



MCCV News

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

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SBS Radio final selection criteria fail to address key issues raised by Maltese community leaders

On 2nd March 2017 SBS published the final selection criteria for SBS Radio services following the public consultation that closed on 11 December 2016.

The only changes made to the draft criteria relate to allowing SBS flexibility to increase the number of high needs languages to more than 15, if funding permits; taking into greater consideration the English language proficiency of new arrivals and older migrants; and reducing the weighting of household income as a secondary indicator in the review process.

Given the minor and inconsequential nature of these changes, SBS failed to address the fundamental flaws and



serious issues with the draft criteria as well as the lack of process transparency that the Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and New South Wales had pointed out in an elaborate joint submission they made to SBS last December.

In its Media Release SBS confirmed that it received more than 600 submissions, representing 85

languages, during a period of public consultation which gave people and organisations the opportunity to provide feedback on the criteria that were being proposed.

SBS claimed that the submissions received were taken into consideration in finalising the criteria published today.” The criteria will now be used, in conjunction with the 2016 Census data, to determine which languages will be provided by SBS Radio services.

SBS stated that it will determine how the languages will be delivered across AM and FM radio, digital radio and digital television, online and podcast services, taking into account factors including audience listening habits, the need to support audience

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Identity Malta taking years to process Maltese citizenship applications

The Maltese government agency, Identity Malta, has been inundated with applications for Maltese citizenship and is struggling to cope with the volume. The agency is responsible for the processing of such applications which have drastically increased over the last years.

In an article published on 23 January 2017, the Times of Malta reported receiving various complaints from applicants complaining that their requests for citizenship have been “stuck for years” at Identity Malta. The newspaper was informed that the number of applications “through the normal channels” have more than doubled in the last five years.

While refusing to give information on how many applications were currently



pending at Identity Malta, a spokeswoman for the agency said that last year “the number of applications for Maltese citizenship increased by 53 per cent when compared to 2011”.

Excluding applications related to the scheme selling Maltese passports – technically known as the Individual Investor Programme – Identity Malta said

that in 2016 the agency received 1,233 applications for citizenship by registration and another 410 applications for citizenship by naturalisation. At the same time, the agency said that during 2016, the agency processed a total of 1,641 applications out of which 333 were turned down.

The previous week, the same newspaper reported the story of a mother, Ms Elena Spagnol, originally from Russia, who obtained Maltese citizenship five years ago complaining that her children’s applications had been ‘stuck’ at Identity Malta for four years.

She complained that “the agency is a mess” and asked the responsible minister

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President's Perspective

Processing of Maltese Citizenship applications should not take years

We have been approached by many of our community members complaining of the inordinate delays they are experiencing in the processing of their Maltese citizenship application by the government agency Identity Malta.

Recent media reports from Malta have confirmed that delays can extend beyond a two-year period with no acknowledgement or contact from the Maltese government agency on the status and progress of their application in the meantime. Not providing status updates periodically is unacceptable in today's age of best practice customer service.

It is understood that Identity Malta is severely understaffed to the extent that it is unable to meet with the demand.

It seems quite contradictory that we should be encouraging younger generations of Maltese background living in Australia to be proud of their ancestral heritage, to apply for Maltese citizenship and passports as a sign of their commitment and to travel to Malta to experience Maltese culture, when the citizenship application process takes years.

Unfortunately, the inordinate delay in processing applications takes off the shine and excitement for them and does not leave them with a good impression of the respect that Malta's Government shows towards its potential citizens.

We, therefore, strongly urge the Government in Malta to review its current processes and procedures and to adequately resource Identity Malta to enable them to process the huge backlog of outstanding citizenship applications with due haste.

Proposed Media and Defamation Bill — a cause for concern

The Media and Defamation Act (MADA), which the Malta Government has recently published as a Bill, is intended to replace the Press Act 1984. The proposed Bill contains some highly controversial provisions, explained in more detail in the article published on page 9 of this newsletter.

One of the most controversial provisions of the Bill relates to the obligation for the registration of websites with a Media Registrar. Websites are defined in the Bill as "any web-based news service or other web-based service relating to news or current affairs that operates from Malta or in respect of which editorial decisions are taken in Malta."

It is clearly obvious that this requirement for registration offends against all notions of the right to freedom of expression online. As a Maltese media law expert rightly observed, nowhere, in the democratic world, could a similar website registration obligation be found. Only countries like Russia, Bangladesh and China would impose such controls.

It is understood that there are justified concerns that the intention is to impose a form of control and deny the rights of persons who seek to express their views freely and in an open manner using modern means of electronic communication.

The Minister's argument for the registration requirement based on the need to identify persons who defame others or seek to ridicule them is, in reality, no justification for the proposed changes. There are other means of identification under Maltese law.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is deeply concerned about the inclusion of provisions that would significantly limit the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the operation of the proposed legislation in practice.

Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act should be left alone

The Australian Federal Government is again considering amendments 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975. Last year Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull resisted calls to amend the Act, due to Government's more pressing priorities, but he later relented following pressure from his own party to establish an enquiry. The parliamentary joint committee on Human Rights enquiring into the Act, including whether sections of the Act are too restrictive on the freedom of speech, recently handed down its report.

Section 18C of the Act deals with offensive behaviour "because of race, colour or national or ethnic origin" in Australia. It is unlawful for a person to do an act, otherwise than in private, if "(a) the act is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to *offend, insult, humiliate* or intimidate another person or a group of people." One proposal was to remove the words "offend", "insult" and "humiliate" and replace them with "harass". Its proponents argue that simply offending someone or insulting them should not be grounds for a complaint of unlawful conduct under civil law. Such a proposal calls into question the justification for the proposed change and the change of circumstances on which supporters of such an amendment rely. There is no doubt that the statement that Attorney General George Brandis made some time ago in the Senate that 'a person has a right to be a bigot' must be of encouragement to those who clamour for such a change.

Mr Joe Caputo, President of the Federation of the Ethnic Community Council of Australia, recently gave evidence before the Parliamentary joint committee on Human Rights enquiry. He stated that the Ethnic Community Council of Victoria, of which he is a board member, is particularly concerned about the increase of hostility towards Muslims and other minority groups in Australia.

In recent years there has been a rise in anti-multiculturalism rallies and racial attacks, which promote feelings of exclusion and fear in the community. In fact, he said that the sub-section should be strengthened by including a reference to "religion" within it.

The parliamentary report focused mainly on the procedures and processes relating to the role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in accepting and hearing complaints. Of the 22 recommendations made in the report, only one deals specifically with the wording of section 18C and it is inconclusive. Given that the report failed to resolve the key issues regarding the text of section 18C, that section should be left unchanged.

MCCV to extend its welfare services

At an extraordinary meeting of the MCCV held on 14 February 2017 it was decided that welfare services for the Maltese Aged will be extended and from resources which are the subject of a grant application from the Federal and State governments. It is quite apparent that the Maltese aged have specific and special requirements which can only be satisfied by Council having bi-lingual workers and staff.

One of the priorities is to extend the Home Visitations Scheme to visitation of aged Maltese persons residing in aged care facilities in the metropolitan area. Plans are underway to commence this initiative as soon as possible. A mobile library with Maltese books, CDs and other items will become accessible to elderly community members at regular intervals.

Victor Borg
MCCV President

Australian High Commissioner presents her credentials to the President of Malta ...

On the 31 January 2017 the new Australian High Commissioner to Malta H.E. Julianne Hince presented her credentials to the President of Malta H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca at The President's Palace in Valletta.

During the ceremony, the President of Malta and the High Commissioner discussed bilateral relations.

Julianne Hince is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Director, South America and Council on Australia-Latin America Relations Section, DFAT. She was Deputy Director of the DFAT Victorian State Office and Director of the DFAT Northern Territory Office.

Ms Hince has served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission, Athens, with earlier postings in Bangladesh and Germany. Hince holds a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne.

With non-residential accreditation to Tunisia, Ms Hince is the sixteenth Australian High Commissioner to serve in Malta since the High Commission opened 50 years ago and succeeded Ms Jane Lambert in the role. 💧



Photos: Department of Information, Malta

... and hosts Australia Day reception

Hundreds of guests attended the Australia Day Reception on 9 February hosted by the new Australian High Commissioner to Malta, Ms Julianne Hince, at her residence in Targa Gap. It was the first occasion for the new High Commissioner to introduce herself to members of the Diplomatic Corps serving in Malta and local associations.

Guest of honour at the reception was the President of Malta HE Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca who was accompanied by her husband Edgar. Among the special guests were the Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella and Mrs Vella and the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security Mr Carmelo Abela and Mrs Abela. The attendees included other Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament, members of the Maltese-Australian Association.

Ms Hince welcomed the guests and expressed her hope that she will be able to assist in strengthening further the relations between Australia and Malta.

On her part, the Maltese President welcomed the new High Commissioner and spoke about the strong relations between the two countries and her successful visit to Australia last year.

Guests were served Australian wines and finger food, including kangaroo meat. 💧



Photos: Australian High Commission in Malta

Identity Malta taking years to process applications for Maltese citizenship

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(Dr Owen Bonnici) to intervene and get the agency's act together. The Russian woman, who became a Maltese citizen more than five years ago after marrying a Maltese man, said that despite spending hours queuing to ask Identity Malta about the state of the applications of her two children, aged 20 and 12, the only response she got was that she still had to wait. She said that she applied for her children to be given Maltese citizenship more than four years ago. She claimed that they have a right to citizenship because she is already Maltese. However, every time she sent to Identity Malta to ask about the status of the applications, she was told to wait and that the applications are still being processed.

"How can an application take four years to be settled? We are dealing with human beings here. It's not acceptable that this state of affairs continues in a supposedly modern European country," Ms Spagnol said.

She said Identity Malta officials came up with "all imaginable types of excuses". On two occasions she was even told they had lost their applications, she added. Ms Spagnol said she decided to speak to the *Times of Malta* because the situation was "really becoming intolerable".

Her elder son, who has been living in Malta for 11 years and works for a private company, was informed by his boss that if he did not become a Maltese citizen by 21 he would be fired, she said.

Ms Spagnol said, though, judging by Russian friends' experiences, the process of citizenship took long in some cases, she knew of nobody else who had to wait for four years. "It seems I'm not lucky enough to know some politician", she said.

A number of people contacted the *Times of Malta* following the publication of the mother's story, recounting similar experiences.

"It seems that if you don't have €650,000 to buy a passport, the Maltese government treats you like a second class applicant," said a British passport holder, who qualifies for dual citizenship. "The problem is that since I placed my application more than two and a half years ago, I have been completely left in the dark over its status," he said.

An Italian citizen who said she qualified for a Maltese passport through marriage said she has been going through the process for three years. "Every time I go to the office (in Valletta) to ask why it's taking so long, the officers just tell me that they can't cope and we have to wait."

Sources at Identity Malta told the *Times of Malta* that the agency is understaffed. "The agency's officials have been asking for additional staff for the last two years. However, it seems that the government is only interested in giving a sterling service to those applying to buy citizenship while all the others have to wait," the sources said.

The issue was also raised in Parliament with MPs from both sides of the House submitted parliamentary questions asking about the state of applications of various 'future' constituents. In his answers, Minister Owen Bonnici told MPs that the process was a very rigorous one which takes time.

Maltese citizenship can be acquired through two different processes – either by registration or by naturalisation. However, following the introduction of a specific programme, the Maltese government is also offering citizenship at a price through the Individual Investor Programme.

Interested non-EU citizens will have to pay some €650,000 and buy or rent a residence in Malta in order to qualify. For this category of citizenship, the government is bound by a specific time by when an application is processed and a passport is issued.

Over the past few years, even the MCCV has received similar complaints from several members of the Maltese community about inordinate delays in having their application for Maltese citizenship processed. As a result, in many cases, the issuing of a Maltese passport is also delayed. ♦

[Main Source: timesofmalta.com]

Maltese Citizenship of Merit to be given for 'exceptional' service to country

A public consultation process was launched on 28 January 2017 to start giving a Maltese Citizenship of Merit to foreign nationals who have given an "exceptional" service to the country.

The citizenship could also be given to those whose "naturalisation" is of exceptional interest to Malta.

The proposal covers five sectors of particular interest to Malta: science, research, sport, art and culture.

Justice and Culture Minister Owen Bonnici told a news conference the proposal includes a protective mechanism



Chris Agius (left) and Owen Bonnici during the launch of the initiative

to ensure the citizenship is granted only to those who deserve it. The applicant needs to have a genuine link with Malta and needs to prove he has a minimum 12-month residency.

The application would then be approved by the relevant competent authority. Identity Malta will be obliged to carry out a due diligence exercise.

Sports parliamentary secretary Chris Agius said the initiative was moulded on similar schemes overseas.

Mr Agius said athletes like Fiona May and singer Tina Turner were among the many who had applied for such schemes overseas.

The consultation document is available by [clicking here](#). The closing date for the submissions is 22 February 2017. ♦

[Source: timesofmalta.com]

SBS Radio final selection criteria fail to address key issues raised by Maltese community leaders

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demands for anytime, anywhere news and information via digital platforms, and the changing demographics of Australia's diverse communities.

In the Media Release SBS Director of Audio and Language Content, Ms Mandi Wicks, is quoted as saying that SBS is "committed to ensuring the language services we deliver reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia today. We are also committed to ensuring the SBS Radio Services Review is a robust and transparent process. We have listened to the many people who have provided valuable feedback, and today we have released the clear criteria that will help inform which languages SBS will need to deliver to meet the needs of contemporary multicultural Australia – from the largest communities, to high needs and emerging communities – with a revised schedule to be announced later this year."

The Maltese community leaders are very disappointed with the slight modifications to the draft selection criteria, which could only be described simply as tinkering around the edges. In their submission they had called for an overhaul of the criteria, as in their view, they are fundamentally flawed, grossly inequitable and unfairly disadvantageous to communities of medium to small size. The criteria required a complete makeover to ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of radio broadcasting hours among the communities.

The key issues raised in their joint submission included the following:

- The current allocation to the six largest languages in terms of population size of 14 hours per week or 2 hours per day air time is way too high and overgenerous resulting in insufficient air time left over to be allocated to the remaining communities to meet their information needs.
- The draft criteria were based on the flawed assumption that the information needs of a community are commensurate with the size of its population.
- Under the draft criteria, the high needs of communities, which



exceed the arbitrarily set threshold of 25,000 to qualify as a 'large' community, are not taken into account at all. This is a major flaw as all communities must be subjected to the 'high needs' test as part of the determination of the number of hours to be allocated to them.

- To make an overgenerous allocation of program hours to 'large' communities simply on the basis of their size without applying the 'high needs' test to them is to discriminate against the remaining communities who are required to jump the 'high needs' hurdle before they can qualify for any program hours.
- In the draft criteria there was too strong a bias in favour of size and not enough importance given to other determining factors listed in the criteria for 'high needs' communities, particularly, that of ageing.
- Basing eligibility to radio broadcasting hours so heavily on census data relating to the number of persons in a community, who stated in their census form that they speak their native language at home, is a flawed and unfair way to allocate radio time. Much more emphasis should be placed on the specific needs of a particular ethnic community.
- The draft criteria do not take into account the fact that the larger ethnic groups have many other non-SBS sources of information in their own language, including direct ongoing broadcasts from their country of origin.
- The draft criteria do not take into account the size of the ethnic community audience actually listening to their respective SBS

Radio programs when allocating the number of hours to the various communities.

The MCCV and MCCNSW had also proposed that the same set of criteria should be applied to all communities regardless of the size of their overseas-born and/or language speaking population in Australia. Moreover, communities with a large proportion of elderly members over 65 years of age, who are not internet savvy and are unable to benefit from the use of the SBS digital platform services and social media, should be compensated with more radio air time.

The final version of the criteria published by SBS address none of these important issues and valid concerns.

In their submission, the MCCV and MCCNSW also complained about the complete lack of transparency in relation to the methodology that will be used to apply the criteria in allocating the number of radio broadcasting hours to communities. In their view, the criteria document itself should include clear information on the methodology. The final criteria just published by SBS do not provide such information.

Over a number of weeks, the MCCV made several attempts to elicit more information from SBS about the methodology that was used for the last review made to the radio schedule in 2013. However, to date, SBS has not been forthcoming with the requested detailed information.

The last review of SBS Radio was conducted during 2012-2013, and it was the first major review of the radio services SBS provided to communities that had been undertaken in 18 years. At the time, SBS committed to reviewing its schedule in line with the release of each Census. The result from the current review will serve audiences from late 2017 until the next Australian Census in 2021 prompts the next review in 2022. ♦

Maltese community mourns Frà Richard Divall's passing away

The Maltese community in Australia mourns the loss of Australian conductor, composer, musicologist, scholar and a professed Knight of Malta, Frà Professor Richard Divall AO, OBE, who passed away on Sunday 15 January 2017 after a long illness, aged 71 years.

Maltese community leaders, including the MCCV President Victor Borg and Executive Committee members as well as representatives from MCCV-affiliated associations, were among the large congregation that attended the Requiem Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral held on 25 January. Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend Terrence Curtin, was the Principal Celebrant and the other eight concelebrants included the Archbishop of Brisbane the Most Reverend Mark Coleridge.

Within the Maltese community Professor Divall was a very well-known and highly respected figure. He was a great ambassador for Malta, its musical heritage, culture and history, and gave much to the community.

In 2013 the MCCV presented Frà Richard Divall with an MCCV Community Award in recognition of his services to the Maltese community in the field of scholarship and education.



31 Aug 2013: MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi (left) presents the MCCV Community Award to Frà Richard Divall

Requiem Mass

At the Requiem Mass, homilist Fr Gerald O'Collins said Frà Richard was 'a blessing to so many institutions and individuals' including the Australian String Quartet, Opera Victoria, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras, as well as the University of Melbourne's Queens College and Newman College.

Fr O'Collins said Frà Richard could be found on the streets of Melbourne every winter, 'talking to the homeless and then bringing them thick coats to keep them warm', as part of the Order of Malta's coats for the homeless program. He also visited the sick and the aged in retirement homes and centres, before his own illness prevented him from doing so.

Former Governor of Victoria, fellow Knight of Malta and close friend of Frà Richard, Sir James Gobbo, offered words of remembrance. He said that in the 1970s, Richard was already a keen observer and researcher of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

In 1982 Sir James invited Richard to give an oration to the Australian National Assembly of the Order of Malta on the order's history. This proved to be a pivotal moment for Richard, who started taking instruction in the Catholic faith.

Richard was received into the Church at St Patrick's Cathedral on 7 November 1989, soon after joining the Order of St John and then taking his solemn vows as a Professed Knight at the age of 63.

Befitting for the funeral of a man of music, Orchestra Victoria with friends and colleagues provided the music for the Mass.

In his final words, Sir James described Frà Richard's final moments, surrounded by many loving friends.



'A small group of Carmelite sisters quite exceptionally left their nearby monastery of prayer and contemplation and came to his bedside. They then sang the beautiful and moving hymn, *Salve Regina*. The minute the sisters had just withdrawn and were not even off the premises when Richard breathed his last. Richard the maestro had brilliantly orchestrated the final fall of the curtain.'

Malta connection

Professor Divall was one of the co-founders of the Maltese Historical Association and a long-time supporter of the community group. He gave many interesting talks about Maltese music, having acquired expert knowledge in the subject.

Professor Divall transcribed the works of early Maltese composers, especially from the period of the Knights, including the complete sacred music and operas by Nicolas Isouard (1773–1818) and was working on the sacred music and operas of Girolamo Abos (1715–1760).

On 2 December 2011 Maestro Divall conducted the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in presenting the *Liturgical Works for St John's* by Nicolò Isouard at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, Malta.

In 2013 Professor Divall completed his Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D) at the MCD University of Divinity having

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Maltese community mourns Frà Richard Divall's passing away

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written his thesis on *The Complete Sacred Music of Nicolò Isouard (1773-1818) and Maltese Sacred Music for The Order of Malta in the Late Eighteenth Century*. In 1992 Monash University honoured him with the degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) and in 2004 the Australian Catholic University awarded him the degree of Doctor of the University (Honoris Causa).

During his academic career, Professor Divall was appointed an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Divinity, a Visiting Professor of Music at King's College, London, Associate Professor of Music at The University of Melbourne and a Visiting Professor at the University of Malta. He worked in a number of fields at Monash University and was on the committee for the construction of the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music.

Professor Richard Divall will be sorely missed by the Maltese community, which will continue to treasure its fond memories of the wonderful and generous man that he was.

May he rest in peace.



Richard Divall in his 'spiritual home', Newman College at the University of Melbourne, in 2009. *Photo: The Age / Rebecca Hallas*

A profile of Frà Richard Sydney Divall, AO, OBE

Richard Sydney Benedict Divall was born in Sydney on 9 September 1945 and attended Manly Boys' High School before going on to study at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He studied overseas with Sir Charles Mackerras, Wolfgang Wagner, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Sir Reginald Goodall.

The young Divall grew up in the Sydney suburb of Manly, leaving Manly Boys High School at just 15. He worked as a music producer at ABC radio in the 1960s and attended night school at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and Opera School. He performed as an opera singer before moving into conducting. He was appointed Music Director at Queensland Opera Company in 1971.

When he was 26 years old, Dame Joan Hammond invited Divall to move to Melbourne and in 1972 he became the first music director of Victoria State Opera until the organisation merged

with Opera Australia in 1996. He was principal resident conductor of Opera Australia from then until 2001. He lived in Melbourne from 1971 until his death.

Divall conducted more than 150 operas throughout his career and attended university later in life. He paid particular attention to reviving early Australian works, and conducted research as a fellow at the State Library of Victoria for two years. He had a personal library spanning two-and-a-half rooms. In 2002 he donated his music collection to the National Library of Australia, where it occupies 14 metres of shelving.

In 1981 the highly decorated professor was named an Officer of the British Empire (OBE). In 2009 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (OA) for his service to the performing arts, preservation of Australia's musical heritage, support for young performers and service to the community.

Professor Divall undertook charitable works with medical research, particularly

in palliative care, and was involved in the operation of a school for Somali and Sudanese refugees in Melbourne.

[In an interview with The Age in 2014](#), Professor Divall named the State Library of Victoria as one of his favourite places, and called the dome at the University of Melbourne's Newman College, designed by Walter Burley Griffin, his "spiritual home".

Cautious about religion until his late 30s, Divall took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience at age 63 to become a Knight of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta in Solemn Religious Profession. The Order is well known for the help it provides to the poor, the sick and the refugees.

[Sources: [The Age](#), [Limelightmagazine](#), [HeraldSun](#); melbournecatholic.org.au]

Return of *Maltese DownUnder* TV program in 2017 fails due to lack of community support

In a media release published on 4 February the producers of the popular *Maltese DownUnder* TV (MDUtv) program on Channel 31 announced that they advised the TV station that they will not be producing a new season of the program following a disappointing crowd funding campaign over a period of 5 weeks.

The feedback the producers had received for the three seasons of MDUtv had been phenomenal and included hundreds of messages via email, Facebook, and encounters, encouraging them to keep producing the show, praising the quality of the show, suggesting stories and ways of improving the show; eg: by introducing subtitles.

While the show was available on free to air TV, it did not mean that it was free to produce. Just to put one season to air cost \$6,000 without paying their editors full commercial rates, nor paying for filming, travel expenses, pre-production planning and research, first edit and post production. Their true budget for the show would be around \$15,000 for just one season.

While the producers Marlene Scicluna and Mark Avellino did have good financial support from our sponsors to produce another season, they still would not have reached their production budget to cover all costs. The producers have been running on a very lean budget for the three seasons they produced in 2016. Neither of them have profited from the production of the show; it has been a true labour of love. In fact, both of them funded any deficiencies in the budget out of our own pockets.

The producers have had viewers suggest to them to contact businesses. Unfortunately, even though the pool seems to be quite big and they did reach out to as many as they could, the burden of businesses that did support them, has been carried by the same ones throughout the three seasons and the proposed season 4.

The producers were disappointed that other Maltese businesses seem to have a lack of vision when it comes to innovative initiatives such as *Maltese DownUnder*.

The producers said that this also came across in their contact with Maltese Associations in Victoria. They found it disappointing that, from the numerous Maltese Associations, only a handful came through with their support for season 4. They thanked the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Maltese Historical Association and Klabb Għannejja Maltin for their support.

The purpose of the crowd funding campaign has always been to give their established online audience of 2700 plus on



Maltese DownUnder producers Mark Avellino and Marlene Scicluna

Facebook, the opportunity to show their support for the future of the show. They figured that, after all, if every LIKE on their Facebook page translated to as little as a \$10 donation, they would have been well on their way to producing season 4 of the show.

The producers said that they are aware that their audience was the younger generation of Maltese in Australia. The demographics show that their followers are aged between 25 and 54 years old. It is for this reason that they reached out through this medium and not reach out to the older generation of Maltese, who they believe have contributed

more than enough to the Maltese community in Australia.

The producers are honoured that both the older and younger generations of Maltese in Australia have embraced the show. In an age when the Maltese media landscape is very limited in Australia, MDUtv was the only program producing content that was original and bridged all generations. No wonder *Maltese DownUnder* shot straight to 2nd most popular online on Channel 31.

The producers acknowledged and thanked Agnes Fenech, Lee Gale and Mark Bonello for their efforts to promote the crowd funding campaign through their networks.

They also thanked Michael Zammit of Airwaves Studio and Gorge Bajada for their artistic input, in creating our look (logo) and feel (theme) for *Maltese DownUnder*. They did this without any financial compensation and we are forever grateful.

The producers thanked their sponsors for the proposed season 4 and to everyone who pledged to our season 4 crowd funding campaign. They also expressed their gratitude to the *MCCV News*, *The Voice of the Maltese* and *The Maltese Newsletter* for featuring articles about MDUtv. ♦

Programmi bil-Malti fuq Radju 3ZZZ jiġbdu aktar semmiegħa

Minn Paul Vella

Il-programmi Maltin fuq ir-radju komunitarju f'Melbourne 3ZZZ għadhom jiġbdu aktar semmiegħa u jsiru aktar popolari.

Il-*Convenor* tal-Programmi Maltin huwa Lewis Stafrace. Huwa jipprezenta il-programm ta' nhar ta' Tnejn fil-5 pm.

Kull nhar ta' Ġimgħa xandar Malti ieħor, Paul Vella, jipprezenta programm ieħor fil-5 pm *Qatt m'Int Wahdek*.

Imbagħad niġu għall-programmi tas-Sibt li jinstemgħu fl-10 am. It-tielet xandar, Mario Sammut, jipprezenta il-programm tiegħu *Ejjeq Oqogħdu* Sibt wiehed u s-Sibt ta' wara il-programm *Inservik* fejn is-semmiegħa jċemplu bid-dedikazzjonijiet tagħhom.

Programm milqugħ tajjeb mis-semmiegħa fejn fuqu jkun hemm it-tliet xandara, Lewis Stafrace, Mario Sammut u Paul Vella (fir-ritratt), jiċċaċċaw flimkien u xi ċajta 'l hawn u' l hawn ma tonqosx.

Il-programm li kien jipprezenta Lewis Stafrace fl-aħħar Erbgha ta' kull xahar issa m'għadux isir minhabba li dan ma kienx hin tal-programmi Maltin imma hin ta' l-istazzjon, u issa ingħata lil grupp ġdid ta' emigranti ġodda. U hawn niringrazzjaw lil Mario li jagħmel vjaġġ ta' sagħtejn għal kull



programm lejn Melbourne u ieħor lura bi spejjeż tiegħu.

Dawn il-programmi Maltin jinstemgħu fuq 3ZZZ 92.3 FM u speċjalment dawk li ma joqgħodux Melbourne jistgħu jismigħu dawn il-programmi minn fuq l-internet sa kważi erba' ġimgħat wara li jixxandru minn fuq il-website www.3zzz.com.au. Il-programmi huma ferm popolari speċjalment mas-semmiegħa barra l-Awstralja u nircievu hafna emails b'kummenti sbieħ minn USA, Kanada, Franza, l-Ingilterra u Malta fost postijiet oħra. ♦

CORRECTION

In the December 2016 issue of the *MCCV News* on page 3 reference was made to Mr Lawrence Dimech being the Vice President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW. This is incorrect and his position with the Council is that of Public Relations Officer. The Vice President is Mr Mark Caruana. We apologise for our inadvertent error.

Maltese Government proposes controversial Media and Defamation Bill

On 17 February the Maltese Government published a controversial Bill “to provide for the updating of the regulation of media and defamation matters” and to replace the Press Act 1984. The Second Reading debate in Parliament on the Bill is scheduled to start on 27 March.

The purpose of the Bill includes “the updating the laws on defamation, the abolition of criminal libel in media laws, the introduction of the new civil tort of slander, and the regulation of web-based news and current affairs services.”

It is further stated in the Bill that it includes various provisions to strengthen the freedom of the media by seeking to avoid disproportionate restrictions on journalists in actions in libel, while protecting the victims of libel and slander through an increase in the amounts of moral damages that may be awarded. It also encourages increased use of alternative means of dispute resolution, such as, the right of reply, voluntary clarifications, mediation and other practical means of avoiding libel litigation or the protraction thereof.

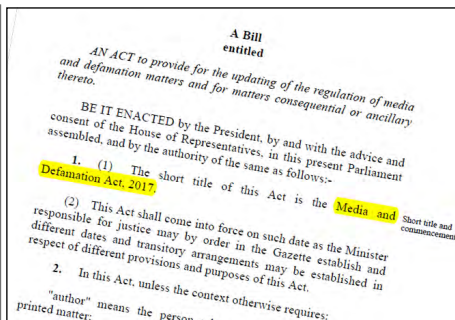
Under the Bill, the new moral damages in a court of law for defamation increase from the current €11,000 to €20,000, which means that libel cases will be heard in the superior courts by a Judge, and no longer in the Magistrates Court.

The Press Act currently safeguards the confidentiality of sources, although this is not an absolute right and has its own limitations in serious national interest cases. Under the proposed bill, the protection of sources will only apply in the case of editors, publishers, broadcasting services or websites registered with the Media Registrar but only if the author habitually exercises the profession of journalist on a full-time or part-time basis.

The proposed bill removes the power to issue precautionary warrants against any person for damages for libel or defamation. Precautionary warrants were the subject of a recent hot issue, when a Minister successfully obtained two such warrants in libel cases filed against prominent Maltese blogger, Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The proposed bill introduces an action for defamation of deceased persons, if the defamatory statement is made within 10 years of their death and the action is filed by a parent, sibling, child or heir who must show that their “own reputation was seriously harmed or is likely to be seriously harmed by the statement or that the statement is such as would reasonably cause serious moral suffering to claimant.”

One of the most controversial provisions



of the Bill relates to the obligation for the registration of websites with a Media Registrar. Websites are defined in the Bill as “any web-based news service or other web-based service relating to news or current affairs that operates from Malta or in respect of which editorial decisions are taken in Malta.”

The Government’s position on this registration requirement is that such an obligations already exist for editors of traditional newspapers under the Press Act and the Bill simply extends this requirement to editors of online news portals.

In an interview published on 26 February on [the Malta Independent](#) website, ICT and Media Law Lecturer at the University of Malta, Dr Antonio Ghio, criticised the principle of website registration with the State, on the basis that it goes against all accepted notions of the right to freedom of expression online and would have a chilling effect on free speech, especially through the notice of complaints procedure which is being proposed. Nowhere, in the democratic world, could a similar website registration obligation be found. Only countries like Russia, Bangladesh and China would impose such controls.

Dr Ghio said that website registration also goes against the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline that were adopted by the Council of Ministers of the EU, including Malta, in May 2014.

In Dr Ghio’s view, internet and digital technologies have expanded the possibilities of individuals and media to exercise the right to freedom of expression and freely access online information. The right to freedom of expression includes freedom to seek and receive information. It is a key component of democratic governance as the promotion of participatory decision-making processes is unattainable without adequate access to information. He believes that the proposed Bill limits this access and hinders such participation.

Dr Ghio explained that, if all of Europe has deregulated registration obligations, it makes absolutely no sense for Malta to go in the opposite direction by inserting this

obligation to register websites. Under Article 19(2)(a)(ii) of the Bill, it is not only the editor of the website who must register but the website itself, since the domain name must be provided as part of the declaration submitted to the Media Registrar.

Dr Ghio said that the fact that one can freely express one’s views online, even through anonymous means, is recognised as being part and parcel of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (Right to freedom of opinion and expression). He said that this right should not be tampered with by the Government.

Minister Owen Bonnici’s argument in favour of website registration, quoted in the same article, is that what concerns him is anybody who writes and hides their name. He believes that it is fair to say that anybody has the right to protect their reputation.

While the text of the proposed Bill is mostly based on UK legislation, there are notable differences. Dr Ghio explained that the most notable tweak relates to the procedures and parameters regarding notice of complaints. While, under the UK system, such procedures (including revealing the identity of online users) must be approved by both Houses of Parliament, in Malta these would fall purely under the prerogative of the Minister. This has the potential for Minister to unilaterally curtail online freedom of speech.

On the positive side, Dr Ghio welcomed the removal of criminal libel and precautionary garnishee orders on journalists.

Leader of the Opposition Dr Simon Busuttil, in a speech reported on [the Malta Independent](#), said that the Nationalist Party will be instructing the people to disregard and disobey the new media law as it is being proposed by the government, a law that aims to control the internet and goes against freedom of speech. He said that it will also be among the first laws to be repealed by a new PN government.

Criticism of the Bill came under severe criticism from several other quarters. A prominent Maltese blogger, Daphne Caruana Galizia, in [the Malta Independent](#) newspaper has called the Bill an “act of aggression by politicians against journalists.” The [Front Against Censorship](#) has also said that they were reconstituted because of the publication of the bill, which they said “crosses the line on a number of issues connected with the right to freedom of expression.” Book Council chairman [Mark Camilleri](#) has also criticised the bill saying the proposed increase in libel fines could ‘cripple smaller media houses’.

Il-Festa ta' San Pawl Nawfragu ċelebrata b'quddiesa f'Parkville

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Ħamis, 9 ta' Frar, ġiet iċċelebrata Quddiesa fl-okkażjoni tal-Festa ta' San Pawl Nawfragu li normalment tiġi ċelebrata fl-10 tax-xahar.

Din inżammiet fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl, Parkville, hdejn iċ-Ċentru Malti. Prim Ċelebrant kien Fr Lonnie Borg, mssp u Konċelebrant kien ir-Rettur f'Parkville, Fr Edwin Agius, mssp.

Numru mhux hażin attendew ghalkemm wiehed kien jistenna numru akbar speċjalment li t-temp kien wiehed sabih.

L-omelija saret minn Fr Lonnie, li kienet wahda interessanti ħafna.

Fost dawk preżenti kien hemm il-President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, Victor Borg u l-Viċi-President tal-istess Kunsill, Joe Stafrace. Kien hemm ukoll membri tas-Socjetà tal-Mużew, Sezzjoni Nisa kif ukoll il-President u membri tar-Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, President u membri tal-Maltese Association Hobsons Bay u membri tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria.

Wara l-Quddiesa kien hemm rinfreskanti fil-foyer taċ-Ċentru. 💧

Lemin: L-istatwa tal-San Pawl fil-kappella ta' San Pawl f'Parkville.

Taht: Fr Lonnie Borg mssp (xellug) u Fr Edwin Agius mssp waqt iċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-quddiesa.



Preserving an old historical Maltese community banner

A community banner held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville bearing the Maltese Cross in the traditional Maltese colours of red and white that dates back to about 1930 has been placed in a closed purpose-made showcase cabinet. The banner was used by the Maltese community for many years for various community and religious festivities, among others the Feast of the Holy Eucharist.

The cabinet was made by MCCV volunteers Joe Galea and his son Michael, who donated their skills, talents and time to produce the showcase. Joe and his son have also made a cabinet trolley for a new TV at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

The MCCV is grateful to Joe and his son for their contribution and hope that it will inspire other members of our community to consider becoming volunteers with our organisation. 💧

Left: (from left) Mr Alfred Asciak, MCCV Vice President Mr Joe Stafrace, Mr Joe Galea and his two grandchildren.

Maltese dog trainer completes two years of Guides Dog Victoria training

By Greg Gliddon

After two years learning how to train guide dogs, Luca Taliana is now ready to put his skills to the test in his homeland of Malta.

Mr Taliana has been learning to train guide dogs with the help of Guide Dogs Victoria at their Kew headquarters thanks to a program co-ordinated between the Victorian group and the Maltese Guide Dogs Foundation.

"I've always loved dogs, but in my country there is not a lot of opportunities to find employment with dogs. I contacted the Maltese Guide Dog Foundation and they put me in touch with the International Guide Dogs Foundation, because you needed to have certain qualifications in order to do the work," Mr Taliana said. "From there, the opportunity came up to learn in Australia."

Mr Taliana said there had been a range of new techniques which he had learned in his two years working with Guide Dogs Victoria tutor Ed Sullivan. "The first thing I needed to do was to change what I knew about training methods and how to motivate your dogs," he said.

"There are different techniques which are



more ethical than dominating which is still often used to train around the world."

He said the qualifications he has learned will give him an opportunity to train dogs from when they are born right through to when they are matched with a vision impaired owner, allowing him to work as a mobility instructor.

He added that, as far as he knew, he was the only person in Malta, which has a total

population of just on 450,000, who had such qualifications. "It certainly will be a big job for one person, but I know we've built up some great friendships and connections here in Australia and if ever an opportunity exists another person to have the same training, I'm sure it can be looked at." ♦

[Source: HeraldSun.com.au]

Xaghra Association of Australia's annual picnic

By Paul Vella

The Xaghra Association of Australia Inc. (Melbourne) held its Annual Picnic at Brimbank Park on Sunday 5 February 2017. The day was warm, cloudy with sunny breaks. Around 175 members and friends attended and had a wonderful day. There was plenty of food and drink. A BBQ was organised by the committee free to all members, and a few members and friends offered a hand for the cooking.

After everyone was served with the meal they were offered seconds. A glass of wine was offered with the meal. Following the meal, some members sat around for a chat, while others preferred to take a walk in the park. The men enjoyed games of bocce and created two rinks. It was good to see a lot of young ones participating the games of bocce. The very young had a field day running around in this beautiful park.

A good gathering of friendly people who made you feel welcome. Present were a few guests among them Fr Manny Bonello, Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in North Reservoir.

Every year, the Xaghra Association of Australia celebrates the Feast of Maria Bambina in the Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion. My wife Salvina and I represented Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, being president and secretary respectively. Our association also celebrates the Feast of Maria Bambina at the Maltese Centre, Parkville, and St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne and we organise this every year on behalf of the fathers of the Missionary Society of St. Paul. ♦



The committee, from left to right, Charles Vella (organiser), Charles Attard (Vice-President), Tony Bonello (President), Maris Portelli (Secretary), Can. Fr. Manny Bonello (Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in North Reservoir). Absent in the photo, Antoinette Bajada (Treasurer) who was overseas.

ETNIKA band deliver entertaining concert to Maltese community at the Parkville Centre

On Monday 6 February the Maltese instrumental group ETNIKA gave a highly entertaining concert at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Members of the Maltese community attended for the concert in large numbers and at the end of the show they were glad to have experienced such a great performance by wonderful Maltese musical, singing and dancing talent from Malta.

MCCV President Mr Victor Borg welcomed the band to the Maltese Centre and said that he was pleased that the Maltese community responded so well to experience such great Maltese talent visiting Australia.

The Consul General for Malta in Victoria Mr Victor Grech, who co-ordinated their visit to Melbourne, introduced ETNIKA. Mr Grech said that the band's tour of Australia was organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs "to mark a very special and historic event for Malta – The Presidency of the European Union for the period January to June 2017."

Mr Grech said that "the Presidency provides Malta with an opportunity to influence and shape the European Union's agenda in line with its own priorities in the search of agreement on new legislation."

Mr Grech provided some background about ETNIKA. He said that some 15 years ago a small but enthusiastic group of friends on the Mediterranean island of Malta, succeeded in achieving what many thought was impossible, to almost singlehandedly revive the lost Maltese roots of music genre.

ETNIKA followed a trail of fascinating archival and field research, unearthing and rescuing long forgotten instruments, exotic melodies and styles from the verge of extinction. Infusing a new life into these dusty treasures, the intention was to reinvent a fresh sound and provide a relevancy within the contemporary context.

The unlikely yet irresistible result was enchanting and at the same time it challenged people's perception of their own musical identity. In their fresh line-up, ETNIKA presents an unlikely mix of artists, characters and instruments, layering haunting melancholy and traditional tunes and lyrics with effected guitars, retro-futuristic synths,



unconventional percussion dance and footwork, deep groovy bass, raspy saxophone, whispery vocal and old Maltese instruments.

The members of the ETNIKA band consisted of Alison Galea: voice, keys; Andrew Alamango: voice, electric guitar; Walter Vella: tenor and baritone sax; Oliver Degabriele: double bass; and Andrej Vujicic: cajón and katuba kit. Andrew and Andrej played tambur as well, Andrej also has bijambo. Another star attraction for the night was Flamenco Dancer, Francesca Grima, on footwork and dance.

The show went for well over an hour with a brief interval. They play and sang

their own version of traditional Maltese tunes from their repertoire which included *X'ser Nghannu?*, *Lanċa, il-Mara u x-Xitan*, *Valletta*, and *Bormliża*.

The band was given a standing ovation at the end of both parts of the concert. The band obliged with an encore medley which was greatly appreciated by those present. It was a great show and many remarked it was a memorable show and one of the best shows, if not the best, ever seen at the Maltese Centre.

The invitation to the concert was extended to the Maltese Australian community. Entrance was free of charge. ♦

Kayla Borg – a young Maltese Australian performing artist with a deep love for her Maltese heritage

Kayla Borg is a 19-year-old singer songwriter from Melbourne, Australia. Kayla has recently completed her Debut Album *Till the End* and is hoping to share her original music with the world.

Kayla's most recent achievement was making it to the Top 60 of the *Malta Eurovision Song Contest* out of 156 entrants, with one of her original songs *Falling*. Kayla is extremely honoured and overwhelmed to have progressed this far with a dream to hopefully one day represent Malta in that prestigious event.

Kayla's deep involvement with her Maltese heritage has had a significant influence on the musician she is today. Kayla's family tree branches all over Malta with great grandparents, grandparents and other close family members living in many regions of Malta, such as, Floriana, Rabat, Birkirkara, Mosta, Naxxar and Mellieha.

Although Kayla has grown up on the other side of the world in Melbourne, Australia, Kayla and her family uphold their Maltese culture and traditions daily and has recently become a Maltese citizen.



Kayla is sure to fill hearts and souls all over the world with her heartfelt lyrics and incredibly soulful voice.

It was at the age of 8 when Kayla started professional vocal training with some of Melbourne's most renowned vocal coaches. From this young age she began to develop her soulful, mature and powerful voice.

At the age of 10 Kayla's world was struck with tragedy after losing a close family member, it was after this loss that Kayla felt the only way to express her feelings and emotions was through song.

writing her first original song *Goodbye*.

Throughout Kayla's years of vocal training she received many accolades in several competitions including the highly coveted 'Student of the Year' award. She also performed at many charity events and has been fortunate to perform at many popular Melbourne venues. Kayla has had the privilege to meet with many renowned songwriters in both Australia and Overseas.

Kayla has completed her Grade 8 Rockschooll exams through Trinity College of the Arts in London receiving a high distinction worldwide.

In 2015 Kayla was awarded the youth 'Australian Songwriter of the Year', with her original song *Why*. Kayla was also pleased to have four of her original songs shortlisted in the Top 10 of the Australian Songwriters Association competition and a total of 6 songs in the Top 30. ♦

An interesting talk on beekeeping for Carers Group

Gerry Garle was guest speaker at the MCCV Carers Group meeting held on Friday 24 February. In his talk on beekeeping Gerry provided details relating to bee-keeping and the work involved in maintaining a beehive in one's backyard. He advised that one would have to register as a beekeeper and occasionally an inspector would attend at the home to inspect the hive. He also spoke about the diseases to which Australian bees were subject to, the need to consider changing queen bees, and bees swarming in one's backyard.

The participants were extremely interested in the subject and asked a number of questions. Gerry went on to talk about maintaining one's garden at home. He provided information about citrus trees and other fruit trees and gave hints on seeding watering and maintaining these trees at arm's length height.

After the talk MCCV President Victor Borg spoke of plans made for 2017 in relation to community welfare programs. MCCV Assistane Secretary, Antonia Camilleri, served refreshments to participants after the meeting. ♦





News from the Vatican

Pope Francis speaks out

Compiled by Rev. Charles Borg-Manché from Vatican Radio sources

'Change the rules of the socio-economic system'



4 Feb. Pope Francis called for a change of "the rules of the game of the socio-economic system," adding "imitating the Good Samaritan of the Gospel is not enough." The Holy Father was speaking to participants of a meeting to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of Economy of Communion. Associated with the Focolare Movement, the project sets up businesses that follow market laws, but pool the profits in communion.

"Economy and Communion," – Pope Francis said – "These are two words that contemporary culture keeps separate and often considers opposite."

The Pope commended the organization for holding their profits in communion, and warned about the danger posed by money.

"Money is important, especially when there is none and food, school, and the children's future depend on it," – the Pope said – "But it becomes an idol when it becomes the aim."

He said the "goddess fortune" has become the divinity of a hazardous financial system which is destroying millions of families around the world.

"This idolatrous worship is a surrogate for eternal life," – Pope Francis explained – "Individual products (cars, telephones ...) get old and wear out, but if I have money or credit, I can immediately buy others, deluding myself of conquering death." The Holy Father went on to note that although there are many public and private initiatives to fight poverty, "capitalism continues to produce discarded people whom it would then like to care for."

"The principal ethical dilemma of this capitalism is the creation of discarded people, then trying to hide them or make sure they are never seen," – the Pope continued – "A serious form of poverty in a civilization is when it is no longer able to see its poor, who are first discarded and then hidden."

Pope Francis said the Economy of Communion, if it wants to be faithful to its charism, must not only take care of the victims, but also build a system where the victims are fewer and fewer, until maybe there are no longer any. "As long as the economy still produces one victim and there is still a single discarded person, communion has not yet been realized; the celebration of universal fraternity is not full," he said.

"Therefore, We must work toward changing the rules of the game of the socio-economic system," – the Pope continued – "imitating the Good Samaritan of the Gospel is not enough."

"Of course, when an entrepreneur or any person happens upon a victim, he or she is called to take care of the victim and, perhaps like the Good Samaritan, also enlist the fraternal action of the market (the innkeeper)," – Pope Francis continued – "I know that you have sought to do so for 25 years. But it is important to act above all before the man comes across the robbers, by battling the frameworks of sin that produce robbers and victims. An entrepreneur who is only a good Samaritan does half of his duty: He takes care of today's victim, but does not curtail those of tomorrow."

The Holy Father told the members of the group that their first gift is the gift of self: "Your money, although important, is too little."

"Capitalism knows philanthropy, not communion," – the Pope said – "It is simple to give a part of the profits, without embracing and touching the people who receive those 'crumbs.' Instead, even just five loaves and two fishes can feed the multitude if they are sharing of all our life. In the logic of the Gospel, if one does not give all of himself, he never gives enough of himself."

"May the 'no' to an economy that kills become a 'yes' to an economy that lets live," – he concluded – "because it shares, includes the poor, uses profits to create communion."

Order of Malta outlines future after resignation of Grand Master

2 Feb. On 24 January 2017, in audience with the Holy Father, His Highness Frà Matthew Festing resigned from the office of Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Pope Francis accepted his resignation, expressing appreciation and gratitude to Frà Festing for his loyalty and devotion to the Successor of Peter, and his willingness to serve humbly the good of the Order and the Church.

On 4 February the Sovereign Order of Malta held a press conference in Rome, to outline what has happened since the resignation of Grand Master Frà Matthew Festing on Saturday 28 January and outlined its priorities.



The Grand Chancellor Albrecht Boeselager (pictured right in the above photo) stated: "Together with the Lieutenant ad interim we are governing the Order according to our constitution and in a united and efficient way". The government emphasized the Order's loyalty to the Holy Father. It confirmed the Order's willingness to collaborate with the Special Delegate.

On behalf of the government, Boeselager thanked Pope Francis for his guidance that helped end government crises. He observed that in all his decisions the Pontiff showed respect and regard for the Order of Malta, while at the same time acknowledging in all his actions, the sovereignty of the Order. The government also thanked the members of the Papal Commission for the rapid delivery of their report. It regrets unfounded and baseless allegations of a conflict of interest raised against members of the commission.

As the current crisis in the Middle East and the Mediterranean is showing every day, the work of the Order has never been more relevant and needed. "We will not allow the recent distractions in the government of the Order to jeopardize our humanitarian and socio-medical work," said Dominico de La Rochefoucauld, Grand Hospitaller.

The Sovereignty and Diplomatic network play a pivotal role in the Order's ability to serve people in need and is an asset for the Catholic Church. A top priority for the Order's government is the reinforcement of the diplomatic network and the range of action of the Order's current programs.

The election of the Grand Master's successor will take place within the next three months, as provided for in the Constitution of the Order of Malta. The Council Complete of State, the electing body, which is made up of an international representation of members of the Order, will convene in the Order's Magistral Villa in Rome to elect the next Grand Master. 💧



Hu Hsieb Saħħtek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



Is-suffejra u problemi oħra fil-fwied

Il-fwied għandu xogħol importanti ħafna biex iżomm il-ġisem normali. Insibu, per eżempju li l-ikel kollu li nieklu jgħaddi mill-ewwel għal fwied fejn is-sustanzi kollha jiġu użati biex jipprovdu vitamini, zokkor, xaħmijiet, proteini u ħafna affarijiet oħra.

It-tieni nett, il-fwied huwa essenzjali biex inaddaf id-demmm minn ħafna prodotti li jingabru fil-ġisem, u dawn jgħaddu għall-marrara u minn hemm għall-musrana.

It-tielet, il-fwied jagħmel ċerti proteini, bħall-albumina li hija essenzjali fid-demmm; jagħmel ukoll proteini li mingħajrhom id-demmm ma jagħqad sewwa.

U allura meta il-fwied ma jaħdimx sew, nistgħu nistennew ħafna problemi.

Kif nindunaw li l-fwied mhux qed jaħdem sewwa?

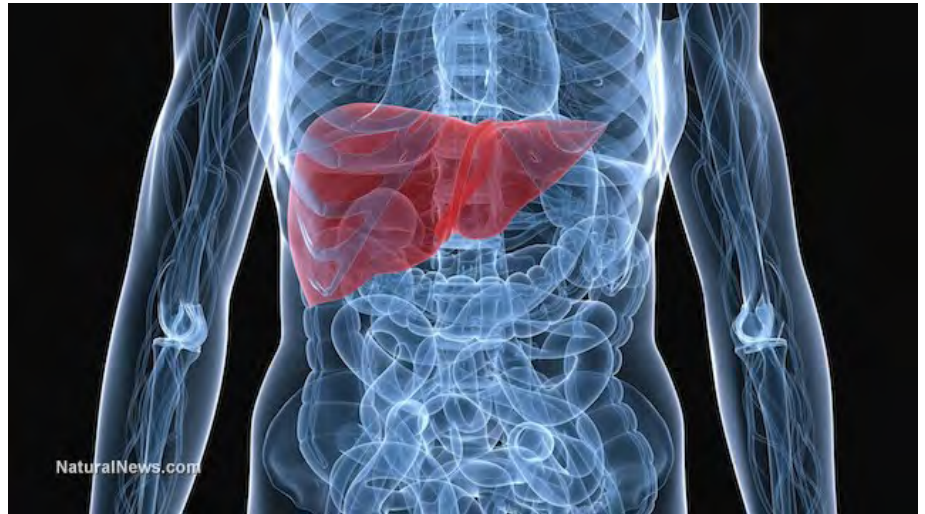
Waħda mis-sintomi l-aktar importanti hija *is-suffejra*: dan ifisser li il-ġilda tibda tisfar għaliex il-fwied ma jkunx jista' isaffi d-demmm minn ċerti sustanzi (imsejha *bilirubin*) li jingemghu fid-demmm. Is-suffejra tista' tiġi minn-mard tal-fwied, bħal infezzjonijiet (imsejha *epatite - hepatitis*). Is-suffejra hija komuni ukoll meta titrabba xi ġebela fil-marrara.

Meta il-fwied ma jkunx qed jaħdem tajjeb ikun hemm sintomi oħra, bħal nuqqas ta' aptit, uġiegh fuq in-naħa tal-lemin taht il-kustilji, u sintomi oħra. Insibu wkoll problemi fid-demmm imħabba nuqqas ta' proteini li jgħaqqdu d-demmm.

Ħafna drabi dak li jkun ikollu temperatura għolja, (id-deni), u ħafna drabi jibda jiremmetti ukoll.

X'igib il-mard fil-fwied?

Infezzjonijiet fil-fwied huma relattivament komuni. Ħafna drabi dawn jiġu minn infezzjonijiet minn xi virus (msejjha, *epatite 'A', 'B', 'C'*



eċċetra) Xi uħud minn dawn il-virus (*epatite 'A'*) jiġu minn ikel infettat, waqt li virus oħrajn (*'B', 'C'*) jiġu minn kontaminazzjoni minn demmm jew prodotti oħra tal-ġisem. Għalhekk insibu dawn l-infezzjonijiet f'dawk li jużaw is-siringi ta' xulxin, jew jagħmlu sess mingħajr protezzjoni.

Ma ninsewx ukoll li dawk li jixorbu ħafna alkoħol (spirti, birra, wiski, eċċetra), jistgħu jiżviluppaw mard tal-fwied.

Meta il-mard jkun daħal sewwa l-quddiem, allura ikun possibbiltà ta' komplikazzjonijiet, partikularment dak li jissejjaħ *liver failure*, (falliment tal-fwied), jiġifieri, li l-fwied ma jkunx jista' jagħmel dak ix-xogħol li semmejna hawn fuq. Jista' jiġri ukoll li jiżviluppa xi tumor jew kanċer fil-fwied.

Ġebel fil-Marrara

Ħafna nies, b'mod speċjali in-nisa, jistgħu ibatu bil-ġebel fil-marrara. Dawn jitrabbew fil-fwied jew fil-marrara u jistgħu jgħibu problemi, għaliex jistgħu jikkagunaw uġiegh qawwi ħafna. Ħafna drabi dawn il-ġebel jitrabba f'dawk li ikollhom kolesterol u xaħmijiet għoljin jew infezzjoni fil-marrara. Nisa li għandhom ħafna tfal huma aktar sugġetti għal dan. Ġebel ta' kwalità

oħra (imsejha *bilirubin stones*) jitrabba meta ikun problemi fid-demmm.

Kif nevitaw problemi tal-fwied?

Kif semmejna hawn fuq, hemm ħafna raġunijiet għax jiżviluppaw problemi tal-fwied. Insemmu per eżempju:

- Il-ħxuna u nuqqas ta' eżerċizzju jistgħu jgħibu xi problemi, bħal ġebel fil-fwied
- Infezzjonijiet fil-fwied: dawn jagħmlu ħsara fil-fwied u allura għandna nevitaw li nużaw siringi li użawhom ħaddiehor jew sess mingħajr protezzjoni
- Nużaw tilqim ('*vaccination*', '*immunization*') biex inħarsu lilna infusna u lill uliedna minn mard bħal *epatite*.
- Ix-xorb (alkoħol) żejjed jagħmel ħsara kbira fil-fwied.
- U fl-aħħarnett, meta naraw xi sintomi kif semmejna hawn fuq, immorru malajr nagħmlu vista għand it-tabib, għax aktar ma l-problema tidhol il-ġewwa, aktar jikber il-gwaj.💧

Jekk għandek xi mistoqsijiet dwar is-saħħa jew tixtieq aktar informazzjoni dwar kundizzjonijiet ta' saħħa, ibghat imejl lil pro@mccv.org.au.

Special screening of *Simshar* movie at Maltese Centre



STARRING LOTFI ABDELLI CLARE AGIUS CHRYSANDER AGIUS MARK MFSUD JIMI BUSUTTI AND INTRODUCING ADRIAN FARRUGIA
 PRODUCED BY RUBEN ZAHRA EDITOR ALEKSANDAR BONDALO COSTUME DESIGNER HERNEST CAMILLERI PRODUCTION DESIGNER DANIEL LAPIRA
 PRODUCTION OFFICE NINA GERADA AND JONATHAN HAGOS
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS FREILICH PRODUCED BY LESLIE ANN LUCY WRITTEN BY SIMON SANSONE DIRECTED BY LUISA BONELLO ALEXANDRA CREMONA ANDREW CREMONA
 PRODUCED BY REBECCA CREMONA AND DAVID GRECH PRODUCED BY REBECCA CREMONA



The Maltese Community Council of Victoria will be hosting a special screening of the highly acclaimed movie **Simshar** will be held at the Maltese Community Centre at 477 Royal Parade, Parkville

DATE: Saturday 1st April 2017
 TIME: 7.00pm
 TICKETS: \$7.00 per person.

A Mass will be held in St Paul's Chapel at 6.00pm. The canteen at the Centre will open from 5.00pm.

For any enquiries, please call the MCCV on **9387 8922**.



Maltese Community Council of Victoria
 and the **Missionary Society of St Paul**



will be celebrating the

**50th Anniversary of the Ordination of
 Fr Tarcisio Micallef mssp and Fr Denis Carabott mssp
 to the Priesthood**

Mass will be concelebrated with the participation of MSSP Provincial Fr Mark Grima mssp

Venue: Mass at St Paul's Chapel followed by a reception at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Date: Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Time: 6.00 pm

Donation: \$10 per person

Dress: Smart casual

For further information contact the Maltese Community Centre on (03) **9387 8922**

Community Events Calendar

For up-to-date and more detailed information, visit our website at www.mccv.org.au/community-events

March 2017

Sun 12 March @ 6.00 pm	Carnival Dance—Newport Maltese	Melrose Receptions
Sat 18 March @ 6.00 pm	Fun Night—Newport Seniors—	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Wed 22 March @ 6.00 pm	50th Anniversary Ordination Celebration—Fr Tarcisio Micallef mssp & Fr Denis Carabott mssp	St Paul's Chapel & Maltese Community Centre, Parkville

April 2017

Sat 1 April @ 7.00 pm	Special screening of <i>Simshar</i> movie (Mass at St Paul's Chapel at 6.00 pm)	Maltese Community
Wed 6 April @ 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community
Thu 6 April	BBQ at Brimbank—Newport Seniors	Brimbank Park
Sat 22 April & Sun 23 April	Weekend Trip—Newport Maltese Assn	Emerald Reception Centre

MCCV News

The *MCCV News* is published by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information that would be of interest.

DISCLAIMER

Although funding for some MCCV welfare services is provided by the Australian Government, the material contained in the *MCCV News* does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government.



MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE

477 Royal Parade, Parkville

**OUR CANTEN SERVES MALTESE FOOD
 EVERY FRIDAY— BINGO NIGHT
 WE OPEN AT 5.00 PM TO SERVE FOOD
 BINGO HEADS DOWN AT 7.00 PM
 EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**

Għandek aptit ta' ravjulata?

**Come along and enjoy our friendly atmosphere
 We would love to see you
 and bring your friends along with you!**



MCCV Ladies Auxiliary

Bingo Sessions

at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville every Tuesday between 11.00am and 2.30pm.

A small group of women enjoy spending time together playing bingo, having lunch and also celebrating special events.

In 2017 The first bingo session will be held on Tuesday 7th February.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information please ring the Maltese Centre on **9387 8922**.