



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA**

# National Cultural Policy Submission

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 National Archives submission for *Towards a national cultural policy 2022*

National Archives of Australia (National Archives) supports a National Cultural Policy that increases the focus, emphasis and support for the arts and cultural sector and in particular, the invaluable work of archival institutions that contributes to and shapes the collective memory and history of our experiences to tell the stories of our past and present. Significant opportunities exist to enhance collaboration and cooperation amongst Australia's cultural, educational and collecting institutions in relation to audience development and diversification.

Accordingly, National Archives welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the development of a new National Cultural Policy.

This submission has been prepared with reference to the National Cultural Plan Consultation Framing Submission titled *Towards a national cultural policy 2022* released by the Office for the Arts on 1 July 2022. The 5 pillars outlined in the Framing Submission are of importance to National Archives and this submission focusses on those pillars that have particular relevance to National Archives and its current work supporting them.

### 1.2 Introductory comments – National Archives of Australia

National Archives, established under the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth) (Archives Act), provides leadership in best practice management of the official record of the Commonwealth and ensures that Australian Government information of enduring significance is secured, preserved and available to government agencies, researchers and the Australian community.

Among Canberra's national collecting institutions, National Archives is unique. National Archives is not only a collecting and cultural institution, it is also the Australian Government's information management standards and regulatory body and a research, education and exhibition services provider with a presence in every Australian state and territory. Unlike other national collecting institutions, the records of National Archives are not already in the public domain.

National Archives preserves, stores and makes accessible the records of the Commonwealth, accumulated since Federation. These records constitute the essential evidence of activities and decisions of the Australian Government and its entities from 1901. The collection holds personal information relating to almost every Australian citizen and resident, allowing all Australians to develop a deeper understanding of their own identity and their part in the history of this nation. By preserving and making accessible records of all government entities – even those that were once highly classified – National Archives provides the most comprehensive mechanism for the accountability of the Australian democratically elected governments to the people they serve.

National Archives is a leader in multiple fields such as digital preservation, the global archival community and a sectoral leader in public engagement and community outreach through its national touring exhibitions program.

National Archives has embarked on a period of necessary change. It must transform at all levels to meet the future needs of government and expectations of the Australian public. National Archives' [Strategy 2030: a transformed and trusted National Archives](#) (Strategy 2030) and the [Corporate Plan 2022-23 to 2025-26](#) set out the vision for a transformed and trusted National Archives: a world-leading archive empowered and resourced to ensure that Australian Government records of enduring significance collected, secured, preserved and accessible to government and the Australian community. The objectives in [Strategy 2030](#) are aligned to 4 strategic priorities:

1. Enable – enable best practice information and data management by Australian Government entities
2. Secure – Secure and preserve nationally significant Australian Government information and data
3. Connect – Connect Australians to the national archival collection, and
4. Innovate – Innovate to lead archival practice in the digital age.

### 1.3 Commonality between the Framing Submission pillars and current operations of National Archives

The national archival collection is unique and irreplaceable. It is made up of tens of millions of records that tell the story of the Australian nation and its people, and underpins accountability and transparency in Commonwealth administration. Building, preserving and providing access to the collection is at the centre of what National Archives does.

Connecting Australians to the national archival collection provides the opportunity for all Australians to learn from the authentic information in the collection and understand and interpret these stories. Public education and raising awareness of the national archival collection is therefore core to the work of National Archives. By utilising an integrated delivery approach which provides online, onsite and offsite access to the collection meaning, users can access the collection regardless of whether they are located in cities, regional towns or remote communities. National Archives holds public exhibitions on historically significant events and pivotal moments in 20<sup>th</sup> century Australian history to facilitate this connection. It also runs curriculum-aligned programs to connect students with these pivotal moments and allows students to explore themes from creativity and identity through to immigrations, defence and reconciliation.

A redefined National Archives physical presence in states and territories drives a new era of access, agency and public engagement, outreach and research. As well as deepened creative and industry partnerships and collaborations, this will involve new opportunities for inventive approaches through philanthropic, sponsor and community support.

National Archives holds a significant number of records about First Nations peoples and their history, including records on individuals, families and communities, as well as Australian Government policies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. Poor living conditions, lack of access to education government policy decisions, such as the policy of assimilation policy that led to the Stolen Generation, have shaped the relationships between First Nations peoples and the wider Australian community. Despite these obstacles, First Nations peoples have made significant contributions to the Australian community across a wide range of areas including in the arts and cultural sectors. Some of these records are available through National Archives' [website](#), which commemorates First Nations peoples' accomplishments and contributions to the arts and cultural sectors, as well as providing records which demonstrates their life's achievements.

The role of National Archives in the integrity and accessibility of government information and data, as critical national infrastructure assets, has never been more important. In a globally connected digital world, societies are experiencing significant change and disruption, struggling with cyber-threats, the negative influence of disinformation and a failing trust in public institutions. Authentic Commonwealth records, as evidence of Government decisions and actions, are critical in re-building that trust and integrity.

## 2. First Nations

### 2.1 First Nations workforce and capacity building with a focus on Indigenous self-determination in governance and leadership

In 2009, Australia announced its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, a non-binding framework for better recognising and protecting the rights of First Nations peoples. In March 2016, Australia reaffirmed a number of its commitments to improving the lives of Australia's First Nations peoples. National Archives has contributed to this commitment by working with the International Council on Archives' (ICA) new Expert Group on Indigenous Matters (EGIM) and the archival community to reconnect First Nation's People with archival collections.

In October 2019, National Archives and the ICA hosted the inaugural Indigenous Matters Summit, *See Us, Hear Us, Walk with Us: challenging and decolonising the archive*, at the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute in Adelaide. At the end of the summit, the [Tandanya Declaration](#) was presented and signed by all summit participants. The summit participants included archivists, record-keepers, librarians, curators and community organisations from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Norway, United States, Japan, Peru and Chile.

National Archives is committed to implementing the [Tandanya Declaration](#) which was the first international declaration by archives on First Nations peoples and matters. It calls for all jurisdictional archives to acknowledge and adopt themes and commitment of the declaration for immediate action to:

- embrace Indigenous worldviews and methods of creating, sharing and preserving valued knowledge
- open the meaning of public archives to Indigenous interpretations
- bring new dynamics of spirituality, ecology and Indigenous philosophy into European traditions of archival memory, and
- support fair and healing remembrance of colonial encounters.

National Archives continues its reconciliation journey, with a commitment to strengthen its connection with First Nation's peoples by embracing Indigenous methods of creating, sharing and preserving valued knowledge, open the meaning of public archives to Indigenous interpretations, and supporting fair and healing remembrance of colonial encounters.

### 2.2 Investment and capacity building of First Nations small to medium arts organisations

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 2.3 Indigenous Cultural and intellectual Property (ICIP) consumer protection frameworks, laws and protocols

To connect Australians to the national archival collection, National Archives develops and delivers public engagement programs, outreach and services such as exhibitions, lifelong learning programs and content and support for access to records.

When developing these programs and services, National Archives is aware, respects and protects ICIP. It is noted that ICIP specifically relates to original artworks, which the national archival collection does not hold, however, the collection does contain photographs of original artwork.

## 2.4 Development and pathways for First Nations creative workers and leaders

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 2.5 First Nations creative industries: music, fashion, writing, visual arts and games

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 2.6 Global First Nations exchange

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 2.7 Further investigation associated with a National Indigenous Arts and Culture Agency/Authority (NIACA)

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

# 3. Participation and inclusion

## 3.1 Longer-term creative, community-led solutions to complex challenges

National Archives has a key responsibility to preserve and make publicly available Australian Government records that reflect Australia's history and identity.

National Archives' collection traces events and decisions which have shaped the nation and the lives of Australians. It includes a wide range of formats including files and documents, volumes, registers, index cards, maps, plans, charts, photographs, films and video and audio recordings in a variety of analogue and, increasingly, many diverse digital formats.

The unique and diverse analogue collection contains formats that are physically deteriorating through use, inherently unstable or at risk of becoming inaccessible due to the technological obsolescence of the appropriate playback equipment. Long term preservation is not an easy task as information in whatever format, deteriorates over time and needs to be managed throughout its lifecycle.

To address this issue, National Archives has developed a Preservation Digitisation program to ensure that all Australians will have continued online access to the national archival collection. This allows for future generations of Australians the opportunity to know their identity, heritage and Australia's democracy journey. Digitisation of at-risk items also supports improved access to those living in regional and remote parts of Australia.

### 3.2 Sustained, aligned and commitment to equity and inclusion standards and measures across the sector

National Archives is committed to providing an integrated delivery approach which provides online, onsite and offsite access to the collection. This provides the public with access to the collection no matter their location in relation to it. To meet future expectations of the Australian community, government, industry and researchers, significantly more of the collection is to be described and made accessible online. [Strategy 2030](#) underpins this work, and includes a target of 30 per cent of the national archival collection being digitised and accessible online by 2030.

National Archives undertakes a user-centric approach when it comes to all products and services it delivers and in the coming year will seek new opportunities for engagement, collaboration and learning with government agencies, researchers and the Australian community. National Archives is continuing to develop national strategies which will help define how this will occur. To assist with the development of these national strategies, National Archives is using various feedback mechanisms so stakeholders are able to advise what they want and need. This feedback will rethink and redesign the way National Archives connects with the Australian public so they are able to engage with, and access, the national archival collection.

### 3.3 Targeted investments to address inequities and empower creative pathways for regional, disabled and culturally diverse creatives

National Archives has targeted investments to projects which address inequities that exist in the public. This includes projects designed to encourage and empower regional, disabled and culturally diverse creatives by:

- undertaking to digitise the national archival collection, so that all stakeholders will be able to access the national archival collection digitally, regardless of where they are located
- ensuring all exhibition development and production which are conducted by National Archives is based within the Smithsonian Accessibility Guidelines to ensure accessibility for reading levels, legible text, height of displays and captioning of audio material. This approach was implemented as part of the 2019/20 Permanent Exhibitions Redevelopment Program
- providing a national touring program to provide interpreted story telling based on the collection
- providing the development of lifelong learning programs which meets the needs for specific community groups such as a blind and vision impaired so that they can experience art through vivid description and touch
- developing online content so not to disadvantage school children from learning from the collection when they have not been able to attend any organised school excursions due to the pandemics such as COVID
- providing a free of charge entry to exhibitions.

### 3.4 Targeted investment for children, young people and older Australians

National Archives is committed to targeting content in exhibitions and programs that enhance family friendly experiences. This helps to encourage intergenerational learning experiences which small children, parents and grandparents can all enjoy. National Archives currently focuses this type of investment with its onsite programming by developing exhibition content which focuses on family trails.

National Archives encourages lifelong learning through establishing story-time, school holiday programs and national contests/challenges for Australian students. One of the programs undertaken by National Archives is to encourage children and young people interested in history to participate in its annual National History Challenge. This is an exciting contest which encourages students to use research and inquiry-based learning to discover more about the past. The National History Challenge is free to enter and is open to all Australian students from Years 4 to 12. A historical theme is provided each year and students are encouraged to submit a historically accurate submission relating to the theme in a format of their choice using both primary and secondary sources of information from National Archives' collection. All students who participate in the National History Challenge are recognised according to their level of achievement.

National Archives is an eligible cultural institution for the Australian Government's Parliamentary and Civics Education Rebate ([PACER](#)) Program, which increases the opportunity for children and young people to connect with, and access, the national archival collection. The program provides financial assistance to support students' on-site learning about national democratic, historical and cultural institutions in Canberra. National Archives has had 42 schools visit as part of this program in the 2021-22 financial year. Out of those 42 schools, 38 schools have claimed the PACER rebate. These numbers are lower than the previous years due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, and are expected to increase this financial year.

### 3.5 Accessible and supported investment and participation processes

As National Archives continues to grow its digital collection and to deliver new online services, an ongoing requirement will be to implement a cyber-secure next generation digital archive in order to store the national archival collection. This will enable available and accessible content when needed by government, industry, researchers and the Australian community. In order to achieve this, National Archives will need to invest in partnerships across cultural, creative, research and information/data-driven industries to provide pathways for new uses of the collection, creation of new intellectual property or commercial ventures.

### 3.6 Inclusive pathways to leadership roles in the sector, including via training organisations

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

### 3.7 Consideration of socio-economic inequity and affordable access to arts and cultural experiences, including accessible digital engagement opportunities

National Archives' commitment to connecting the Australian people with their identity and history through the stewardship of Australian Government records means that cost for development and delivery of programs are borne by National Archives and are not passed on to the Australian public. This ensures that the national archival collection remains available to all Australians regardless of their socio-economic status. For example, a recent lifelong learning program focusing on First Nations peoples was made available free-of-charge both in person and through National Archives' digital platforms.

National Archives uses social media platforms, in which to connect the public to the collection via prominent channels. Through the development of a national marketing and communication strategy, which is due to be implemented in late 2022, National Archives will aim to engage the public to visit the various National Archives' programs through social and other digital platforms.

### 3.8 Audience development and diversification capabilities and strategies

National Archives is continuously looking to develop a better understanding of its audience needs and expectations regarding public engagement about how they want to engage with us through the programs and services we offer. National Archives currently has a range of strategies and programs specifically focused on delivering audience engagement across platforms – onsite, online and offsite. Such strategies include the [Strategy 2030](#), Public Programs Strategy, Reference and Description Strategy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy and National Marketing and Communication strategy, a number of which are already in place while others are in development. National Archives is also taking steps to build diversity in its audiences. Programs such as online presentations to ethnic based community groups sharing immigration records about those communities and individuals; delivering lifelong learning programs for vision impaired audiences; and enabling neuro-diverse individuals and their carers to access the national archival collection with specifically developed tours of the permanent exhibitions. These initiatives are not part of a formal engagement program, rather they are of a supplementary nature, targeting audiences with whom National Archives wishes to engage

National Archives will connect Australians to the national archival collection by:

- implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy and [Tandanya Declaration](#) protocols through respectful engagement with community
- delivering priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy and Implementation plan
- delivering and promoting strategic and innovative public programs and services through education and community outreach, exhibitions, publications, marketing, partnerships, events and digital platforms
- describing the national archival collection in order to facilitate greater access, and
- implementing the National Reference Strategy with a digital delivery focus.

National Archives' Parkes location in Canberra has 2 permanent galleries – [Connections/Mura Gadi](#) and [Voice/Dhunial](#) – which provide an immersive experience with the nation's foundation, constitution and Indigenous records. The Connections gallery hosts ones of the largest interactive digital walls in Australia which enables unprecedented access to the collection in one location. The National Office also hosts public events and school learning programs regularly.

Around Australia, all National Archives' offices provide opportunities for cultural participation and public engagement through displays, events and the [NAA Members Program](#). National Archives also hosts events all over the country and online. All [events and exhibitions](#) are published on National Archives' website.

Successful audience development and diversification requires long-term audience research to understand who is and who is not coming to National Archives, and then discovery of what programs and services they are seeking in order to determine what audiences want and need in order to have meaningful experiences and increase public value and interest.

## 4. Thriving arts and cultural sector

### 4.1 Support for the creation of new work

The national archival collection provides researchers with content in order to create new publications regarding Australian historical events. Researchers will often access the national

archival collection in order to find factual historical content and/or photographs for illustrative purposes for the publications they are creating. Further, prior to the anniversary of a historical event, journalists will also seek to examine historical content in order to remind Australia of the anniversary of such event. For example, the 30 year anniversary of the Eddie Mabo High Court decision, or particular historical wartime events/campaigns which are to be covered on ANZAC Day.

National Archives has a partnership with the South Australian Museum (SA Museum) which hosts the Waterhouse exhibition biannually. The Waterhouse Exhibition commemorates the birth of the SA Museum's first curator, Frederick George Waterhouse. It has an emerging artist category and provides opportunities for artists to make a statement about the scientific issues facing our planet, and offers a valuable platform for them to contribute to the environmental debate. Over the years the competition has become a much-loved fixture on the arts calendar, allowing artists and audiences to explore nature science through a range of creative outlets.

#### 4.2 Pathways for emerging artists and creative workers

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

#### 4.3 Industry aligned skills training and business development capabilities

National Archives is committed to supporting the training and development of students in archival and related disciplines. National Archives frequently hosts students who are required to undertake industry placements as part of tertiary studies. For example, in the 2021-22 Financial Year the Victorian offices hosted 8 students from archives, recordkeeping, library, and history courses and the Queensland office hosted 3 students from archival and information studies courses. National Archives has developed a process to track the number of students who complete industry placements with National Archives as well as Guidelines which assists instructing areas and the students on what to expect when completing their placements. National Archives is also seeking to develop a Cadetship Program for commencement in 2024 (funding permitting), offering 'earn and learn' opportunities for new employees to obtain professional qualifications while gaining on-the-job experience. As part of this work, National Archives is also engaging with the tertiary sector to ensure courses are designed to meet the digital priorities of the organisation.

#### 4.4 Support for organisations and networks to address service needs and identified gaps in the sector

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

#### 4.5 Distribution ecologies in which audiences discover and connect with Australian arts and culture and artists earn revenues and maintain rights in their work

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

#### 4.6 Digital skills and literacy at all levels of the sector, including new approaches to digital practice, distribution and platforms

National Archives has developed a Digital Archives Program (DA Program) which is a body of work which has been executed across the organisation. The DA Program continues to embed digital archiving capability and accelerates the digital transformation of National Archives. It includes, and goes beyond, technological change by addressing the transformation of the workforce, systems, policies and process of National Archives. The DA Program adopts digital best practices and has become the normal way of how National Archives does business.

The DA Program has demonstrated that improved digital skills are essential across the broad cultural sector as National Archives move towards new ways of engaging with the Australian public. National Archives has developed a strong commitment to improving its digital archiving and digital preservation capabilities in order to ensure that the national archival collection is managed and preserved. In order to do this, partnership development has become increasingly essential to ensure National Archives continues to develop the necessary capability to continue its vital work of preserving Australian history.

National Archives is a member of the Digital Preservation Coalition and also aims to support relevant research projects such as the *Australian Emulation Network: Born Digital Cultural Collections Access* led by Swinburn University of Technology. This project has been funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) under the Linkage Program. The ARC's Linkage Program grants opportunity support projects which initiate or develop long term strategic research alliances to apply advanced knowledge to problems, acquire new knowledge and as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research. National Archives continues to engage with and support these projects.

National Archives is also seeking to build partnerships with the tertiary sector and relevant professional associations such as the Australian Society of Archivists to embed digital skills more strongly in archival courses, and to develop a cadetship program to provide entry level employment opportunities for students undertaking these courses.

## 5. Public value

The national archival collection relates to how the Australian Government, through its policies and actions, delivers public value. There are specific areas of the collection that are used by the Australian community to build public trust and value. For example, the Post-Master General collection documenting the decisions about post office locations, design, staffing and in some cases demise, are used by local historical groups to tell local histories and build knowledge within the Australian community.

Through the delivery of public engagement program and services, National Archives increases awareness of the national archival collection and its value to Australia and Australians. It is only by increasing awareness of the national archival collection and its relevance to individuals, communities and organisations that public value is created. Building awareness takes time, money and people.

For example, many Australians whose parents and/or grandparents migrated to Australia in the 20th century now seek family historical information from National Archives – yet they only want the one record they know about. There is no doubt that receiving a digital copy or viewing the record in a research centre, holds sentimental value to that family, but it is only through delivering programs and services which share the totality of the collection that increases public value. For example, one Bonegilla registration card is of value to one family, as it holds great historical and sentimental value, however the entire collection of Bonegilla registration cards, created over many decades, is of value to not only the individual family members but also to communities and other organisations. By exhibiting the collection, Australians are able to learn the entire story and then share their experience with others, which in turn creates public value.

### 5.1 Whole of government approaches that embed arts and culture in policymaking and program delivery

The Australian Government makes decisions which affect the daily lives of millions as it works to grow the Australian economy, create jobs, support the Australian community and keep it safe.

Australian Government records of enduring significance are selected for preservation with National Archives. These records tell the story of Australia and illustrate how the government affects, and is affected by, Australian society. They are preserved for government and the Australian community by National Archives, and National Archives makes them accessible so they can be used for community benefit, which may contribute to policymaking and program delivery.

Australian Government records are a rich documentary source for historians and researchers. The COVID-19 pandemic sparked significant interest into an earlier pandemic: the 1918 influenza “Spanish flu”. Patient records held by National Archives demonstrate the inventiveness of Australian minds to manage that pandemic. Records from both world wars show the Australian community working together at home and overseas to defend our country and way of life.

Records held by National Archives are being used by the Australian community as a source of personal memory which is assisting to connect families to their earlier generations. The national archival collection also has documents which tell the story of the Stolen Generation and the separation of families which were displaced from their homelands either during war or when First Nations peoples were removed from family by past government policies.

## 5.2 Investment in the evidence base for the value of the arts in working across sectors

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 5.3 Creative practitioners who are trained and resourced to work and apply their skills in new contexts

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 5.4 Robust partnerships with clear ambitions and commitments to collaboration

National Archives works with partners around the world. It collaborates with other archival institutions, professional associations, cultural institutions, government and the private sector in Australia, our regional and internationally.

For example, in July this year, National Archives partnered with the Black Diaporas Melbourne project which was designed to document the historical experiences of African-Australian people in Melbourne. The project undertook subject interviews, paired with visual and geolocated them on an accessible online map. The project was supported by the Australian Multicultural Foundation which included the launch of the Black Diaporas Melbourne platform and the exhibition of the Black Diaporas – our voices telling our stories, which was held in the No Vacancy Gallery in Melbourne between 3 and 13 August 2022.

National Archives also has funding partnerships with the Office for the Arts to support the development of other exhibitions. The funding is used to deliver content created in partnership with individuals and communities that have been affected (positively or negatively), by Australian Government decisions and policies. Without these funding partnerships, National Archives would not be able to deliver exhibitions which are enriched with personal stories.

A number of other partnerships exist and will become a focus in the upcoming year. National Archives is also developing a national partnerships strategy is to ensure the prioritisation of partnership agreements that benefit both parties. Due to resourcing constraints faced by most

organisations, partnerships are continuing to be predominantly relating to in-kind support, rather than monetary. National Archives hugely values both existing and potential partners.

## 5.5 Education policy development to support arts education, training and research

As outlined in [Strategy 2030](#), National Archives delivers a stimulating range of programs and services that support public engagement with, and understanding of, the national archival collection. An integrated delivery approach provides online, onsite and offsite access to the collection, regardless of whether uses are in cities, regional towns or remote communities. To meet future expectations of the Australian community, government, industry and researchers, significantly more of the collection is to be described and made accessible online.

A redefined National Archives physical presence will involve research centres driving a new era of access, agency and public engagement and research. As well as deepened creative and industry partnerships and collaborations, this will involve new opportunities for inventive approaches through philanthropic, sponsor and community support. To support this work, National Archives is:

- developing and implementing a Digital Publishing Strategy
- embedding the commitments and values of its First Nation's People Strategy and the [Tandanya Declaration](#) through respectful engagement with community
- reimagining the design and footprint of how stakeholders engage with the collection, and
- implementing the National Reference Strategy and National Description Strategy to identify and describe 100% of the national archival collection.

## 5.6 Investment in Australian stories to showcase our unique culture and activate cultural exchange with international networks

National Archives builds collaborative partnerships with peer institutions, such as the National Film and Sound Archives and third-party suppliers, to ensure proactive solutions to meet challenges which are realised. National Archives has sought a range of partnerships to build connections with international partners to share our unique culture and support cultural exchange.

National Archives has worked with a number of international archival institutions in order to activate a cultural exchange and to showcase information held both archival institutions in order to tell a complete story. For example, National Archives worked with National Archives in the Netherlands to scope our collection and identify records related to the Dutch-Australian relationship and on the Black Diaporas Melbourne project (mentioned in 5.4 above)

# 6. Creative economy

## 6.1 Robust data sets, including satellite accounts, for creative industries

National Archives considers linked open data partnerships will provide an opportunity for organisations to seek access to the data contained within the national archival collection. National Archives considers this could provide new ways of interpreting and presenting the stories held within the archives. In order for this to occur, National Archives considers secure digital infrastructure will be a requirement so that the data will remain secure and accessible.

## 6.2 Support for creative practitioners and industry to develop new business models – including fostering collaborations between not-for-profit and commercial parts of the sector

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 6.3 Strong understandings of how to develop, protect and extend original Intellectual Property (IP)

Records in the national archival collection classed as “open” are free to use and share. However, there are issues concerning copyright material which is held with multiple agencies and particularly who has what rights. For example, National Archives holds the same audio-visual records as the National Film and Sound Archive or the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Due to the efforts and targeted resources of these organisations more of the audio-visual collection has been digitised and is now more widely accessible. However, National Archives must pay a licencing fee to use this material, despite the record also being in the national archival collection, which is free to use and share under Copyright legislation. This is an issue which needs to be resolved and will enable all Commonwealth organisations to use their collections whilst also meeting intellectual property obligations.

## 6.4 An end-to-end understanding of value chain from creation to distribution

National Archives understands the importance it holds in the value chain from creation to distribution. For example, National Archives provides assistance at the beginning of a publication process – being the research phase. National Archives staff assist authors, journalists, researchers and academics with their research in order to find information for their upcoming publications. Each stakeholder requirements will vary depending on their individual needs, however some of general assistance is provided on National Archives’ website and includes:

- [Research guides](#)
- Providing [Step-by-step guides to doing research](#)
- Information about [how to obtain reports](#)

Stakeholders are able to access the national archival database online using [RecordSearch](#) to:

- search records which can be ordered for viewing at a research centre at a National Archives’ office
- view digital copies of selected records
- search for information about collections, creators and depositors
- refine a search if the parameters are too large
- register stakeholders as a researcher. This allows a stakeholder to obtain a reader card number, login and set a password
- print search results
- submit an access application if a record is in the open period but has not yet been examined, and
- order and pay for any copies of records.

Additional research assistance from National Archives can be requested at this stage. National Archives staff have developed a good rapport with repeat stakeholders and have at times held book launches upon requests of stakeholders in National Archives’ office around Australia.

## 6.5 Mechanisms to extend the impact of our creative industries globally, including in terms of market development, sources of revenue, cultural understanding and exchange

National Archives does not have any comment on this focus area.

## 6.6 Increased collaboration between sectors, including a strong understanding of transferrable skills

National Archives, in collaboration with the Museum of Australian Democracy, has prepared the [Founding Documents](#) website. This and the [Getting It Together](#) website tell the story of Australia, the documents which codified the Australian system, laws and parliament as well as tell the story of Federation. Both of these websites are important and popular and would benefit from a digital upgrade which would include quality digitisation, design and motion graphic.

National Archives is a member of [GLAM Peak](#). GLAM peak brings together the representative bodies for Australia's galleries, libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, cultural heritage organisations and research peak bodies. GLAM peak members have been working together since 2015 to connect Australians with their cultural heritage and national collections. GLAM Peak is also concerned with securing support for collection preservation and access as well as promoting the achievement of the GLAM sector.

In 2016, GLAM Peak implemented a regional digital access project, funded through the Australian Government Catalyst/Australian Culture Arts and Culture Fund which produced a suite of resources for the GLAM sector. The project delivered a practical toolkit for smaller collecting institutions which contained:

- case studies addressing opportunities and challenges in digital collections
- research into digital access strategies internationally
- regional workshops with the support of technology partners
- a draft national framework, and
- state digital access plans.

National Archives is also a member of the [Australian Libraries and Archives Copyright Coalition](#) (ALACC). The ALACC is an advocate for copyright law reform in the interest of Australia libraries, archives and information providers. ALACC offers informed contribution to domestic and international copyright law, policy discussion and makes submissions to government inquiries. ALACC offers copyright education, including training and online information resources targeted at the library and archive sectors.

## 6.7 Robust digital infrastructure that is accessible and enabling

The core role of National Archives is to preserve the national archival collection, both analogue and digital, and make the collection publicly available. The Archives Act provides a general right of access to Commonwealth records once they enter the open access period, which for most records is 20 years, unless exemptions apply. This important responsibility differentiates National Archives from other National Collecting Institutions.

National Archives is strongly focussed on building its digital service delivery and capability, including the importance of growing the digital collection, delivering new and innovative online services and leading archival practice in the digital age. To meet future expectations of the Australian community,

government, industry and researchers, new ways of making the collection available to people is needed. The best way for National Archives to achieve this is to ensure records are digitised and preserved through a cyber secure digital archive, and made available through multiple formats, including digital. [Strategy 2030](#) is driving this work, realising the need to implement a cyber-secure next generation digital archive which will be able to store the national archival collection in order for it to be available and accessible when needed by government, industry, researchers and the Australian community.

National Archives' challenge to secure and preserve Australian Government records of enduring significance is not just about past collections, it is also about delivery of digital-preservation solutions for current and future information and data that will become official records of government. National Archives will sustain the nation's analogue archive of paper and audio-visual collections, while transforming all of its operations as a digital archive – to preserve digitised records and all digitally borne archival information and data. National Archives needs to significantly invest in its digital and cybersecurity infrastructure over the next 3 years to facilitate secure and timely transfer of records to National Archives' custody, their preservation and meet the increasing public demand for digital access.

National Archives' Data and Digital Strategic Direction 2022-2025 provides a transformation and modernisation journey over the next 4 years which will introduce significant new capabilities and ways of working. This direction has been informed by Digital Transformation Agency principles, architecture and the learnings and best practice initiatives from industry and other leading international archival institutions. The direction aligns with National Archives' strategic direction.

## 6.8 Greater collaboration on international market development and cultural opportunities including across portfolios from the arts and cultural spheres to foreign affairs and trade

National Archives welcomes collaboration with international archival institutions. In recent times, National Archives has partnered with the Netherland and French governments to undertake important project which examine migrants from these countries.

In October 2017, National Archives received a grant from the Netherlands Government's Dutch-Australian Shared Cultural Heritage program. With this grant, National Archives was able to work with National Archives in the Netherlands to scope our collection and identify records related to the Dutch-Australian relationship. National Archives was able to examine 4 key areas of shared history, being: military, migrant maritime and mercantile.

National Archives was able to feature Dutch-Australian migrants and their families in 5 video portraits which are now hosted on the [Destination: Australia website](#).

In April 2016, National Archives signed a bilateral agreement with the Archives Nationales de France to undertake a 6-year biennial project, *Imagination, Exploration, Memory: French-Australian Shared Histories*. This project features international seminar programs, archival collection exhibition/s and professional exchange opportunities.

National Archives plays an active leadership role in the Pacific Regional Branch of the ICA ([PARBICA](#)) in that it manages the branch finances, membership and the PARBICA website. PARBICA represents more than 20 Pacific nations, states and territories, including Australia and its membership includes government archives, non-government archival institutions and association and individuals.

In addition, with AusAID and Archives New Zealand's cooperation, National Archives has led the development of the [Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit](#) for the Pacific. This toolkit has been translated into French and is now used in French-speaking territories in Africa and the Caribbean.

## 7. Conclusion

National Archives is responsible for collecting and preserving Australian Government records of enduring significance to ensure that they are accessible for future generations. The national archival collection is unique and irreplaceable. Australia's cultural identity and democracy are strengthened by connecting people with the evidence of Australian Government activities and decisions.

National Archives is excited to contribute to a National Cultural Policy that increases the focus, emphasis and support for the arts and cultural sector and in particular, the invaluable work of archival institutions that contributes to and shapes the collective memory and history of our experiences to tell the stories of our past and present.

National Archives is seen as the keeper of Australian history where researchers, academics and journalists are able to seek accurate and historical information for their upcoming publications. However, the national archival collection more than just a repository for Australian Government records, as it contributes significantly to Australia's creative sector and develops public value by:

- telling the stories of Australians who have shaped the country to what it has become
- helping families to locate valuable and sentimental records which depict how earlier generations came to Australia, and
- reminding Australians of significant milestones and events in our nation's history.

To deliver this, National Archives' is transforming its operations so it is in the best position to successfully navigate these challenges. This includes leading whole-of-government information management and policy development, enabled by reformed legislation, embracing emerging information and data management tools and implementing exemplar governance arrangements.

Scaled-up digitisation, preservation and cyber-secure digital archive capability, deepened engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and developing a highly agile and skilled workforce, will all enable implementation of new approaches to service delivery to government and the Australian community, to ensure the national archival collection is preserved and accessible for future generations to come and can continue to contribute to Australia's rich and diverse creative sector.

A new National Cultural Policy will provide an invaluable opportunity for increased collaboration and cooperation amongst not only Australia's cultural, educational and collecting institutions, but for enhanced engagement and cooperation across all public and private sector entities with an interest in Australia's arts and cultural sectors.