



10 December 2025

The Hon Tony Burke MP  
Minister for the Arts  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

## **RE Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) - Statement of Intent**

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2025, outlining your expectations for the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD). On behalf of the Old Parliament House Board, I am pleased to respond to your Statement of Expectations with the attached Statement of Intent.

MoAD is preparing to mark the Centenary of the opening of Old Parliament House, on 9 May 2027. MoAD will work closely with a number of key office holders, including Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, to deliver a range of programs and events for the Centenary.

Australia has long fostered a robust, effective and unique democracy, and the strength of Australia's democratic system is vital particularly in the international context where democracy is increasingly fragile. At MoAD our focus is to connect people to Australia's democracy and inspire Australians to explore, understand, value and engage with their democracy, so that Australia can continue to be a successful democratic nation.

MoAD will deliver on the strategic priorities outlined in MoAD's Strategic Plan, Corporate Plan and the priorities outlined in your Letter of Expectations. MoAD will also work to deliver on the aims of the National Cultural Policy, *Revive*, as one of the nine key National Collecting Institutions (NCIs).

## **Showcasing Old Parliament House**

With the context of the centenary of Old Parliament House in 2027, MoAD will:

- Continue major capital projects that will contribute to protecting and conserving the heritage-listed Old Parliament House for future generations.
- Continue historical interpretation projects which will increase visitor access to key heritage areas of Old Parliament House. This includes the reopening of the Press Gallery and progress the Main Kitchens project in FY26-27; the first time the public will have access to the latter since Old Parliament House closed in 1988.
- Complete the major roof replacement insurance works in 2026, following significant damage caused by the January 2020 hail storm.
- Continue major capital infrastructure upgrade of north-east corner of the building in regard to building systems and services.

## **Sharing the story of Australia's democracy**

MoAD will create engaging content that enables the public to explore Australia's social and political history and understand how this heritage has shaped Australia's unique democratic system, and look for opportunities to support arts and cultural workers.

To achieve this, MoAD will:

- Develop a diverse program of temporary and touring exhibitions, events and activities marking significant milestones for the centenary of the opening of the building on 9 May 1927, including flagship exhibitions and events that highlight the evolution of Australia's democratic system over the past century, and showcase Old Parliament House as a living symbol of democracy.
- Develop temporary and touring exhibitions, which build civic and social understanding of Australia's social, political and democratic history. This work will include our annual exhibition *Behind the Lines*, and our *Changemakers* exhibition which will both tour regionally.
- Develop online and social media content regarding Australia's social and political history and its democratic system. Following MoAD's highly successful mis- and disinformation social media campaign in 2025, MoAD will seek to develop content on other democracy-related themes that can be distributed nationally.
- Continue to expand our philanthropy program with supporters, and other own source revenue streams, to enhance the impact of the work of MoAD.
- Develop a diverse program of exhibitions, events and activities marking significant milestones for the centenary of the opening of the building on 9 May 1927.
- Commence the initial phase of a First Nations exhibition, led by First Nations people to coincide with the centenary and continue to foster appreciation and understanding of First Nations arts, culture and knowledge systems by including First Nations stories in exhibitions, events and activities.
- Open the new Press Gallery exhibition in the first half of 2026.

## **Inspiring Australians to participate in their democracy and shape the nation's future**

MoAD will deliver innovative and informative programs and content that inspire, encourage and equip Australians of all ages, communities and backgrounds to participate in our democracy. To achieve this, MoAD will:

- Host public programs, events and debates in key heritage areas, such as the House of Representatives and Senate Chambers, to enable community engagement and discussion on key issues of democracy.
- Create programs and content which enable audiences to explore concepts of democracy and deepen their confidence to participate in Australia's future.
- Increase learning engagement and programs which enable young Australians to understand how they can participate in Australia's democracy.
- Develop a rich and innovative program for *Enlighten*, working in partnership with an Australian artist, to showcase Old Parliament House and Australia's democratic traditions.
- Continue to provide rich and rewarding experiences for school students who visit Old Parliament House as part of the Parliamentary and Civics Education Rebate program, and continue to expand its digital and outreach programs to reach Australian students around the country.

## **Fostering a Museum for the people**

MoAD will deliver organisational excellence so that we can continue serving the Australian public effectively. To achieve this MoAD will:

- Create a welcoming and inclusive space for all visitors onsite, online and through outreach programs.
- Continue to implement our Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Implement priorities identified in our Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This will include maximising accessibility and inclusion through systems, processes and programming that enable all visitors to engage with exhibitions and programs through a variety of formats.
- Expand own source revenue streams to supplement funding received from Government.
- Continue to meet our financial management obligations and delivering outcomes as sustainably and cost effectively as possible, within available resources.
- Invest in our information management framework and systems and increasing our cyber resilience capability.
- Ensure our Life Cycle Cost Plan—which outlines asset management and identifies replacement costs—can operate effectively into the future.

With the support of the Australian Government, we look forward to continuing our work to celebrate Australia's world class democracy and inspire the public to engage with their democracy to shape the nation's future.

Yours faithfully



Barrie Cassidy

Chair