

**NATIONAL UNION OF  
GREEK AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS  
(NUGAS)**

**POLICY**

**WOMEN**

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## **1.0 RATIONALE**

Since the end of dictatorship in Greece, the current socialist government has been the only one to radically change the legal structure of the family. This had previously been justified through the patriarchal system. The PASOK government from 1982 has developed a positive commitment to Greek women and their relationships within the family and Greek society as a whole. The government's dramatic policy changes have been possible through strong lobbying and advocacy on behalf of the Women's Union of Greece. The Australian government has also re-affirmed its commitment to equality of opportunity within Australia including women of immigrant status through The Government's National Agenda for Women, 1988.

## **2.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

For effective policy on the status of Greek Australian Women there must be accepted foundations. Thus it is generally recognised that:

- (i) there is a need for the concerns of Australian-Greek women to be accurately addressed and this is likely to continue;
- (ii) that immigrant women's contributions have often gone -unrecognised;
- (iii) that there is a need for all in the community to make a commitment to raise the status of women.

## **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

NUGAS has a positive policy on the issue of Australian Greek women. This policy is as follows:

- 3.1 For women of Australian Greek background to have access and an equitable share of resources in all aspects of Australian society.
  - (i) To consult, encourage and support women in the political arena;
  - (ii) To consult and provide opportunities for women to participate in the decision making process of NUGAS;
  - (iii) To ensure the needs of Women of Australian Greek background are effectively conveyed and considered in NUGAS decision-making process and policy development;
  - (iv) To encourage and support women to be nominated on the Executive Committee of NUGAS.
- 3.2 To improve the status of women of Australian Greek background.
  - (i) To improve and acknowledge Australian Greek women's contributions and / or achievements in Australian society;
  - (ii) To promote a positive portrayal of women in the Australian Greek media;
  - (iii) To sensitise people of Australian Greek background on areas of violence against women and children.

- 3.3 To establish a network of women's groups within each state council to be directly linked with NUGAS as part of its obligations.
- (i) To provide constitutional amendments to incorporate women within the NUGAS programs;
  - (ii) To liaise with specific women's group on issues of mutual / critical concern;
  - (iii) To encourage Government policies / programs to take into account the distinctive needs of women of Greek background;
  - (iv) To ensure women of Greek background have an effective voice on issues of concern.