

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 1 March 2016

### 10,000 voices set to float above the crowds in King's Hall

10,000 inflatable speech bubbles, nearly 42,000 metres of string and 120 square metres of netting will create an enormous floating art installation about free speech and expression in King's Hall at Old Parliament House during Enlighten 2016 (4 – 12 March 2016).

"From the cultural institution that brought you *Occupy Small Street* in 2014 and *The Great Kaleidoscope Cubby* in 2015, we invite visitors to join in and express themselves creatively through *Free Speech Floats*," said Ms Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD).

"Democracy isn't a passive sport; we want people to get involved and we are always looking for new ways to engage and involve our visitors. With 10,000 speech bubbles on display, our visitors will be part of something big."

*Free Speech Floats* is a collaborative, all ages, art project that invites visitors to write or draw messages which celebrate their freedom of expression on inflatable speech bubbles. These speech bubbles will then become a unique art installation in King's Hall that will continue to grow with the voices of thousands during Enlighten.

Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy. In a time when this is being challenged worldwide, MoAD is celebrating visitors' thoughts on this important subject. From the projections on the outside of the building during Enlighten—to visitors coming inside the building to share their voice—celebration of the spirit of Australian democracy will be at the centre.

Developed as a cross-generational project, *Free Speech Floats* will encourage families and friends to collaborate and create their words, stories and images together. "We hope our visitors will take each other on a journey and inspire discussions about the vitality and significance of freedom of expression," said Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Community Learning Coordinator, MoAD.

"Thought-provoking quotes from notable people in history will also be printed in large scale throughout the corridors in the building. Wherever you walk, you will feel challenged and inspired."

*Free Speech Floats* is a free, facilitated activity in King's Hall from 6 – 10pm on Friday 4, Saturday 5, Friday 11 and Saturday 12 March. On these same dates, the museum will be OPEN until 10pm for visitors to explore the building, architecture and exhibitions after dark. *Free Speech Floats* will remain on display during the museum's daily opening hours (9am–5pm) from Saturday 5 March – Tuesday 15 March.

A magnificent national icon, Old Parliament House is home to the Museum of Australian Democracy. Be inspired by the spirit of Australian Democracy and the power of your voice within it [www.moadoph.gov.au](http://www.moadoph.gov.au)

**Ends**

---

# MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 1 March 2016

For further information, to arrange any interviews or photos opportunities please contact:  
Kate Connor, [Kate.Connor@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:Kate.Connor@moadoph.gov.au), 02 6270 8118 or 0451 970 761

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

**Where:** King's Hall, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

**When:** The Free Speech Floats structure will be installed for photo opportunities from Friday 4 March. There will be limited speech bubbles in place. Best photo opportunities will be available any time after the night of Friday 4 March, once the community have started to add their own speech bubbles.

**What:** Free community art project throughout Enlighten 2016.

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Daryl Karp, Director, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Community Learning Coordinator, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Bradford Baker, Manager, Exhibitions and Events, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Edwina Jans, Head, Heritage, Exhibitions and Engagement, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Michael Evans, Head, Content Development and Commissioning, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House
- Barry York, Historian, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

## FURTHER RESOURCES

- Blog written by Barry York on Freedom of Speech:  
<http://moadoph.gov.au/blog/freedom-of-speech-life-itself/>
- Thumbnails below and high res images supplied in dropbox [link here](#). Caption:  
*Free Speech Floats at Old Parliament House during Enlighten. Photographer: Chalk Studio.*

