

## **Archbishop Makarios of Australia Meets with the President of the Hellenic Republic**



On Wednesday, 30 September, His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia met with the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Constantinos An. Tassoulas. His Eminence was accompanied by His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Canberra.

Mr Tassoulas warmly welcomed the Archbishop to the Presidential Mansion and congratulated him on the multifaceted ecclesiastical, social, educational and cultural work of the Archdiocese, as well as on His Eminence's own personal contribution. He noted that, both in his ecclesiastical capacity and in his academic capacity as Professor of Bioethics, the Archbishop serves as a bridge of unity with the large and flourishing Greek diaspora in Australia.

He emphasised that the Holy Archdiocese of Australia is not merely a religious institution, but also a national institution that safeguards and preserves our national identity, the Greek language and the traditions of the homeland.

The President of the Hellenic Republic stressed that the Greek State consistently

supports every initiative aimed at protecting and promoting the Greek language and identity.

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In this context, he referred to the recent opportunity he had to deliver an address to the 12th International Summer University, which was held in Sydney and organised by the University of Ioannina in collaboration with other Australian organisations. He described it as an initiative demonstrating that Hellenism lives and flourishes wherever the Greek diaspora is present.

His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia thanked the President of the Hellenic Republic for his warm reception and conveyed the greetings of the Holy Archdiocese, the Greek diaspora in Australia, and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

His Eminence then briefed the President on the activities and initiatives of the Holy Archdiocese of Australia.

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