



PAUL FLETCHER MP

Federal Member for Bradfield
Minister for Communications,
Cyber Safety and the Arts

MS20-000423

Dr Helen Nugent AO
Chair
Board of the National Portrait Gallery of Australia
GPO Box 1400
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Dr Nugent

Helen

I am writing to outline my expectations for the National Portrait Gallery of Australia (the Gallery) for 2020-21.

I first want to acknowledge the work of the Gallery in 2019-20, particularly in meeting the challenges presented by the summer bushfires, January hailstorm and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. I do recognise that the Gallery has managed its finances well and remains in a strong position despite the impact of these events.

The Morrison Government acknowledges that the impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector is widespread and extremely serious, including the significant and ongoing business disruption being experienced by all National Collecting Institutions and their staff.

I would like to acknowledge the steps the Gallery has taken thus far to provide audiences across Australia with enhanced opportunities to engage with its collections through social media and digital content. This has been particularly important during periods when the Gallery was closed to the public or travel restrictions have otherwise prevented people visiting its premises after they were safely re-opened.

The re-opening of the National Collecting Institutions was an important step in the re-emergence of Australia's cultural and creative economy and one welcomed by those who wished to once again experience the objects and artworks that are so central to the telling of Australia's story.

I encourage the Gallery to consider opportunities where it can support the following government strategic priorities in 2020-21:

- providing national leadership and fostering collegiality within the arts sector to assist with its recovery from COVID-19;
- contributing to economic activity and recovery as social restrictions ease, particularly in regional centres, through touring and other outreach activities;
- focussing on how Gallery activities can further encourage social cohesion and foster diversity and inclusion;

- continuing to champion and showcase our Indigenous cultures for the education, enrichment and benefit of all Australians;
- maintaining the Gallery's financial sustainability, including through exploring opportunities to further grow private sector support and increase own-source revenue.

I note that prior to the onset of COVID-19, many of these areas were already being progressed by the Gallery. The Board and senior management should continue to foster a strong vision for the Gallery as well as develop clear and achievable objectives for its operations in 2020-21 and beyond.

For your information, the Government is providing funding to the Office for the Arts to conduct a scoping study for shared storage facilities, a coordinated analysis of strategic asset management plans, and a Work Health and Safety audit of National Collecting Institutions facilities in 2020-21. This work should assist the Gallery and other National Collecting Institutions with their strategic planning.

I encourage the Gallery to continue to work cooperatively with the Office for the Arts and other portfolio agencies, particularly the other National Collecting Institutions, in contributing to the Government's policy priorities. I also ask that you continue to alert me and the Office for the Arts to any significant events or developments related to the Gallery's activities or functions.

This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of the Gallery's governance framework. As such, I would anticipate both being public documents. I have written in similar terms to all arts portfolio agencies, and have copied this letter to the Director, Ms Karen Quinlan AM.

I wish the Gallery's Board and executive team every success in meeting its outcomes and objectives for 2020-21.

Yours sincerely



Paul Fletcher

27/8/2020