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Italian Australian Services *and*  
Welfare Centre (NSW) Inc.



A MAGGIOR RAGIONE

# PRESS RELEASE

## **New bilingual College for Sydney's West to honour famous Italian traveller**

Rules governing the new K-12 Marco Polo College approved at Committee meeting

**Bossley Park, 28 July 2017** - The Committee of CNA-Italian Australian Services and Welfare Centre Inc. met on Friday 28 July 2017 to discuss and approve the founding of a new Italian bilingual school to serve the multicultural communities of Sydney's West.

In November 2016, during its Annual General Meeting the Association amended its constitution to provide for the promotion and teaching of Italian language and culture as well as for the establishment of a co-educational bilingual school to cater for the needs of the wider community.

According to Mr Giovanni Testa, President of CNA-Italian Australian Services, "the College represents an extraordinary effort to revitalise and involve young families, particularly those of Italian-Australian descent, through quality bilingual education." Bilingualism is in fact correlated to better concentration, analytical skills and multi-tasking and an increased sense of self-worth and identity.

Marco Polo College is expected to commence operations in two years. "It will be a school for children of every background," added Mr Testa, "where targeted educational programs are able to provide students with the required skills to fulfil the linguistic and cultural challenges of a globalised economy."

The Committee will work towards accreditation for the College to be recognised as an IB World School in order to offer one or more International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes. In addition, the Committee will venture into discussions with Italian authorities to offer a pathway for awarding students with the Italian secondary school-leaving certificate.

Provisions have also been made for the College to host a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Learning Unit, to offer high quality education for Aboriginal students and acknowledge the contribution of First Australians to the growth of Australia's multicultural society.

CNA-Italian Australian Services and Welfare Centre Inc. is a not-for-profit charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC). For more information on how you can contribute to make Marco Polo College a reality, contact [learning@cnansw.org.au](mailto:learning@cnansw.org.au) or call **(02) 8786 0888** during business hours.