

Media Release
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Statement in response to disestablishment of the Department of Communications and the Arts

MEDIA STATEMENT

While Arts no longer has prime billing in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, GLAM Peak, Australia's peak representative body of the galleries, libraries, archives, historical societies and museums sectors, has stated its commitment to working with the new Department to build on achievements under the former Department of Communications and the Arts.

Liz Jack, co-convenor of GLAM Peak said: "The loss of visibility is regrettable but we value assurances that the Commonwealth will continue to invest in the sector and we have the support of Arts Minister the Hon Paul Fletcher MP. This is a time of highly innovative policy and program development within the cultural sector, with a collective focus on Indigenous engagement, research infrastructure, and digital access to our extraordinary national heritage collections."

A new report from independent think tank [A New Approach](#) confirms that Australia's cultural and creative activities contribute 6.4% of the country's GDP, with the sector employing 5.5% of the total workforce. Over 82% of Australians attended cultural venues in 2017-2018. The report also provides empirical evidence of the sector's contribution to health and wellbeing, education, innovation, social cohesion and international relations for all Australians.

Members thank the Department of Communications and the Arts for its support of arts and culture in Australia, noting that the contribution of the cultural and creative sector to the Australian economy was valued at over \$111 billion in 2016-2017 by the government's Bureau of Communications and Arts Research.

GLAM Peak members look forward to working with Arts colleagues in the new Department to ensure that Australia's cultural and creative sector is strongly supported, and that our cultural institutions and community organisations can grow and thrive for the benefit of all Australians.

The cultural and creative life of Australia matters.

GLAM Peak brings together representative bodies for Australia's galleries, libraries, archives, historical societies and museums sectors.

www.digitalcollections.org.au/glam-peak

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