



MEDIA RELEASE – 31 January 2017

One million stars to end violence comes to Canberra (and your help is needed)

The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House is seeking the help of the Canberra community to weave 10,000 eight point stars by July 2017 as part of the **One Million Stars to End Violence** initiative.

The stars will be displayed as an installation at the 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held next year at the Gold Coast.

One Million Stars to End Violence is a community project created by Australian artist and weaver Maryann Talia Pau. It encourages participants to work together to weave one million stars as a protest against all forms of violence. Since its inception in 2012, the initiative has grown into an international weaving movement.

Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) Daryl Karp said that democratic engagement can take place in many different and creative ways, but it is at its most effective when informed.

“Individuals come together to work for change. This project encourages a conversation within our own community that increases our understanding and empathy with people experiencing violence, racism and bullying,” said Ms Karp.

The project grows from MoAD’s January school holiday program, which focused on safe, kind communities. Families who participated in this program wove hundreds of stars as a symbol of their support for the project.

“It was an opportunity to engage our visitors in a participatory project that is meaningful, transformative and aesthetically beautiful,” said Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Creative Producer, MoAD.

The museum is committed to weaving 10,000 stars and will run a series of FREE Sunday Crafternoons on the last Sunday of each month between February and July 2017, all welcome. In addition, the museum will incorporate star weaving into its popular Play UP family space and the April and July school holiday programs. For more information on Crafternoons and upcoming school holiday programs visit www.moadoph.gov.au

Canberrans who wish to get involved in this worthwhile initiative can do so by making a star and dropping it off at the reception desk at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House by July 2017, or by participating in one of the museum’s family programs. For more information on the **One Million Stars to end Violence**, visit www.onemillionstars.net

MoAD is a registered Star Weaving Community and the only one in the ACT, every other state and territory has at least one central engagement point. Being at the heart of the nation’s capital, it is fitting that MoAD is the engagement and collection point for Canberra.

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates the spirit of Australian Democracy and the power of your voice within it. Open daily 9am-5pm.

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For further information or interview opportunities, please contact: Alice Brown, alice.brown@moadoph.gov.au, 02 6270 8120 or 0410 997 741.