



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Ref No: MS18-000720

Mr David Jones
Chair
National Museum of Australia
GPO Box 1901
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Jones 

National Museum of Australia – Statement of Expectations

I am writing to you to outline my expectations for the National Museum of Australia for 2018-19. The portfolio allocation for the Museum for 2018-19 is \$47.876 million. This includes \$3.1 million from the Public Service Modernisation Fund for the Cultural and Corporate Shared Services Centre being delivered by the NMA and \$2.728 million for public events and activities for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage.

Let me first acknowledge the achievements of the Museum so far in 2017-18, in particular the success of the *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* exhibition. I note that the exhibition was recently awarded the 2018 Museums and Gallery National Awards for *Best In Show* and this is testament to the efforts of the Museum to deliver world class exhibitions with a focus on Indigenous storytelling.

More broadly, I acknowledge the efforts of the Museum and its Council in fostering a strong vision for the Museum as well as developing clear and achievable objectives for its operations. This will ensure the NMA remains one of the nation's pre-eminent cultural institutions and well placed to provide visitors with an exceptional experience of Australia's rich history and culture.

I anticipate that during 2018-19 the NMA will continue to perform its core function of bringing to life the rich and diverse stories of Australia through compelling objects, ideas and events. I would like to take this opportunity to outline some strategic priorities that I ask the Museum to focus on in 2018-19.

These are:

- Provide leadership in the management and use of national collections, and support lifelong learning through the delivery of experiences for all ages.
- Develop partnerships and innovative delivery models to take the Australian story to all corners of the nation.
- Explore opportunities to grow private sector support and increase own-source revenue.
- Provide expert advice and contribute data on the NMA's performance and the sector to national reporting and planning.

- Provide leadership in creating collaborative opportunities with the sector.
- Continue to identify and implement operational efficiencies in line with our expectation that all departments and agencies assist the Government in its effective management of the Budget, including through the Cultural and Corporate Shared Services Centre initiative.
- Contribute to the Government's diversity and inclusion objectives including Closing the Gap, through programs, processes and Council membership.
- Continue to contribute to the Government's cultural diplomacy outcomes within existing resources, with particular focus on Singapore, India, Indonesia, Germany and China.
- Provide leadership in commemorations for the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage to Australia, and seek opportunities to engage with broader Government priorities including the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

I note that many of these areas are already being actively progressed. In particular the partnership with Gandel Philanthropy on the Defining Moments Digital Classroom initiative is a significant achievement which reflects the standing of the NMA as a major cultural institution and its importance in the life of our nation.

I encourage the NMA to continue to work cooperatively with my Department and other portfolio agencies in contributing to the Government's policy settings. I am grateful for the valuable contribution the Director of the NMA is making as the Australian Chair of the Australia Singapore Arts Group. Under Dr Trinca's leadership the group has been a highly effective mechanism for driving greater engagement with this strategically important regional partner. I also appreciate you alerting me to significant events related to NMA activities or functions.

I intend to schedule an annual meeting with you and the NMA's Director to discuss plans for the year. I suggest this could be held in advance of the next iteration of your Corporate Plan. This would provide a formal opportunity to discuss the NMA's plans as well as Government priorities.

This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of the NGA's governance framework. As such, I would anticipate both being public documents. I have written in similar terms to all arts portfolio agencies, and have copied this letter to Dr Trinca.

I wish you every success in meeting your key outcomes and objectives for 2018-19 and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss the Museum's current and future work in these areas.

Yours sincerely



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3/8/18