

Jurisdictional Report

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House



The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) is located in the iconic heritage listed building Old Parliament House. This year has been an exciting and busy period for the Learning team. We have a new director, a reviewed vision, a new section name and have been actively involved in a number of key programs and activities.

Ms Daryl Karp commenced as Director on 2 April 2013, on the retirement of Ms Jenny Anderson. Previously the Chief Executive Officer of Film Australia, Ms Karp also has experience at ABC Television, where her roles included Head of Factual Programs and Head and Executive Producer of the Documentaries & Features and Science & Features departments. She is currently a non-executive director of the Special Broadcasting Service and the Australian Children's Television Foundation. Ms Karp is passionate about learning and a big supporter of our learning programs.

As an organisation we have worked together to redraft our new vision for the Museum to consolidate and extend our reach as the Museum of Australian Democracy. As part of the new vision we underwent a restructure and our section was renamed as Lifelong Learning. It now comprises Learning (Schools and Community Learning) and Visitor Experience.

The Museum's vision has always been to celebrate, debate and experience the journey of Australian democracy. This vision has been reviewed and refreshed and is encapsulated in the following text and outlined more fully in the key objectives below:

Living democracy. Community building.

At a time of global political upheaval, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House plays a significant role in exploring and communicating the intrinsic value of democracy—the capacity for people to govern their own lives, to have their say. With an Australian perspective, in a country made up of over 200 nationalities, the museum provides a space not just to celebrate our democratic traditions, but also to truly collaborate with our audiences and stakeholders. We will embrace this opportunity to connect communities, encourage participation and value freedom.

Through the lens of living democracy, we will build a vibrant community through exhibitions, talks, festivals, artists, celebrations, tours, films, markets, concerts and memorials. We want to enrich the quality of Australians' lives by providing a place to connect with family and friends, and offer unprecedented opportunities to make this iconic building a rich and central part of our civic and individual experience.

Bold—Catalyst for uncensored conversations

Our collection, events, exhibitions, interpretation and learning programs will tell stories and provoke conversations that inspire and help Australians to remember, reflect on, celebrate and value the spirit of democracy.



Relevant—Empowered and engaged communities

Enhanced visitor experiences—onsite, online and through outreach activities—will be created for, by and about the people, community and democratic spirit of Canberra, the nation and the world. Our targeted activities will be timely and relevant, encouraging active engagement and dialogue.

Authentic—A welcoming and vibrant meeting place

In this nationally significant place, we will create a vibrant and welcoming Town Square as a rich and central part of our civic and individual experience. Progress will be achieved in harmony with heritage values which recognise, preserve and communicate the spirit of place.

Dynamic—A sustainable and thriving future

Our organisational culture will enable the museum and its valued staff to be nimble, courageous, democratic and efficient. Our actions and relationships will ensure ongoing relevance and financial sustainability, advancing the museum and the building as a critical asset for diverse sectors.

These four objectives – bold, relevant, authentic and dynamic underpin and inform all our existing and new learning programs.

Throughout the year the Learning team has facilitated and participated in several exciting and innovative learning programs. These complement the interpretation and exhibition activities provided by the Museum. We have also delivered school programs to students and teachers at near capacity totalling 80,682 and achieved satisfaction ratings of 100% from teachers and 99% from students.

Listed below are some of our highlights for 2012-13:

- Won Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Award 2012 for best tourism education program for our school programs.
- Reviewed and updated our online school programs to ensure they mapped to the Australian Curriculum and met the current WCAG 2.0 requirements. As part of the review an online survey of teachers was undertaken and a report was produced to inform future online learning resources for teachers, students and families.
- Developed and delivered a new Senate based role play as part of the Who's the Boss program.
- Developed and delivered two new online resources for teachers as part of the Hands on Democracy: I can make a difference program, for primary students.
- Reviewed and updated the popular 1975 Prime Minister Dismissed! Program, for senior secondary students.
- Delivered pre-service teacher and museum undergraduate professional development programs, including programs provided for the Australian National University as part of its museum studies course.
- Conducted familiarisation sessions for local teachers, to build awareness of the museum and its learning products and foster relationships with local schools.

- Facilitated programs for both ACT Constitutional Convention and National Constitutional Convention valuable civics programs for Years 11 and 12 students.
- Involvement in and contribution to the success of the History Teachers' Association of Australia's national conference held in Canberra in April 2013. We presented two workshops and hosted the conference dinner.
- Delivered papers at several conferences including Museums Australia, Arts Activated, INTERCOM,
- Recognition across the Museum of the importance of community learning and access resulting in many aspects of the accessibility guidelines established in the Disability Action Plan being adopted and implemented.
- The museum's focus on community learning has seen the growth of a loyal group of families that repeatedly participate in the museum's public programs. This group provided valuable assistance in 2012–13 by acting as a focus group during the design of a new school holiday program Block Party.
- Review and refresh of online Learning programs for both school and community audiences.
- Expansion of online engagement to audiences through social media sites such as blog postings, Facebook and Twitter.

As always meeting corporate outcomes, managing resources and maintaining a high standard of program integrity continue to be challenges but we love our industry and our audience and we would not want to be anywhere else.