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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1982

### FIRST AUSTRALIAN-GREEK PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

I am delighted today to announce jointly with the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations the recipients of the Commonwealth Government's first Australian-Greek Presidential Awards.

The aim of the Awards is to foster the maintenance and development of Greek culture within Australia's multicultural society by assisting young Australians to work or study in Greece in their own area of expertise. The Awards were set up in March 1982 to honour the visit to Australia of President Karamanlis of Greece.

Some 89 applications for the Awards have been received from all states and territories. They have been considered by a National Selection Committee drawn from the Greek community in Australia and Commonwealth Government departments.

The National Selection Committee has been very favourably impressed by the standard of the applicants and by their willingness to contribute to Australia's development as a multicultural society. After a selection process which included a personal interview of 22 of the applicants, the National Selection Committee recommended 10 Awards, one of which is to be shared between 2 people. The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations has endorsed the National Selection Committee's recommendations.

Very promising programs of work and study in Greece have been developed by the successful applicants in the fields of education, cultural and community development and welfare, the professions and in artistic and creative pursuits.

It is my hope that in future years more Australians of non-Greek background will apply.

The awards offer excellent opportunities for young Australians to travel to Greece and gain experience and understanding of a culture which has contributed so much to Australia's development in recent years.

Details of the recipients of the Awards are attached to this Press Release.

ATTACHMENT

1. EDUCATION

a. GREEK LANGUAGE

Mr Paul Hellander, aged 28, Lecturer - to study interpreting techniques - South Australia

Miss Vicki Lykogiannis, aged 29, Teacher - to study Greek language teaching - South Australia

Miss Argi Kouros, aged 28, Teacher/Volunteer Interpreter, to investigate interpreting/translating developments - New South Wales

b. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Mrs Barbara Vasdekis, aged 28, Migrant Education Adviser, to study Greek dance - Queensland

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms Miranda Degiorgio, aged 25, Social Worker, to make a social survey - Victoria

Ms Niki Psarakis, aged 22, Social Worker, to study attitudes to disability - Victoria

Ms Sylvia Constantinidis, Social Worker, to study expectations of migrants - New South Wales

3. PROFESSIONS

Miss Julie Grillas, aged 21, Pharmacist, to gain work experience as pharmacist - Tasmania

Ms Koula Kossiavelos, aged 22, Lawyer, to gain work experience as a solicitor - South Australia

4. ARTISTIC/CREATIVE

Mr Stan Kouros, aged 25, Drama Student, NIDA to gain practical experience in Greek theatre - New South Wales

Mr Arky Michael, aged 22, Drama Student, NIDA to gain practical experience in Greek Theatre - New South Wales

Mr Kouros and Mr Michael submitted a joint application and will be offered a joint Award.