



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Expert Examiners

Expert Examiners assess the significance of cultural material that is proposed for export from Australia.

The role of Expert Examiners

Australia's movable cultural heritage is protected by our laws. The [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986](#) (the Act) regulates the export of 'Australian Protected Objects' (APOs).

When an application is made under the Act for a permit to export a cultural heritage object, the primary role of the Expert Examiner is to provide advice on whether the object satisfies the statutory criteria to be considered an APO.

The Expert Examiner would also advise on whether Australia's cultural heritage would be diminished should the object be exported. This advice is considered by the National Cultural Heritage Committee, which makes a recommendation to the Minister, or their delegate, who then makes the final decision on whether to grant an export permit.

The National Cultural Heritage Account assists Australian cultural organisations to acquire APOs for safe-keeping and display. As part of the assessment of applications for assistance, Expert Examiners may be asked to provide advice on whether an object is an APO.

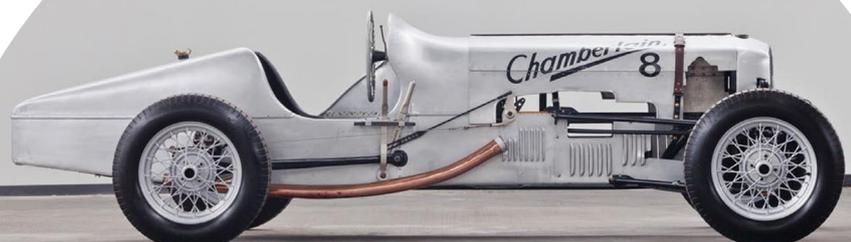
The Act also provides for the return of cultural property to a foreign country if that property was unlawfully exported from that country and imported into Australia.

To assist with this process, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) may request assistance from Expert Examiners with appropriate expertise in areas outside of Australian cultural property.

From time to time the department may request assistance from Expert Examiners in areas outside of Australian cultural property.

The Chamberlain 8
'Australian special' race car

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Image courtesy of the
National Motor Museum



What is the remuneration?

The remuneration depends on the type of Expert Examiner.

Independent Expert Examiners are paid an honorarium of \$350 per Significance Assessment.

The honorarium is an ex gratia payment given in recognition of professional services rendered, and is not intended to reflect a professional fee. Payment is made once a finalised assessment is officially accepted.

For Expert Examiners who are registered as an employee of a state or territory government institution, payment is made to the institution once a finalised assessment is accepted.

Expert Examiners who are registered as an employee of a Commonwealth government institution do not receive a payment as these duties are considered to form part of their employment.

How do I become an Expert Examiner?

Expert Examiners are drawn from a range of cultural institutions, universities, art and cultural heritage organisations, consultants, auction houses and historical societies. They are recognised experts in a particular field, and are appointed on the basis of their employment, professional qualifications and expertise in their chosen field.

An Expert Examiner may register as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.

Your application will be considered by the department and by the National Cultural Heritage Committee.

If you are interested in registering as an Expert Examiner or have any questions please contact the Cultural Property Section on movable.heritage@arts.gov.au or by phoning 1800 819 461.



19th century Aboriginal Shield
of southwest Queensland origin

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Image courtesy of the
Queensland Art Gallery