

STATEMENT OF INTENT 2017-18 – MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

This Statement of Intent provides the response of the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House (OPH) to the Government's Statement of Expectations of 27 June 2017 in relation to MoAD's roles and responsibilities, its relationships with Government, transparency, accountability and operational matters.

MoAD's Role and responsibilities

MoAD was established in OPH in 2009 to provide an enriched understanding and appreciation of the political legacy and intrinsic value of Australian democracy. The museum provides transformative learning experiences through formal, curriculum-based programs for schools and unique informal experiences through exhibitions, youth parliaments, self-directed learning and online engagement as it explores what it means to be an informed and engaged citizen.

On 1 July 2016 OPH was established as a corporate commonwealth entity (CCE) under the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Establishing Old Parliament House) Rule 2016.

Relationship with the Government

MoAD aims to continue effective relationship with Government and the Department of Communications and the Arts through timely and accurate advice on significant matters relating to its functions and activities. It will continue its practice of timely, appropriate and accurate information flow and reporting against the corporate plan and budget.

Governance and financial management

MoAD remains accountable to Parliament and ultimately the public through the Portfolio Ministers, the Parliamentary Committees and in tabling its annual report. This accountability is managed through the Board, the Director, and the internal management team and governance framework.

MoAD is committed to ensuring that our financial management and reporting continues to be at the highest level with unqualified audits and that all of our staff uphold the Australian Public Service (APS) Values and adhere to the APS Code of Conduct. Revenue generation continues to be a priority that is factored into decision-making.

MoAD will continue to meet our financial management obligations and deliver outcomes as sustainably and cost effectively as possible.

90th Anniversary of the opening of Old Parliament House

Birthday celebrations for the national heritage listed building OPH began in May 2017 with the launch of Open Day 1927 exhibition, which will run for 2017-2018. A range of other activities including the launch of Democracy 100 initiative will take place during 2017. It is also a timely opportunity to develop a long-term vision for how we use this iconic building into the future including development of new gallery space and an environment that will support significant growth in the highly successful learning program.

Government's innovation agenda

MoAD is developing opportunities for the organisation and in turn, for the Government's innovation agenda. Over the next 12 months, MoAD is actively seeking out new relationships and partnerships

within and beyond the arts sector. These relationships help to further the growth of the museum and the sustainability and prosperity of the arts sector. By developing opportunities around access – both physical and digital, MoAD is providing considered and researched content for a wider audience.

Diversity and inclusion

MoAD will implement its new 2017-2018 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and continue the practice of integrating Indigenous and culturally diverse perspectives within its exhibitions and activities. As a small organisation there are limited opportunities for targeted positions, so we will continue to partner and collaborate with AITSI and Reconciliation Australia and the Australian Multicultural Foundation for specific projects.

MoAD is committed to providing a supportive, inclusive and respectful work environment that recognises and values the diversity of all its employees and visitors. Our standards are aligned with APS Values, Employment Principles, Code of Conduct, and the Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework. These standards are reinforced through our Workplace Diversity Strategy, Disability Action Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, Workplace Harassment Guidelines, and Inclusive Language Policy.

Budget repair

Financial forecasts are published throughout the year as part of the Budget Papers. MoAD's financial focus is to provide accurate estimates and to achieve a break-even position (excluding depreciation and amortisation expenses), while ensuring the efficient, effective, ethical and economical use of resources.

Operational sustainability remains a priority and MoAD will tenant appropriate areas of the building and develop targeted partnerships to support new exhibitions. Funding received through the Public Service Modernisation Fund will assist with critical building maintenance and exhibition refreshes over the next three years and lead to greater operational efficiency.

To assist the Government in achieving budget repair, MoAD have shared services agreements in place with the National Museum of Australia and the Treasury. MoAD is also implementing internal system improvements that will contribute to a more sustainable outcome.

International cultural diplomacy outcomes

As a museum highlighting Australia's political and social history, our capacity for international diplomacy is limited. MoAD continues to strive towards excellence on a national and international level through partnerships with likeminded institutions, and presentations at local and international conferences, including the 19th ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly and Scientific Symposium to be held in New Delhi in December 2017 with the theme 'Heritage and Democracy'.

We carried forward relations with Singapore through participation in the National Capital Educational Tourism Project. This involved running a Singapore school program and Singapore Tourism agency familiarisation for 10 Singapore agents. With excellent feedback, we are now developing a program for schools visiting from Singapore to be rolled out in January 2018.

Conclusion

MoAD will continue to strive to be a high performing and responsive organisation that delivers on our objectives and purpose as set out in our Corporate Plan 2017-18.