

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Monday 11 August 2014

### Uncover Australia's political journey to the First World War

***Crisis 1914! The call to arms*** will be officially opened by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, on Wednesday 13 August 2014, 3pm at Old Parliament House.

This exhibition uncovers the political events which led to Australia's involvement in the First World War, from the outbreak of war in August 1914 to the departure of the first convoy from Albany in November 1914.

"Australia was suffering from a long drought and in the middle of an election, however we still went willingly—even enthusiastically—into the war," said Exhibition Curator, Ms Libby Stewart.

"Demonstrating our commitment to King and Empire, Australia raised a brand new, completely voluntary national army, while mobilising all Australians to face the country's first international crisis as a new nation. With Australia also being the most recently created nation, we were determined that the war effort would reflect our young nation's democratic spirit," continued Ms Stewart.

The original cabinet table used in 1914 will be on display, along with other items that help tell Australia's political journey. Ms Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House said "Many life or death decisions during the First World War were made around that cabinet table, decisions that would shape our identity as a nation."

***Crisis 1914! The call to arms*** will be on display until August 2015. This exhibition is a contribution by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House to the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years of service by Australian servicemen and women, and the experience of war by all Australians.

Old Parliament House, home to the Museum of Australian Democracy is open to the public daily from 9am–5pm with a range of exhibitions, events and public programs, plus café. For more details visit [moadoph.gov.au](http://moadoph.gov.au)

#### Ends

---

For further information please contact:

Kate Connor, [kate.connor@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:kate.connor@moadoph.gov.au), 02 6270 8118 or 0451 970 761

Media opportunities at the launch include:

- Speech by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
- Speech by Ms Daryl Karp, Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Speech by Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, Senator for Western Australia
- Interview with Libby Stewart, Exhibition Curator, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Interview with Michael Evans, Manager Content Development, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House