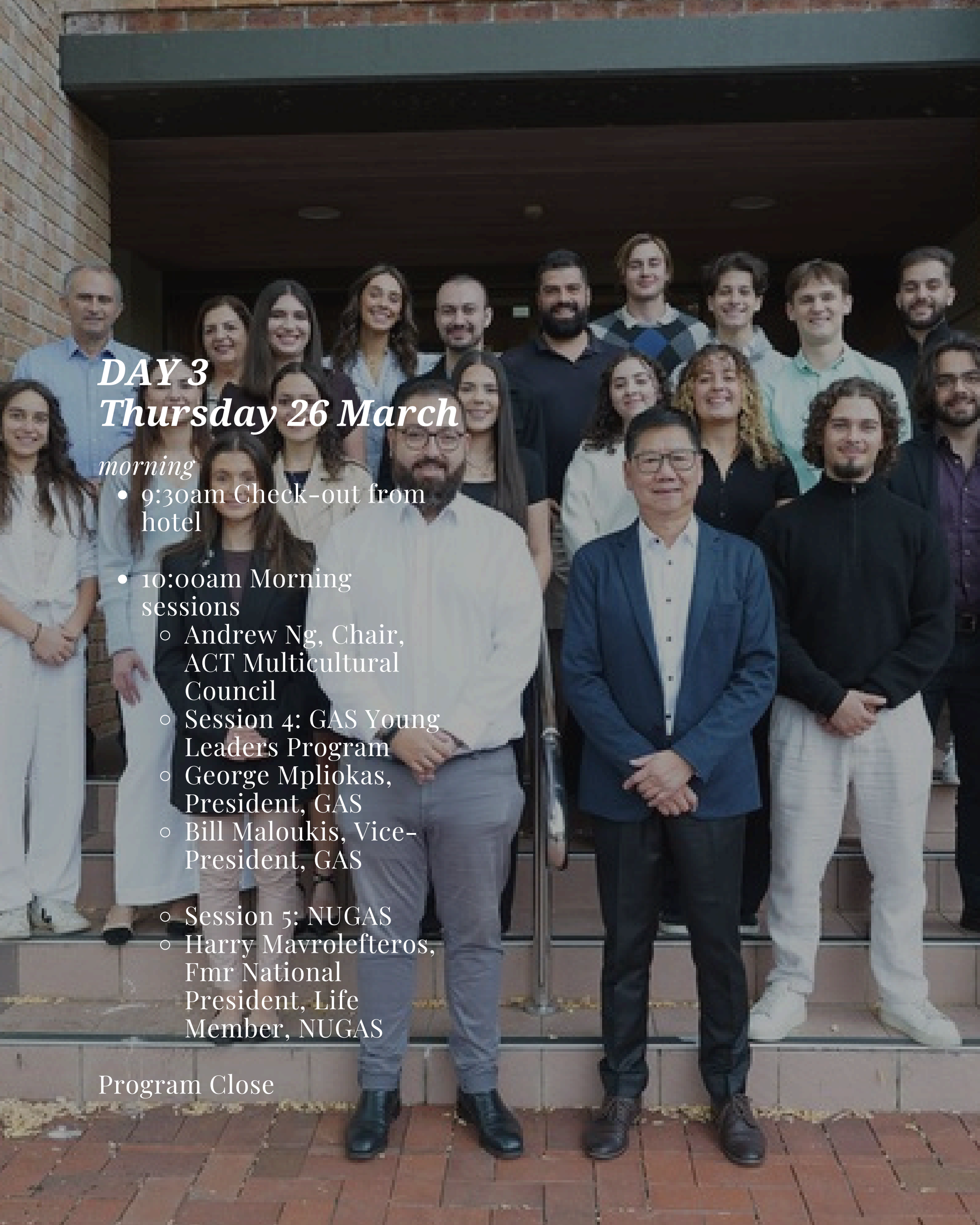
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:35pm Question Time, House of Representatives

- 2:45pm Afternoon sessions
 - Session 1: Greek-Australians and Advocacy
 - George Karagiannakis, GAS Mentor
 - Session 2: Advocacy in Parliament, Meeting with Parliamentarians
 - The Hon Michael McCormack MP / Steve Georganas MP / Ash Ambihapahar MP / Senator Dave Sharma / Zhi Soon MP / Angie Bell MP

- Session 3: Case Study - Pharos Alliance
 - Dr Patricia Koromvokis, Macquarie University / Konnie Zagrimanis, Pharos Alliance NSW

evening

- 5:30pm GAS Networking Drinks
 - Leyla Bar
 - Peter Doukas OAM, Chair, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia / Steve Georganas MP
- 



DAY 3 *Thursday 26 March*

morning

- 9:30am Check-out from hotel
- 10:00am Morning sessions
 - Andrew Ng, Chair, ACT Multicultural Council
 - Session 4: GAS Young Leaders Program
 - George Mpliokas, President, GAS
 - Bill Maloukis, Vice-President, GAS
 - Session 5: NUGAS
 - Harry Mavrolefteros, Fmr National President, Life Member, NUGAS

Program Close

2026 GAS Young Leaders Program

our young leaders

some examples of
submissions from our
successful applicants prior
to the program

"I was born in Greece and moved to Australia 15 years ago. Since then, I have always sought to remain connected to my cultural heritage and actively engage with the Greek community. I am very much looking forward to this opportunity to network, meet influential individuals, and further develop my future career."

Maria Kakali
Sydney

The Greek-Australian Society

2026 GAS
Young Leaders
Program



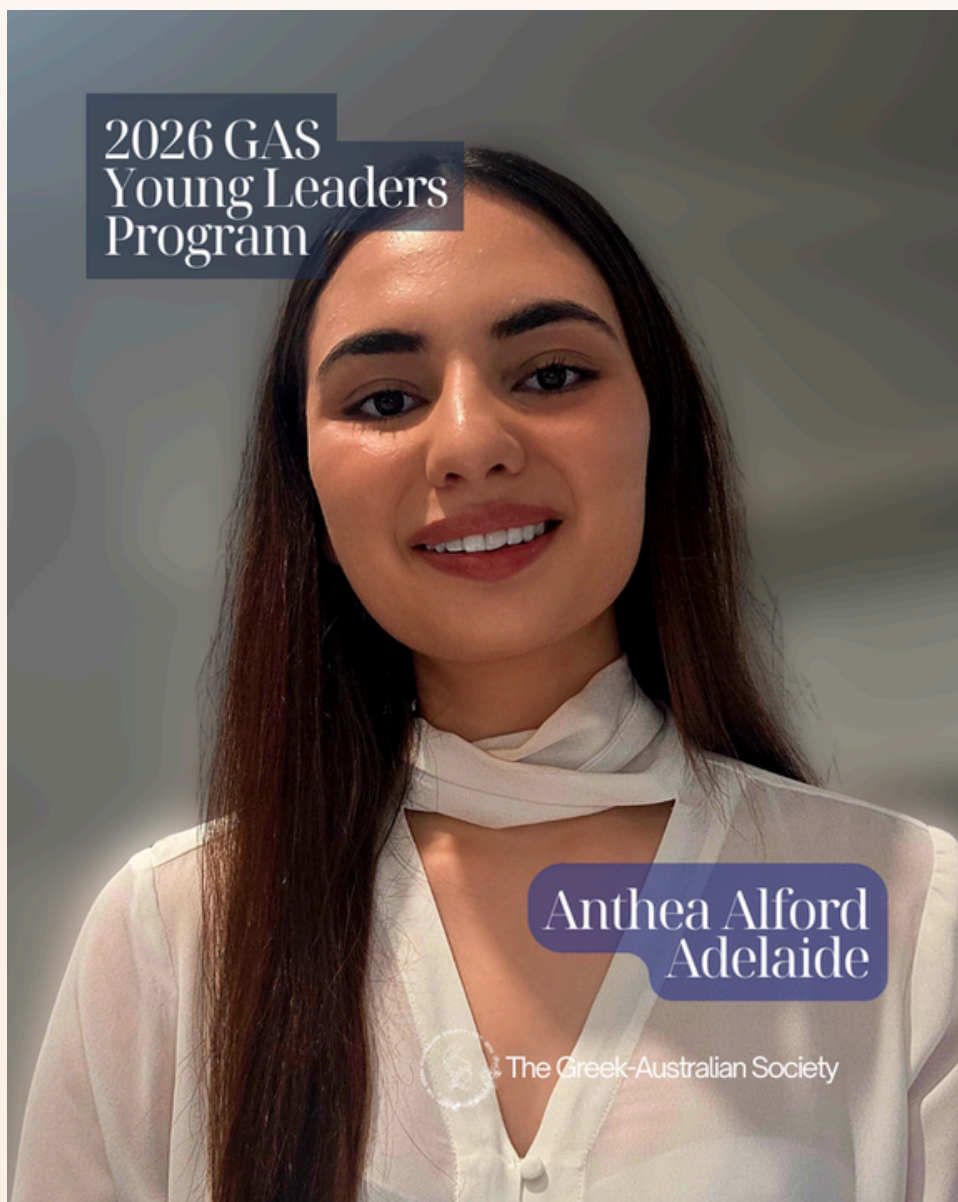
Michael Glover
Sydney



The Greek-Australian Society

"I'm excited and grateful to participate in the GAS Young Leaders Program 2026. I'm a recent graduate from Sydney University (in Law and Science), and I have a strong interest in international affairs and community engagement. I'm excited to connect with everyone and engage more deeply with the Greek-Australian community."

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Anthea Alford
Adelaide



The Greek-Australian Society

"As a proud Greek-Australian and emerging medical professional, I am fortunate to participate in the GAS Young Leaders Program. This experience offers a valuable opportunity to learn from inspiring leaders, engage with policymakers and community stakeholders, and strengthen connections within our community while developing the leadership skills necessary to create a meaningful and lasting impact."

A portrait of Martha Stamatopoulos, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue sleeveless top with gold-colored lacing down the front. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a bar or restaurant.

2026 GAS
Young Leaders
Program

Martha Stamatopoulos
Melbourne

 The Greek-Australian Society

“As an active member of the Greek community in Melbourne, including Education officer of NUGAS, I am excited to experience the GAS Youth Leadership conference in Canberra and make connections with other young Hellenes from around the nation.”

A portrait of Anthony Hagidimitriou, a young man with short dark hair and a beard, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a white button-down shirt.

2026 GAS
Young Leaders
Program

Anthony Hagidimitriou
Adelaide

 The Greek-Australian Society

“I'm looking forward to an amazing opportunity to network and learn about the wider Greek-Australian community. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for young Greek-Australian leaders to meet, discuss, collaborate and strengthen their ties within their respective states, as well as nationally across state borders.”

2026 GAS Young Leaders Program

young leaders emerging

some examples of reviews
from our GAS Young
Leaders following the
conclusion of the program

"I really loved the conversations I was able to share with so many like-minded, passionate and gracious individuals, both amongst my fellow participants and the impressive industry leaders we were able to speak to. More than anything, I think George, Bill and Paul, as well as all the wonderful minds at GAS, did a lovely job of cultivating a safe and welcoming environment that was grounded in uplifting one another, one that also yielded so much opportunity to reflect on our Greek-Australian-ness!"

Meryn Karagiannis
Sydney

The Greek-Australian Society



“this was my top ever best trip I’ve been on, like you have said, a truly significant trip this and how we made history. The most enjoyable thing was being connected with other like-minded Greek leaders sharing the inspiration and passion, and making the start of communication and collaboration for years to come.”

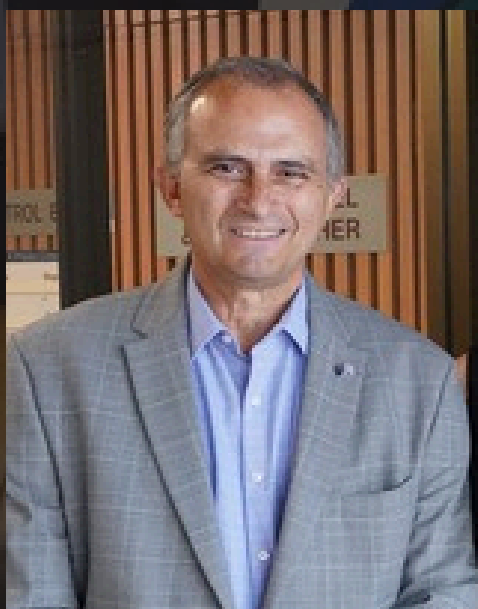


“What I enjoyed most was meeting participants from different states and learning about the Greek community in their areas. It was interesting to see how they run their societies and explore ways we can stay connected and collaborate in the future.”

driving the discussion

The 2026 Program embedded several key areas of policy foundation, driven by proven leaders and policy specialists.

Thank you Peter Doukas OAM, George Karagiannakis, Dr Patricia Koromvokis, Bill Maloukis, Harry Mavrolefteros, George Mpliokas and Konnie Zagrimanis for your invaluable contributions, both during your sessions and throughout the Program.



digital performance

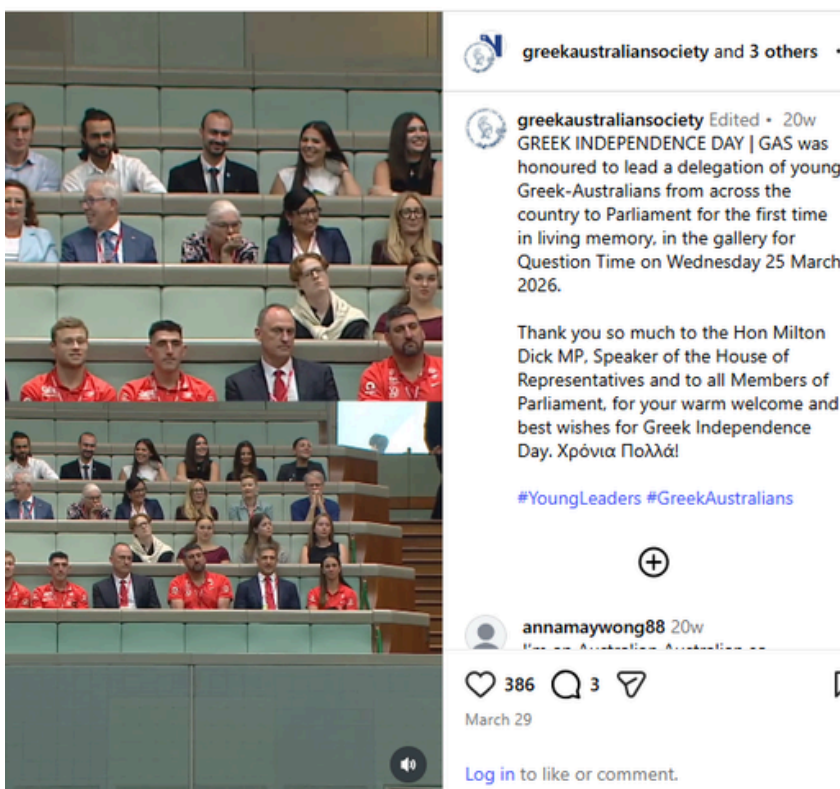
An overview of the Program's digital performance across social media platforms, highlighting audience reach, engagement and overall online visibility.



Post Views

the total number of views to our social media posts across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, reflecting audience interested in learning more about GAS and the Program

137 K +



Engagement

the level of interaction with our content, including likes, comments, shares and saves; indicating strong audience interest and participation

12.3 K +

Thank you to our Major Sponsors and Partners



Platinum Partner

*AHEPA Australasia
NSW Daughters of Penelope*



Gold Partner



The Greek-Australian Society

public endorsement

We were honoured by the presence and support of senior government representatives, senior diplomatic officials and community leaders, reflecting the growing role of GAS as a recognised and active Greek-Australian community organisation.



His Excellency Stavros Venizelos Ambassador of Greece in Australia

His Excellency Stavros Venizelos, Ambassador of Greece in Australia was the Guest of Honour at the GAS Young Leaders Program Official Welcome Dinner, held on 24.03.2026 at the Hellenic Club Canberra. His Excellency addressed the Young Leaders and travelling delegation, stating his pride in meeting young Greek-Australians from across the country, and commending GAS for establishing this initiative.

John Loukadellis President, Greek Community and Church of Canberra

John Loukadellis made a special appearance at the GAS Young Leaders Program Official Welcome Dinner, speaking with delegates and Young Leaders from across Australia and highlighting the progress of the local Community, representing Greek-Australians at a national level.





Nikos Varellas **Deputy Head of Mission, High** **Commission of Cyprus in Australia**

Deputy High Commissioner, Nikos Varellas represented His Excellency Antonis Sammoutis, High Commissioner of Cyprus in Australia, due to the High Commissioner being called to an overseas assignment on short notice. Mr Varellas spoke directly with Young Leaders and shared valuable insights into community leadership, both in Australia and across the world.

Very Rev.Fr Petros Kipouros **St Nicholas Greek Orthodox** **Church, Kingston**

Fr Petros, Parish Priest at St Nicholas in Canberra, met with Young Leaders and travelling delegation, providing a personal tour of the Church interior, following the service celebrating the anniversary of Greek Independence Day on 25.03.2026.



The Hon Minister Anne Aly **Minister for Multiculturalism**

Minister Anne Aly kindly gave precious time from her Ministerial schedule to meet with the travelling delegation in Parliament, noting the important work of GAS in engaging with her portfolio and spoke fondly of her Greek neighbours when growing up in Egypt.

Thank you, Anne for championing modern, multicultural Australia.

Steve Georganas MP **Member for Adelaide**

As co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Greece, Steve Georganas generously supported the inaugural GAS Young Leaders Program, speaking in Parliament and at Leyla Bar, as well as coordination for the travelling delegation.

Thank you, Steve for your tremendous support and for your work representing our Greek-Australian community.



The Hon Michael McCormack **Member for Riverina**

As co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Greece, Michael McCormack was another vital supporter in the GAS Young Leaders Program, ensuring bi-partisan support, speaking to the delegation in Parliament and providing vital parliamentary support.

Thank you, Michael for your tremendous support and for your work representing our Greek-Australian community.



Ash Ambihapahar MP **Member for Barton**

As Member for Barton representing the largest Greek-Australian electorate across Australia, Ash Ambihapahar spoke to delegates about her journey as a Parliamentarian and the vital need to engage with young leaders in multicultural communities.

Thank you, Ash for supporting Greek-Australians in Barton and for everything you do.



Hon Milton Dick MP Member for Oxley Speaker House of Representatives

Thank you, Speaker for especially acknowledging the Greek-Australian Society, our Young Leaders Program and Greek Independence Day in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. It is an honour to share our Greek-Australian essence in the heart of democracy in Australia.

*"...I have a number of guests I would like to welcome to the House of Representatives today...a group of young Greek-Australian leaders from across the country who are here in Canberra, as part of the Greek-Australian Society's inaugural Young Leaders [Program]. On behalf of the House, welcome to Question Time, as today is also Greek Independence Day:
Χρόνια Πολλά!"*



2027 GAS Young Leaders Program

Given the success and impact of the 2026 GAS Young Leaders Program, we now endeavour to deliver the next intake in 2027.

This bold Program is only possible with the generous support of our community partners, GAS Members and Sponsors.

Please give generously to ensure the GAS Young Leaders Program continues to empower Greek-Australians to contribute, to lead and to serve our community into the future.

To commit to the future of the GAS Young Leaders Program, please contact George Mpliokas, President via email sponsor@gas.org.au / call +61 433 493 204.



The Greek-Australian Society