

# Media Release

**The Hon Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Youth



Wednesday, 30 March 2022

## HELLENIC PRESIDENTIAL GUARD TO VISIT MELBOURNE

The Andrews Labor Government is proud to announce the Hellenic Presidential Guard is coming to Melbourne in April to mark the 200th anniversary of Greece's independence and participate in ANZAC Day commemorations.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence announced \$100,000 to support the visit, which will take place from 21 to 29 April.

The visit by the Hellenic Presidential Guard was a 2018 election commitment, in honour of Greece's enduring relationship with Victoria.

The Hellenic Presidential Guard is an elite historic army known for its hard-won victories. The long history of the Presidential Guard began in 1868, providing high-level military training to soldiers that had demonstrated great bravery. Today, the ceremonial unit guards the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The 200th anniversary of Greek independence was on 25 March 2021 and commemorated the Greek uprising against the Ottoman Empire. The visit was originally scheduled for 2021 but was postponed due to international border closures.

The visit will acknowledge the close relationship between Australia and Greece since they fought alongside one another in the First and Second World Wars, and the long and proud tradition of Greek Australians serving in the Australian Defence Force.

Victoria has the largest Greek population in Australia and one of the largest Greek-speaking populations outside Athens.

The visit will be delivered through the Greek National Day Council Victoria.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ros Spence**

*"I'm delighted the Hellenic Presidential Guard will participate in ANZAC Day commemorations and celebrate Greek independence with Victoria's Greek community and all Victorians."*

### **Quote attributable to Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Steve Dimopoulos**

*"It's a true honour to welcome the Hellenic Presidential Guard to Melbourne to celebrate Greek independence – and the enduring bond between our two countries."*