



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

MS19-000734

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

Dear Dr Nugent ^{Melan}

I am writing to outline my expectations for the National Portrait Gallery of Australia (the Gallery) for 2019-20. The portfolio allocation for the Gallery in 2019-20 is \$12.138 million, including funds from the Public Service Modernisation Fund to support restructuring the delivery of public events and programs.

Let me first acknowledge the achievements of the National Portrait Gallery of Australia in 2018-19, in particular the Board's successful recruitment of the new Director, Ms Karen Quinlan AM. I understand that Ms Quinlan is building on the Gallery's existing activities introducing a program of international exhibitions, exploring avenues to increase engagement with youth audiences and looking at new ways of working with, and increasing, donors.

More broadly, I acknowledge the successful management of the Gallery's closure while rectification works are undertaken, and the refocussing of activities to ensure the Gallery continues to provide opportunities for audiences to engage with the national portrait collection. I also congratulate the Gallery Foundation for its continued success in attracting significant revenues to support its future initiatives.

The Morrison Government's key policy priorities are to grow the economy and employment, to keep Australians safe and to keep Australians together.

The Government recognises the significant value that cultural activity delivers for the enrichment of our society and the role it plays in shaping our collective values. The arts also make a direct and important contribution to the broader priority areas of Government.

During my first few months as portfolio Minister, I have developed a number of priorities across all my areas of responsibility. For the arts, my goal is to foster an authentic and vital Australian arts sector. The actions I intend to progress are to:

- Grow the Indigenous art market.
- Promote Australian stories and identity.
- Deliver arts funding that is sustainable and contestable.

The arts are a key part of Australian identity, contributing to how we are perceived internationally in both trade and diplomacy, as well as our potential to attract international visitation. The important economic contribution of the arts is also widely acknowledged.

I encourage the Gallery to consider opportunities where it can support these broader strategic priorities and I take this opportunity to outline some strategic priorities which I ask the Gallery to focus on in 2019-20. These are:

- Ensuring the Gallery contributes to economic activity, particularly in regional centres, through touring and other outreach activities.
- Providing leadership to the arts sector as an employer of choice.
- Accepting opportunities to shape and promote Australian identity through the Gallery's public-facing activities both national and internationally.
- Considering opportunities to create and meet demand for inbound tourism.
- Providing leadership in the delivery of collection management, arts education and public programs.
- Continuing to explore opportunities to grow private sector support and increase own-source revenue.

I note that many of these areas are already being actively progressed by the Gallery. I encourage the Gallery to continue to work cooperatively with my Department and other portfolio agencies in contributing to the Government's policy priorities. I also appreciate you alerting me to any significant events related to the Gallery's activities or functions.

I thank you and Ms Quinlan for making time recently to meet with me and provide me with an overview of the work of the Gallery. I look forward to visiting the Gallery following its re-opening in September.

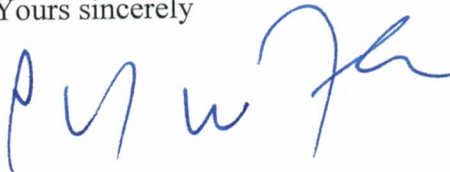
The fiscal climate, including the Government's expectation in meeting the announced 2019-20 budget surplus and maintaining budget surpluses over the forward estimates, means the Government is unlikely to be able to respond to requests for additional financial support in the short term. This includes proposals for any major expansion plans or capital works that do not address critical health and safety or compliance issues.

Given this situation, I am suggesting to all arts National Collecting Institutions that they focus their resources on the operations and maintenance needs of their existing facilities and consider whether some of their reserves could be used to address outstanding capital works.

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 and I ask that you write to me with the Gallery's Statement of Intent before the end of 2019. I have written in similar terms to all arts portfolio agencies, and have copied this letter to the Gallery Director, Ms Quinlan.

I wish you and the Gallery Board and executive team success in meeting outcomes and objectives for 2019-20.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Fletcher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Fletcher

21 / 10 / 2019