



GLAM · PEAK



# GLAM Peak

GLAM Peak represents the peak bodies of the galleries, libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and other research collections.

Their members support the nation's arts, heritage, education, science and humanities research, and innovation priorities.

## **GLAM Peak members include:**

- Australian Academy of the Humanities
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Australian Library and Information Association
- Australian Society of Archivists
- Council of Australasian Archive and Records Authorities
- Council of Australasian Museum Directors
- Federation of Australian Historical Societies
- International Council of Museums, Australia
- Australian Museums and Galleries Association
- National Archives of Australia
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Library of Australia
- National and State Libraries Australia
- University Art Museums Australia

# EFFICIENCY DIVIDEND

## Position statement March 2019

### Purpose

GLAM Peak seeks the permanent removal of the grossly inefficient 'efficiency dividend' from our national cultural institutions.

### Background

A federal government efficiency dividend was first imposed in 1987 at a rate of 1%. Over the last 30 years, the budget cut has continued, has increased, and has been adopted at the state and territory government level. It has been applied to government Departments of all sizes but has had a disproportionate impact on smaller agencies, notably our national cultural institutions.

In 2015, federally-funded cultural institutions had to contend with an additional ongoing efficiency dividend of 3%, applied to the eight mainly Canberra-based cultural agencies within the Department of Communications and the Arts:

- Australian National Maritime Museum (Sydney)
- Bundanon Trust (Illaroo, NSW)
- National Film and Sound Archive of Australia
- National Gallery of Australia
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Portrait Gallery of Australia
- The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

The result of the budget cuts has been a serious shortfall in operational funding and significant job losses. The impact has been seen in a decline in education programs, closure of exhibition spaces, shorter opening hours, less access to collections and limits to preservation and conservation work. It has also meant a lack of funding, expertise and capacity for innovative new approaches and the exploration of digital initiatives.

### Status

Over the last 10 years, the federal government has stripped millions from our national cultural institutions and we are down to the bone, yet the efficiency dividend continues to be applied.

“The Mornington Peninsula Shire is digitizing their local history collections which meets and exceeds standards... the resources and notes provided have been circulated to the history groups on the peninsula.”

The sums are small, verging on insignificant, in overall government terms, and yet they cast doubt, not only on the ability of our national cultural institutions to fulfil their legislative mandates, but also on their long term viability.

### Solution

In the 2012-2013 financial year, then Arts Minister Simon Crean gained an exemption from the efficiency dividend for federal cultural institutions.

We call on the federal government to reinstate this exemption from the efficiency dividend for national cultural institutions and to make it permanent.

### Links

Cash strapped cultural institutions must find \$40 million of savings in addition to budget cuts, 25 March, 2016 *Sydney Morning Herald* <https://www.smh.com.au/public-service/cash-strapped-cultural-institutions-must-find-40-million-of-savings-in-addition-to-budget-cuts-20160323-gnpx1.html>

Efficiency dividend a blunt instrument harming museums, Powerhouse inquiry told, 29 September 2016, *Sydney Morning Herald* <https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/efficiency-dividend-a-blunt-instrument-harming-museums-powerhouse-inquiry-told-20160928-grql91.html>

Pressure on Australia's national cultural institutions after budget cuts, 13 May, 2018, *Australian Financial Review* <https://www.afr.com/news/politics/pressure-on-australias-national-cultural-institutions-after-budget-cuts-20180511-h0zyat>

Touring programs have been cut, staff shed, research discontinued and hours contracted. That's not efficiency it's decimation. 5 October 2016 *Arts Hub* <https://www.amaga.org.au/news/why-the-efficiency-dividend-wreaks-havoc-on-cultural-organisations>

# DIGITAL COLLECTIONS FROM CREATION TO PRESERVATION

## Position statement March 2019

### Purpose

GLAM Peak seeks to improve public access to, and use of, cultural collections, with a special focus on digital collections, from creation to preservation.

### Background

GLAM Peak's drive to progress digital access to collections resulted in a two-year project, 2016–2018, funded by the Australian Government through its former national grants program, Catalyst, the Australian Arts and Culture Fund. This project saw the development and delivery of:

- A toolkit aimed at smaller collecting institutions
- Case studies addressing the opportunities and challenges
- Research into digital access strategies internationally
- 10 regional workshops with the support of technology partners
- A draft national framework for Australia
- State digital access plans.

### Status

We continue to advocate for:

- The adoption of national, state, territory and local government digital access to collections strategies
- Dedicated funding for digitisation and digital access at every level
- Initiatives to help build the capacity of smaller cultural institutions.

### Links

GLAM Peak website  
<http://www.digitalcollections.org.au/>

“I wanted to thank you for the recent grant to the Irwin Districts Historical Society. We have been able to make this a cooperative project with the Dongara Resource Centre, an idea which came directly from the seminar. The Society has also initiated a review of its standards and practices with the aim of producing a more comprehensive Procedures Manual. Thank you again for providing the resources to assist us in such a practical way.”



# INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMPETENCY

## Position statement March 2019

### Purpose

GLAM Peak seeks to strengthen the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Australia's galleries, libraries, archives and museums through developing a culturally competent workforce; increasing Indigenous employment, engagement and participation; and ensuring culturally appropriate management of Indigenous collections.

### Background

Indigenous cultural competency is the ability to effectively interact with people across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. This includes gaining knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, customs and histories; taking action in a culturally safe and appropriate way; and demonstrating authentic respect for Indigenous culture in all interactions. Cultural competency is a practical act of reconciliation.

GLAM Peak organisations are focusing on Indigenous cultural competency. Examples include:

- Australian Museums and Galleries Association Indigenous Roadmap 2019-2029, a 10-year roadmap for improving Indigenous employment and engagement in museums and galleries
- AIATSIS Core Cultural Learning online foundation course available for Commonwealth and other agencies
- National and State Libraries Australia, Indigenous Cultural Competency project 2018-2021, including training, local consultation, and workforce initiatives
- Australian Library and Information Association 2018-2019 Indigenous Matters

### Status

We continue to advocate for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and recognition in cultural sector policy and decision-making
- A national platform for Indigenous research
- Creating culturally safe spaces for employees, volunteers and visitors to Australia's galleries, libraries, archives and museums

### Links

AMaGA Indigenous Roadmap <https://www.mgaindigenouroadmap.com.au/>

AIATSIS Core Cultural Learning <https://aiatsis.gov.au/core/>

NSLA Cultural Competency <https://www.nsla.org.au/our-work>

ALIA Indigenous matters <https://www.alia.org.au/advocacy-and-campaigns/indigenous-matters>

“ We have attracted six new volunteers to the project. It grabbed their intellect and sense of being part of something worthy that used their skills beyond the humdrum. We have learned far more in a few short weeks since the workshops and are developing a productive work flow, most importantly in an atmosphere of “this is good we enjoy this”. *The Friends of Schoolmasters group*

# NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

## Position statement March 2019

### Purpose

GLAM Peak is committed to driving improvements in the way in which researchers across the disciplines access and interact with Australia's cultural collections. The cultural sector must not miss out on the opportunities and gains that targeted investment in research infrastructure has already shown it can deliver for the sciences, and the people of Australia.

Australia needs platforms that can operate across the research and cultural sectors to support data-driven innovation, training to build research capabilities, and tools that facilitate collaboration across different platforms.

### Background

The National Research Infrastructure Roadmap identifies the need to prioritise investment in research infrastructure for humanities, arts and social science research, including platforms for Indigenous research. As the principal repositories of Australia's unique history, heritage, arts, cultural and audio-visual collections, GLAM organisations have a central role in national research infrastructure development.

The GLAM sector currently collaborates with the research sector in multiple ways to enable researchers to discover, access, curate and analyse social and cultural data. This includes:

- identifying nationally significant research collections and data;
- sharing digitisation expertise and developing state/national principles and action plans; and
- building on proven collaborative research platforms and infrastructures, including the National Library of Australia's Trove facility.

Although these collaborations are vital to the Australian research enterprise, GLAM institutions do not receive funding to support a research agenda. This has led to piecemeal, uncoordinated and duplicated activity.

“The grant will go into solid state drives for archival storage of digitised files. Beyond the job of digitising metres of shelved reports, studies, old journals, and images we are developing new working relationships with local indigenous groups as we discover materials relevant to them, and with students of Newcastle University. The GLAM workshops took us into new realms and we love it. ”

### Status

GLAM Peak and its constituent members continue to advocate for:

- nationally coordinated, strategic investment in platforms for HASS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research;
- dedicated and expedited funding for the Government's Platforms for HASS scoping work to develop robust implementation plans and investment proposals;
- cross-portfolio mechanisms to bring together Government departments with responsibility for public investment in research and cultural infrastructure; and
- development of funding streams to facilitate ongoing digital access to collections of interest to researchers.

### Links

National Research Infrastructure Roadmap, and Investment Plan <https://www.education.gov.au/government-response-2016-national-research-infrastructure-roadmap>

# COPYRIGHT

## Position statement March 2019

### Purpose

GLAM Peak seeks to assist the government in its goal of modernising Australia's copyright system and making it fit-for-purpose in the digital age.

Our aim is for a legislative framework that balances the rights of creators and end users; reflects current social conventions and easily accommodates advances in technology. In achieving this, we will increase public access to, and use of, cultural collections.

### Background

GLAM Peak commends the Australian Government for updates to copyright legislation in 2017 and 2018 which have seen the introduction of:

- The same terms of copyright for both published and unpublished works, which came into force on 1 January, 2019
- Improved access to books for people with print disabilities
- Simplified preservation laws
- 'Safe harbour' protection for libraries and archives.

“Overall the workshop has changed the attitude of our volunteers and encouraged understanding of what we are trying to achieve. *The workshop strengthened our belief that what we were doing was worthwhile*, and also showed us the range of experience in the other groups participating. In particular, some of our volunteers who are in the 70+ age bracket have realised that computers are not beyond their capacity to use and learn. The training materials have been an excellent way to record the provenance and significance of objects. Thus *it is an insurance that the story behind an object will not be lost with the passing of current staff.* ”



### Status

We continue to advocate for:

- Laws that increase the usability of copyright material balanced with the rights of creators
- Copyright exceptions to override contracts
- Exceptions that permit the use of orphan works.

GLAM Peak advocacy amplifies the work of the Australian Digital Alliance and the Australian Libraries Copyright Committee.

### Links

Australian Digital Alliance  
<http://www.digital.org.au/>

Australian Libraries Copyright Committee  
<http://libcopyright.org.au/>

[www.digitalcollections.org.au](http://www.digitalcollections.org.au)

