



Charter of Operations 2008-2009

The Vision of the National Gallery of Australia (the Gallery) is the cultural enrichment of all Australians through access to their national art gallery, the quality of the national collection, the exceptional displays, exhibitions and programs and the professionalism of our staff.

The *National Gallery Act 1975* requires the Gallery to:

- develop and maintain a national collection of works of art;
- exhibit, or make available for exhibition by others, works of art from the national collection or works of art that are in the possession of the Gallery;
- use every endeavour to make the most advantageous use of the national collection in the national interest.

The Gallery is committed to collaborating with national collecting institutions in providing the widest possible access to the national collection of works of art and ensuring the most efficient use of resources.

The Gallery will provide national leadership within the broader collections sector by:

- Building relationships with the collections sector in Australia and internationally through collaboration on exhibitions, supporting exchanges and staging and participating in international conferences.
- Representing the Gallery and our region in the international arena by attending meetings of the International Directors Conference and Administrators of Museums and Institutions.
- Providing leadership in the development and presentation of Australian visual arts exhibitions internationally.

The Gallery will work collaboratively with the other national collecting institutions to explore operational efficiencies through shared services by:

- Working through the Heads of Cultural Institutions (HOCI) to develop a strategic approach to common collection policy and operational issues, including storage, preservation and digitisation.
- Working through the Corporate Management Forum of the Commonwealth Cultural Collecting and Exhibiting Agencies to explore and implement opportunities for ongoing cooperation between member agencies with regard to corporate services and other areas of common interest, including working



groups relating to financial management, human resources, information technology and facilities management.

- Participating in the Australian Registrars Committee to encourage and maintain communication and cooperation in relation to registration practices.
- Developing and facilitating joint professional development opportunities such as the Advanced Workplace Skills Program and the Cultural Management Development Program.

The Gallery will jointly agree on the parameters of its collecting with national collecting institutions and avoid overlap by:

- Continuously reviewing acquisition strategy to ensure the continued development of the collection.
- Working through HOCl to develop a strategic approach to common collection acquisition issues and to avoid areas of potential overlap.

The Gallery will develop frameworks and strategies in conjunction with the national collecting institutions around common areas of collection management by:

- Continuing to develop, manage and maintain its collections and improve collection storage in conjunction with the Australian National Audit Office's *Safe and Accessible National Collections* report by:
 - developing storage and management plans that ensure the long-term preservation and sustainability of the collection; and
 - increasing the quantity, quality and accessibility of collection information.
- Working through the National Collections Preservation Committee to develop, implement and promote strategies which benefit the conservation of the collection.
- Sharing information and expertise on collection management issues.

The Gallery will ensure widest possible access to collections through the development of public programs including regional, outreach and touring:

- Improving visitor facilities at the Gallery including progress towards an extension to the Gallery building to provide enhanced visitor arrival and entry facilities and improved collection display and public program spaces, particularly for Indigenous art.
- Researching and presenting a balanced, stimulating, informative and enjoyable exhibition program in Canberra, throughout Australia and internationally.
- Providing access to works of art through loans, partnerships and joint ventures.
- Continuing to digitise the collection to provide greater electronic access to all Australians and internationally.

- Increasing access to works of art not on display through collection study room programs.
- Planning for increased and improved display of the art of our own country and the art of our region.
- Delivering the following exhibition program at the Gallery:
 - Turner to Monet: The triumph of landscape;
 - Treescape;
 - Richard Larter: a retrospective;
 - Picture Paradise: The first century of Asia-Pacific photography 1840s – 1940s;
 - Pacific arts from the NGA Collection;
 - Degas;
 - The school of Max Meldrum;
 - To Please the Living and the Dead;
 - Australian Street Stencils; and
 - Images of Abroad.
- Delivering the following travelling exhibition program:
 - Grace Crowley: Being Modern (*Perth and Hobart*).
 - Ocean to Outback: Australian Landscape Paintings 1850-1950 (*Cairns, Alice Springs, Newcastle and Canberra*).
 - War: The prints of Otto Dix (*Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane*).
 - National Indigenous Art Triennial: Culture Warriors (*Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane*).
 - Colin McCahon (*New Zealand*).
 - Imagining Papua New Guinea (*New Zealand and Adelaide*).
 - Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift: Red case - Myths and Rituals and Yellow case – Form, Space and Design (*Springvale VIC, Inverell NSW and Gympie QLD*).
 - Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift: Blue case – Technology (*Toowoomba QLD, Hay NSW and Springvale VIC*).
 - Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift: The 1888 Melbourne Cup (*Kalgoorlie, Albany, Perth and Geraldton WA*).
 - The Story of Australian Printmaking 1801 – 2005 (*Brisbane*).
- Publish information about the collection and exhibitions in books, catalogues, the quarterly magazine, journals and electronically.

The Gallery will ensure widest possible access to its collection by undertaking partnerships with other Commonwealth, State, Territory and local government agencies by:

- Building partnerships and collaborating with relevant agencies with regard to exhibitions and loans.



- Attending meetings and contributing to the ongoing work of the Council of Art Museum Directors.
- Attending meetings and contributing to the ongoing work of the Corporate Heads of National and State galleries in Australia and New Zealand.

The Gallery will engage strategically with Australian Government and Cultural Ministers Council key initiatives by:

- Assisting the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (the Department) as appropriate with the development of a framework for the repatriation of non-Australian Indigenous ancestral remains.
- Actively engaging with the Collections Council of Australia through its key programs, initiatives and products as appropriate.
- Contributing to, or leading, initiatives across the collecting sector that support the strategic priorities of Government and the Cultural Ministers Council in those areas in which the Gallery has expertise.
- Continuing to work cooperatively with the Minister, the Department and other portfolio agencies to effectively fulfil the Gallery's role. This will include:
 - fully informing the Minister and the Department in a timely manner of the Gallery's activities and of any significant events relating to the Gallery's business;
 - responding to requests from the Minister's office in consultation with the Department; and
 - implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007-2010, business priorities, and portfolio performance measures, and through consulting with departmental officers as required to maintain the highest standards of corporate governance to meet its compliance and governance requirements.

The Gallery will undertake activities that will develop stronger links with the broader creative sector and assist it to develop and grow by:

- Contributing to public debate and discussion to benefit the broader creative sector, for example participation in the *Australia 2020 Summit*.
- Providing support for training and development programs directed at professions relevant to the cultural sector and offering training and development opportunities through traineeships, internships and the Summer Scholarship Program.
- Collaborating and consulting with artists and artist's communities, particularly in relation to cultural sensitivities.