

23 February 2024

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) - Statement of Intent

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2024, outlining your expectations for the Museum of Australian Democracy. On behalf of Old Parliament House's Board, I am pleased to respond to your Statement of Expectations with the attached Statement of Intent.

The Government's National Cultural Policy *Revive*, outlines Australia's cultural policy for the next five years. The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD), as one of the nine national collecting institutions (NCIs), plays a key role in delivering the *Revive* outcomes. MoAD will work with portfolio agencies and other NCIs to deliver the actions outlined in *Revive*. The Government's funding commitment to the Museum over the coming four years is welcomed and will enable the agency to deliver on its core functions.

Australia is fortunate to have a robust, effective and unique democratic system. However, the broader international context shows that democracy is increasingly fragile. At MoAD our focus is to connect people to Australia's democracy and inspire Australians to explore, understand, value and engage with their democracy, so that Australia can continue to be a successful democratic nation.

Over the next 12 months, the Museum will deliver on the strategic priorities outlined in your Statement, through the framework of the Museum's Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

Showcasing Old Parliament House

With the context of centenary of Old Parliament House in 2027, the Museum will focus on:

- Commencing major capital projects that will contribute to protecting and conserving the heritage-listed Old Parliament House for future generations.
- Commencing historical interpretation projects which will increase visitor access to key heritage areas of Old Parliament House. This includes the reopening of the refurbished House of Representatives Chamber.
- Continuing the major roof replacement insurance works, following significant damage caused by the January 2020 hail storm.
- Enhancing the arrival experience to Old Parliament House by improving the accessibility entrance for visitors.

- Commencing a component of hydraulics and service remediation to bring them up to building code.
- Commence major capital infrastructure upgrade of north-east corner of the building in regard to building systems and services.

Sharing the story of Australia's democracy

MoAD will focus on creating content for the public to explore Australia's social and political history and how this heritage has shaped Australia's unique democracy.

The Museum will:

- Develop temporary and touring exhibitions, which build civic and social understanding of Australia's social, political and democratic history. This work will include our annual exhibition *Behind the Lines*, which will tour regionally.
- Develop online and social media content regarding Australia's social and political history and its democratic system. MoAD's highly successful referendum civics campaign delivered in 2023, demonstrated that there is strong interest across the community to better understand how our democracy works. The Museum will seek to develop content on other democracy-related themes that can be distributed nationally.
- Enhance our philanthropy program with supporters to enhance and expand the impact of the work of MoAD.
- Develop a rich program of exhibitions, events and activities marking significant milestones in the lead-up to the centenary of the opening of the building on 9 May 1927.
- Continue to foster appreciation and understanding of First Nations arts, culture and knowledge systems by including First Nations stories in exhibitions, events and activities.

Inspiring Australians to participate in their democracy and shape the nation's future

MoAD will focus on developing innovative and informative content and programs that inspire, encourage and equip Australians of all ages to participate in our democracy.

The Museum will:

- Host public programs, events and debates in key heritage areas, such as the House of Representatives and Senate Chambers, to enable community engagement and discussion on key issues of democracy.
- Create programs and content which enable audiences to explore concepts of democracy, and deepen their confidence to participate in Australia's future.
- Increase learning engagement and programs which enable young Australians to understand how they can participate in Australia's democracy.
- Develop a rich and innovative program for *Enlighten*, working in partnership with a key Australian artist, to showcase Old Parliament House and Australia's democratic traditions.
- Continue to provide rich and rewarding experiences for school students who visit Old Parliament House as part of the Parliamentary and Civics Education Rebate program, and continue to expand its digital and outreach programs to reach Australian students around the country.

Fostering a Museum for the people

MoAD will focus on delivering organisational excellence so that we can continue to serve the Australian public effectively.

The Museum will:

- Create a welcoming and inclusive space for all visitors onsite, online and through outreach programs.
- Continue to implement our Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Implement priorities identified in our Disability Action Plan. This will include improving physical access services for visitors within Old Parliament House, and delivering programs that enable all visitors to engage with exhibitions and programs through a variety of formats.
- Expand own source revenue streams to supplement funding received from Government.
- continue to meet our financial management obligations and delivering outcomes as sustainably and cost effectively as possible, within available resources.
- Invest in our information management framework and systems and increasing our cyber resilience capability.
- Ensure our Life Cycle Cost Plan—which outlines asset management and identifies replacement costs—can operate effectively into the future.

MoAD welcomes the new biannual funding report process, and will work with the portfolio agency and Government regarding financial forecasting and identification of funding pressures.

With the support of the Australian Government, we look forward to continuing our work to celebrate Australia's world class democracy and inspire the public to engage with their democracy to shape the nation's future.

Yours sincerely



Barrie Cassidy

Chair