

STATEMENT OF INTENT 2018-19 – 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 Ministers Statement of Expectations dated 17 September 2018 in relation to MoAD's roles and responsibilities, its relationships with Government, transparency, accountability and operational matters.

MoAD's Role and responsibilities

MoAD's principal role is to tell the story of Australia's remarkable democratic heritage, including conserving and presenting Old Parliament House as a pre-eminent element of that heritage. By exploring the spirit of Australian democracy and the power of each person's voice within it, we aim to create experiences that are bold, relevant and authentic. Our aim is to empower and inspire civic engagement and advance national conversations about democracy – past, present and future.

Relationship with the Government

MoAD aims to continue an 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 performance reporting against the corporate plan and budget.

Continued conduit for learning, research and democratic conversation

MoAD continues to be a place of significant national interest as it continues to act as a conduit for conversation around our evolving democracy. In 2019 MoAD will again be a polling booth where citizens can participate in one of their most important democratic rights, the right to vote. We will continue the conversation about our democratic journey with a new purpose-built gallery – *Public Interest*. This gallery will keep local stories at its heart to remind people of the powerful positive contributions the media has made to the Australian society and therefore, what we might stand to lose. Framed though our contemporary crisis for trust, this long-term exhibition aims to play an important role in building awareness and understanding of the issues impacting on today's media landscape.

A key target for the next four years is to significantly extend engagement with students, with a focus on those not able to travel to Canberra to visit the museum. Growth will come from teacher training, the development of digital distance learning models and partnerships with targeted providers.

Continue to increase own-source revenue

Own-source revenue generation continues to be a priority. MoAD continues to seek and develop avenues for independent revenue which includes exploring private sector support. MoAD aims to continue to meet our financial management obligations and will deliver outcomes as sustainably and cost effectively as possible.

Governance management

MoAD remains accountable to Parliament and ultimately to the public through the Portfolio Ministers, the Parliamentary Committees and the tabling of 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.

Operational efficiency and budget management

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

Diversity and inclusion

MoAD completed its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in 2017 and is putting forward another RAP which will continue the practice of integrating Indigenous and culturally diverse perspectives within its exhibitions and activities at the museum. As a small organisation there are limited opportunities for targeted positions, so we will continue to partner and collaborate with AIATSIS and Reconciliation Australia and the Australian Multicultural Foundation for possible specific projects.

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. We host delegates from other countries including last year from India, Kenya, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea and engage with international colleagues on themes around democracy.

Conclusion

In this nationally significant building, by engaging the public in the story of Australia's democracy we will create a vibrant and contemporary hub that empowers civic and individual engagement in the democratic process. Progress will be achieved in harmony with heritage values that recognise, preserve and communicate the spirit of place. Our learning programs will seek to extend understanding of civic engagement into the future and support social cohesion.

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 2018-19.