



Mamma Lena.

562 Koorringal Road,
Wagga Wagga, 2650.
27th December, 1990.

To MAMMA LENA and the Ladies' Club,
Apia Club, Sydney.

Dear Ladies,

Several days ago I signed a Petition at my daughter's home in Wagga Wagga, protesting against any move to withdraw the Italian language from High Schools.

As a teacher in State Schools for almost 40 years, I have taught many children of Italian birth and ancestry and enjoyed associating with their parents socially. I realise the great contribution made by Italian migrants since the early years of Australia's development and feel ashamed that anyone would even think about withdrawing that beautiful language from our schools. I fear that this is just another step to "Asianise" our country. I deplore the insult which I consider has been offered to the Italian community. Also, as a third generation of European origin, I am angry at the politicians and bureaucrats who are associated with this proposal.

Accordingly, I have written letters of protest to (i) our State parliamentary representative, Mr. Joe Schipp; (ii) Mr. Wal Fife, our Federal Member for Hume; (iii) the President of Wagga International Club, Mrs Boughton. My daughter had copies of the Petition made by photostat and I have distributed them to the people to whom I have written. My friends and acquaintances of Italian origins are justly angry at the situation indicated above and are busily engaged in gaining support for your (and our) protests.

I have telephoned Daniela Nobilio of the Apia Club, and Margaret Reardon of the Wagga Ethnic Community Council. As time permits, I hope to generate more support locally and I wish you every success in your protests against this project. Regrettably, I do not speak Italian, but in my hobby activities as an Amateur Radio Operator, I make contacts with radio men in Italy from time to time.

Best wishes to you all for the New Year in 1990.

Yours sincerely,

Rex C. Black.

PETITION

Settembre 1990/September 1990

TO THE HON JOHN DAWKINS
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

TO MR GRAHAM SIMS/EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REVIEW COMMITTEE of MODERN LANGUAGES
IN HIGHER EDUCATION
SYDNEY N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

MAMMA LENA with the LADIES' COMMITTEE of the APIA CLUB, indignantly
PROTEST

against the Federal and State Government's intentions of withdrawing the ITALIAN LANGUAGE from High Schools, whilst favouring the Asian Languages, German and French.

THESE INTENTIONS ARE OFFENSIVE

to the hundreds and thousands of ITALIANS, who with their great efforts and work have contributed greatly to Australian development, specifically during the difficult immigration years, Italians, who have chosen this country, so far from their homeland, bringing richness in culture, economy and historical prestige, cannot allow that their children forget their mother tongue.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN BECAUSE:

1. ITALIAN is an unsinkable basis of humanistic culture in the cultural evolution not only European but worldwide.
2. After English, Italian is the second most difused language in Australia, it is easily learnt and is a potential instrument of contact with students and the various working categories of non Italian extradition.
3. Finally the Italian language is the language of a nation that is one of the strongest economically in the world, and is one whose role is very significant in the EUROPEAN UNIFICATION.

With this protest we do not intend that ITALIAN take the position of another language. We are aware of the necessity of the Asian languages, but we would like that amongst the rest there would also be DANTE'S Language.

THIS IS WHY ITALIAN SHOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM OUR SCHOOLS -- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE!!!

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
RW HECKENDORF	46 MAIN STREET LAKE ALBERT. 2650	R Heckendorf
G LLOYD + B. Lloyd	244 GALSTON RD HORNSBY HEIGHTS	G Lloyd
G. LAWRENCE	132 SUNCOAST BEACH DR MT COOLUM	G Lawrence
B Lloyd	244 GALSTON Rd HORNSBY HTS	B Lloyd
A LAWRENCE	132 Suncoast Beach Dr MT COOLUM 4573	A Lawrence
K ST JOHN	18 MACQUARIE ST WACCA WACCA	K St John
B. LLOYD	19 Hollands St Wagga. 2650	B Lloyd
B. Lacey	18 Gregory Ave WACCA	B Lacey
a. Lawrence	13 Cedars St Junee	a Lawrence
F. DAWSON	42 Pambula Beach Rd Pambula Beach. 2549	F Dawson
M. Dawson	42 Pambula Beach Rd Pambula Beach 2549	M Dawson