



Museums Australia is the national association for museums and galleries in Australia.
ICOM-Australia (the National Committee of the International Council of Museums, Paris) is a key partner.

26 February 2009

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Re: Inquiry into the Draft Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards

Museums Australia appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this Inquiry.

We suggest that the proposed amendments to the Standards need to be considered in the context of other legislative changes under consideration, particularly the implementation of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons*, and the outcome of the current Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Inquiry into *Disability Discrimination and Other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2008*.

In this submission we set out our concern that the impact of the proposed changes to the Standards – especially if they are mandated for existing buildings – will be exacerbated by the proposed DDA revisions, resulting in cumulative and damaging consequences for the community museums and heritage sector, especially across regional and remote Australia.

1. Impact of the Proposed Changes to the BCA and the DDA on the Community Museums Sector

MA fully supports the principle of equity of access to museums, and has sought to encourage and enable the museums sector to meet the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act* over the past decade.

However we are concerned that the amendments under consideration, both to the DDA and the BCA, will compromise the capacity of small museums to provide the best possible access to their facilities and resources.

MA believes that the proposed rigorous application of a universal access standard would disadvantage many of those caring for the nation's heritage at grass-roots levels, and

could result in the eventual abandonment of many local historic buildings across regional and remote Australia.

Our concern arises because the proposed changes to the Access Code would be implemented in combination with changes such as the following to the DDA, placing many volunteer-run community museums at considerable disadvantage in relation to the law:

- *Making it explicit that a refusal to make a reasonable adjustment for people with disability may also amount to discrimination.*
- *Clarifying that the onus of proving unjustifiable hardship falls on the person claiming it.*
- *Shifting the onus of proving the reasonableness of a requirement or condition in the context of indirect discrimination from the person with disability to the respondent.*

The cumulative effect of proposed changes to the Access Code, in combination with proposed changes to the DDA (as listed above), would be that many of the nation's small museums would find themselves in breach of the law, but with little capacity either to meet the new requirements or confidently argue their case for exemption.

The changes envisaged would place responsibility on the owner/manager of affected premises to provide the highest standards of physical access – thereby imposing regulatory/compliance burdens on many small, community-run museums, already struggling to maintain and sustain their facilities and resources.

MA therefore strongly argues that the proposed Access Code provisions cannot be considered in isolation from the proposed changes to the DDA.

2. Museums Australia and its National Footprint

Museums Australia is the national organisation for the museums sector, committed to the conservation, continuation and communication of Australia's natural and cultural heritage. MA works towards the realisation of its organisational Vision, which includes the following objective:

for natural and cultural heritage to be valued, sustained and communicated as it represents the shared histories, heritage and identities of all Australians.

The museums sector includes museums, galleries, historic sites, keeping places, botanic gardens and zoos – that is, public sector institutions, large and small, dedicated to the conservation, collecting and interpretation of cultural heritage.

Museums Australia membership includes institutions and individuals working throughout the museums sector (including volunteers). Members include national and state institutions, as well as local and community run museums across remote, rural and regional Australia.

Our footprint reaches broadly across remote and regional Australia, where the majority of museums are small community organisations, often volunteer-run, and often situated in local heritage buildings. (See Attachment Two)

3. Community Museums Sector

Community organisations are vital elements of small remote and regional communities. They are the keepers of community memory, and their presence is a key source and resource for community pride and well-being.

However these organisations generally operate on shoestring budgets, sourcing meagre funding from local or state government, while often sustaining and conserving important local historic and heritage buildings for future community benefit. Without their presence, much of the community heritage and local history of remote and regional Australia would be endangered or lost.

Museums Australia is concerned that the impact of the combined set of changes proposed – to both the Australian Building Code and the DDA, as highlighted here – would severely affect many of these small community organisations.

The effect of the proposed changes to the DDA, combined with the imposition of a requirement to comply with the amended BCA, could mean that many members of these communities would find themselves involuntarily in breach of the law – of the DDA and, in consequence, of the BCA requirements.

Such a predicament could have the effect of alienating the goodwill that most certainly does exist in these community organisations for progressively improving access measures to their collections and museums (including provision of physical access).

The focus of attention would then fall on *threatened failure in compliance*, diverting focus and goodwilled attention from an existing reservoir of commitment to providing improved access and more inclusive opportunities for all community members to enjoy the cultural resources of collections and museums.

4. Museums Australia Commitment to Access and Equity Principles

As noted above, the proposed amendments need to be considered in the context of other legislative changes under consideration, particularly the implementation of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons*, and the outcome of the current Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Inquiry into *Disability Discrimination and Other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2008*.

Any envisaged amendments need also to be considered within the broader context of the Commonwealth policy commitment to access and equity and to social inclusion, and the Cultural Ministers' Council commitment to the development of a *Disability Arts Strategy*.

Museums Australia upholds the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and supports the right of all people to participate freely and actively in the artistic and cultural life of the community.

We agree wholeheartedly with the Cultural Ministers' Council Working Group position that this principle must be considered as a cornerstone of social inclusion.

Museums Australia, as a national network of museums and galleries spread across the states and territories, strongly supports the principles of affirmative action on disability access.

- MA, through its professional networks, national Magazine, e-Bulletins service, website and annual National Conferences, provides opportunities for professional development, information exchange and development of museums practice across Australia.
- MA has committed to work with Arts Access Australia to develop a national sectoral framework to guide museum thought and practice in affirmative access policy and action frameworks.

Museums and galleries have developed many kinds of affirmative action programs in education and exhibition development that have:

- (a) highlighted *the creativity of people with disability* and their valuable contribution to the society as a whole; and
- (b) increased access for *a diversity of audiences and social groups previously disadvantaged* through some aspect of disability (from social, cultural and intellectual barriers to physical obstacles inhibiting access to the resources museums hold, and the amenities they provide, for the benefit and enrichment of communities).

We therefore argue that the best way to achieve access improvement across the museums sector is not to impose regulatory burdens that risk alienating the goodwill that currently obtains.

A better approach, we suggest, would be to work with the sector to capacitate and enable all museums to be able to provide the open and inclusive environments they are currently seeking to achieve.

5. The Many Facets of Disability Access

The museums sector recognises that disability is much more than a physical issue. At the same time, museums recognise the importance of physical access issues as a very obvious barrier to social participation in cultural heritage facilities, and support collective action to improve physical amenities in museums generally.

The museums sector perceives 'access' for those with disabilities as having a two-way set of dynamics involving:

- *access to museums, their collections, programs and exhibitions* by persons experiencing *disability barriers* – from physical to virtual levels; and
- *representation of the contribution to society and cultural heritage by persons with disability* in our museums, including in their collections, exhibitions and public programs

Museums are **hardwired with skills in socio-cultural communication and representation** (exhibitions, collection displays, educational and interactive programming) that make **a positive contribution to ‘access and equity’ goals** overarching the specific question of disability-inclusive practices.

Museums are **highly experienced in mediating differing social group encounters among and across communities** within the public spaces they foster and maintain. In *public good* and *civil society* terms of value, museums are among the most skilled and trusted deliverers of programs that interpret and represent culture, social achievement, scientific discovery and our national heritage **to people of all backgrounds**.

As with other programs dealing with complex cultural and social diversity issues, the challenges of enabling those with disabilities to enter, enjoy, contribute to, feel included and derive benefit from museum resources, are complex.

Museums have for many years been developing programs that seek to extend existing audiences, involve new audiences, and **create the conditions that overcome disability factors** based on cultural and/or social background, age, language-levels and intellectual readiness.

Access to services and opportunities does not necessarily require that physical access be provided to all parts of a building. Museums Australia recognises there are many forms of access, and many ways for museums to ensure that they are accessible to diverse audiences, and inclusive in their approach to programming and audience participation.

International examples of inclusive effective access policies include that developed by English Heritage: *Easy Access to Heritage Buildings*, 2004; and that developed by the National Endowment for the Arts: *Design for Accessibility: a Cultural Administrator’s Handbook*.

These provide guidance on the many ways in which access can be provided to museums (including heritage sites), without compromising their heritage values or imposing an unreasonable burden on owners and occupiers.

Museums Australia has committed to working with Arts Access Australia to develop a national approach to encourage and enable museums to provide broad and open access to all members of the community.

6. Factors limiting *museums-sector* capacity to address access vis-à-vis the *arts sector*

Museums, as not-for-profit collecting and exhibiting institutions, are not primarily responsible for training and development of arts practitioners. Therefore they are not recipients of the manifold resources or program attention from the Australia Council that has focused exclusively for the past thirty years on *arts development* or *the primary stages of cultural production* - from artists to audiences.

Consequently the museums sector in Australia has critically lacked targeted Commonwealth support, for pump-priming development and raised performance, akin to that provided by the Australia Council for the past three decades.

- While the major national and state institutions receive funding from Commonwealth and state governments, and some states support regional museum programs, the majority of Australia's remote, rural and regional museums have had little regular or targeted development support from government over many decades.
- This contrasts with the multi-program support provided to the arts sector by the Australia Council since the 1970s: developing and capacitating the performing and visual arts sectors; encouraging and enabling artists, performers and the organisations supporting them to thrive across the nation.

Since the museums sector has not benefitted from comparable attention to national development as the arts sector has enjoyed, it has therefore not been either resourced or capacitated at remote, rural and regional levels to meet the increased public awareness and expectations **that disabled practitioners in the arts and sports areas have gained and maintained.**

As a consequence, **there are discrepant capacity levels evident between the arts sector and much of the museums sector**, especially in regional and remote/rural Australia. This resources gap has inhibited the capacity of the museums sector – most especially of local community and volunteer-run museums – to develop and implement disability access programs.

Bridging this capacity gap between the relatively well resourced metropolitan museums and galleries, and the many community-based institutions spread across regional Australia, is a massive task.

However this capacity gap, across all areas of museums practice, needs to be bridged, in order to enable all museums to address more affirmatively the questions of disability access remediation – for their dispersed and far-flung communities as well as for their inner-urban and metropolitan communities.

7. Conserving Local Historic and Heritage Places

The value of historic places lies in their value to the community. While they can and do provide tangible economic benefit, they also provide intangible benefits to communities.

The often immeasurable benefits of retaining historic places – community distinctiveness, sense of place, character, pride – underpin community cohesiveness and identity. These tangible and intangible benefits are now much needed in rural Australia, where communities are struggling to survive in the face of withdrawal of government services and dramatic economic and social change.

Heritage places can survive, and continue to add value to their communities, only when they are able to be adaptively re-used to meet present and future community interests and needs.

Changes that reduce a community's capacity to adapt their heritage places, or seriously increase the cost-burdens associated with retaining those places, will likely result in their abandonment, degradation, and eventual loss to that community.

MA suggests that the cumulative and long-term impact on the historic building stock of any proposed changes to the Building Code – to be applied retrospectively to renovated or renewed buildings – needs to be estimated prior to decisions being made. Furthermore that measures should be incorporated to mitigate against increased financial and other pressures being imposed unreasonably on the historic environment and associated heritage buildings, and on the community museums sector that is intimately connected to their maintenance, upkeep and social as well as physical preservation.

8. The Application of the Building Code to Ensure Compliance with the DDA

The DDA seeks in principle to eliminate entirely any discrimination against people on the grounds of disability – in contrast to (say) fire regulations, which aim to reduce to an acceptable level the risk of death or injury from fire. In other words, there is an assumption in the first case that an ideal is fully achievable, and an acknowledgement in the second that it is not.

However the 'access' issue is different from other matters normally regulated by the Building Code. The difficulty with this proposed Access Code, is that it is being formulated with the objective that any building constructed in accordance with it would be safe from a future complaint under the DDA.

Therefore there is an implied obligation to produce a Code that will be defensible both now and in the future – lest a building constructed today in compliance with the Code could later be subject to a complaint if the Code were changed in the meantime.

Such a stringent compliance goal encourages setting the access standard at a very high level, one that may well be unachievable at any time in the future by an existing building, or may be achievable only through substantial costs-increment to a community, and the possible loss of cultural heritage value in the case of an existing heritage building that

cannot reasonably be upgraded to evolving standards of a later age by its host community.

Furthermore if society's view about what is an acceptable standard for access should change in the future – as has happened in the past – compliance with the Code in the shorter term may still not provide protection from a future complaint.

We urge caution, therefore, in the sanctions underpinning the bar to be set – the Standard – since the quality of 'access' is never wholly able to be fixed beyond that agreed at a certain point in time.

9. Museums Australia Recommendations

We suggest that the potential impact of the proposed changes to both the DDA and the BCA could be extremely costly for the nation's community museums and historic places, and we would welcome further opportunities to bring our concerns and proposed solutions forward, before key decisions are made.

We would suggest that – as with other aspects of buildings regulated by the BCA – the emphasis should be on complying with the principles and performance objectives of the regulations, rather than highly prescriptive, deemed-to-satisfy requirements.

Museums Australia urges the Committee to consider recommending that:

- the requirement for access should be treated as a 'performance standard' that can be achieved in more than one way;
- the principle of alternative service delivery should be incorporated in the BCA where it is not practicable to achieve full access to all parts of an existing building due either to cost or adverse impact on its heritage values – that is, that there be attention to electronic and other means of services delivery encouraged as positive increments in access provision);
- new and existing buildings should be treated differently when applying the Access Code, and that very careful consideration be given to the difficulties for small community-based organisations faced with complex (and often expensive) regulatory and legal requirements – including difficulties these same organisations may have in arguing their case for exemption, and ;
- the need for local historic or heritage buildings to be treated as special cases should be minimised by having a reasonable standard, flexibly applied in the first instance, and
- the Commonwealth should establish program funding to capacitate and support the museums sector to pursue access in all its diversity as a first principle, and most particularly, to inform, advise, train and support those working in community museums across regional and remote Australia to be able to achieve the highest standards of access in their museums.

10. Museums Australia Action on Access

Museums Australia has already indicated to the Cultural Ministers' Council the actions and commitments our national organization has made, and those further actions planned to be taken on behalf of the museums sector, should funding to be made available to assist accelerated achievement of the improvements sought by the whole sector.

See Attachment One

Attachment One: Disability Access Support Proposals from Museums Australia

Museums Australia has offered the following set of support proposals to the Cultural Ministers' Council to assist in the development and implementation of their Disability Arts Strategy.

The document is provided to the Committee as an indication both of the commitment of the museums sector generally and of MA in particular to the provision of access to museums across the nation, but also to indicate the complexity and cost factors that need to be considered in the implementation of a full and inclusive national cultural access program.

A. Museums Australia Access Proposals to the Cultural Ministers' Council

MA agrees that the proposed National Strategy should improve coordination and collaboration across all levels of government and bring together programs and initiatives across the arts, health, disability provision and community services, ageing, education, employment, Indigenous affairs and infrastructure portfolios.

In order to support this objective of national coordination, and to further capacitate the museums sector to provide access to museums throughout the nation, MA offers the following proposals:

- A1.** MA, as a national body, stands ready to utilise its national communications capacity to publicise the Arts and Disability Strategy to museums across the nation.
- 1.1** This support could include provision of information regarding the development and implementation of the Strategy – through the MA national magazine, national e-Bulletins, and the MA website.
- 1.2** As indicated in **section 2** (above), MA is currently collaborating with disability and arts organisations to develop national *Disability Access Guidelines for Museums and Galleries*. We would ensure these Guidelines accord with the Arts and Disability Strategy.
- 1.3** MA has just released, in collaboration with a suite of S/T organisations, **Version 1** of the new **National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries** (http://www.collectionsaustralia.net/sector_info_item/107)
- These new Standards are intended to respond over time to changes in museums practice and to provide guidance and support to museums as these further develop.
 - The Standards provide policy and practice principles and guidelines and directions to support and resources where available.
 - MA (jn collaboration with the partner bodies who have developed this report) would act to ensure that the principles outlined in the National Arts and Disability Strategy are incorporated into further editions of the National Standards.
- A2.** If **modest resources could be provided to assist**, MA stands ready to:
- 2.1** Conduct a national audit and benchmarking of current practice initiatives that would
- investigate, analyse and gather delivery-based and place-based information on

- successful programs and strategies already in place throughout the museums sector that
- clearly advance the principles of overcoming disability access barriers to social participation, and
- provide benchmarking examples for improved practice, and

2.2 Provide a national report upon the basis of the above work

- to highlight new knowledge and
- profile new skills-sets that
 - support multi-purpose address to disability access in art galleries and museums, and
 - highlight training (including mentoring possibilities) that would advance practices already in existence and
 - promote to and stimulate within museums and public galleries across the board nationally to implement and further develop such skills-sets and achievement-enhancing programs.

2.3 Utilise the above information – and report – to **create a web-based portal site**, publicly accessible on the Museums Australia website, to act as **a platform and gateway for communities to access relevant information on affirmative action to improve disability access for the museums sector** (and strategically linked to other sites of affirmative action by organisations committed to better provision for communities and social participation around these objectives)

A3. MA is on the cusp of including a national museums disability access award program – as part of its already-developing project to achieve national awards for the museums sector.

B. Museums Australia National Programs

The proposals outlined above are well aligned with a larger strategy that Museums Australia already has in place as a national body.

B1. National Awards for the Museums Sector (in development)

MA is already embarked on a strategy of purposive endeavours to establish a system of high-profile *national awards for the museums sector* that will provide recognition of the social impact of museums and galleries, through museums and galleries' contributions to:

- the educational development and learning resources of a nationally co-ordinated curricular framework – *the 'life-long learning' value-proposition of the museums sector*
- the socio-economic development and amenities for communities – *the social capital value-proposition of the museums sector*
- development and consolidation of shared arts, history, heritage and national identity – *the cultural identity value-proposition of the museums sector*
- tourism and its direct impact on GDP and economic benefits for communities across the country – *the economic capital value-proposition of the museums sector*
- provisions of exhibitions that directly assist cultural exchange at a foreign policy and trade level, stimulus recognition of Australian culture and social values – *the international public diplomacy value-proposition of the museums sector*

Museums Australia's own progress in realising this strategy to form a system of national awards to date is born out in two recent initiatives achieved in 2008:

- Development of a successful partnership with ABC Radio National that has resulted in an ABC Radio National set of awards titled ABC RN 'Marvellous Regional Museums'.
 - These awards have proactively targeted regional communities and sought to encourage those communities least privileged in national provision for museums development.
 - The Awards have also proactively targeted and sought to raise recognition of Indigenous communities (by including a special ABC RN Award for Indigenous cultural centres/keeping places, to honour and encourage their further contribution to the 'museums sector' nationally)

B2. Web-based publicisation of the ABC Radio National partnership and ABC Radio National Regional Museum Awards initiative (begun 2008; continued 2009)

- There is already a permanent hyperlink on the MA website leading directly to the ABC Radio National's 'Marvellous Regional Museums' purpose-built website (including links to Indigenous Cultural Centres and Keeping Places who already nominated themselves in 2008 for judging of these awards; and including a profile on the overall 2008 ABC Radio National Award Winning site of 'Kodja Place and Visitor Centre', at Kojonup. Towards Albany, south of Perth).
 - Solicitation of nominations for a 2009 edition of the Radio National Awards to regional museums, including a stand-alone award for Indigenous organisations, is already activated in advance of the actual nomination period being open in early 2009.
- Development of training projects (two) with the Peoples Republic of China – for Chinese museum professionals to learn on 10-day Workshops and site-visits in Australia specifically about skill-development by Australian museums around exhibitions, amenity provision and audience-development that raise interactive relationships with communities and enhance productive achievement of the social and economic potential of the museums sector.
 - Disability access to museum programs, and disability arts strategies involving museums in recent years will be a topic of these two workshop programs (for (a) art museums and (b) non-art museums personnel in China.
 - Positive 'closing the gap' measure on Indigenous access to and participation in our museums nationally (in which Australian museums' performance has been world-leading in highest policy and standards-setting) will be one aspect of training for Chinese colleagues and represents positive address to an important aspect of an Arts and Disability Strategy nationally – one with an international diplomacy strand.

C. Conclusion

Museums Australia welcomes this Cultural Ministers Council initiative, and, as indicated in this submission, stands ready to support the proposed National Arts and Disability Strategy to the best of its own, and the museums sector's, capacities.



Museums Australia is the national association for museums and galleries in Australia. ICOM-Australia (the National Committee of the International Council of Museums, Paris) is a key partner.

Profile of Museums Australia

(formed 1994, combining various museum organisations, the oldest dating back to the 1930s)

Museums Australia (museums + galleries) encompasses a diverse range of museums, galleries, historic sites, heritage centres, botanic and zoological gardens, research centres, Indigenous Cultural Centres, and Keeping Places across Australia; it includes some other cultural heritage organisations.

MA is a service and professional development organisation. It seeks to provide professional stimulus and value for the whole museums sector nationally (and especially regionally)

- MA produces **programs and services nationally**, not confined to MA members alone;
- MA works with **a range of “third sector” partners in the non-profit area of cultural heritage** provision – e.g. Federation of Australian Historical Societies, ICOMOS, ACNT.
- MA is not a union or lobbyist organisation – remuneration and employment conditions are matters for relevant employing authorities at all levels of government or other bodies;
- as a service organisation, MA is focused as much on museums’ **service to Australian communities** as on the **capacities of museums** themselves to increase resources and skills, and render such service;
- MA also **acts internationally** as a museums organisation (and especially – in partnership with ICOM-Australia – with proactive attention to the Asia-Pacific region).

MA membership

Currently membership (Oct. 2008): **1673 members**

- **923 individual members** = 55.47%
- **745 institutional members** = 44.53% (reaching many more individuals through the large institutions than can ever be calculated precisely)

A current national snapshot of MA institutional members

(This snapshot captures the variety of institutions, from tiny, regional and remote, to large/capital city institutions; from parks and zoos to galleries)

QLD

- Calliope River Historical Village (Gladstone)
- Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Resource Centre (Indigenous museum project – Yugambeh is south of Brisbane area); (*MA and ABC Radio National “Marvellous Regional Museums”- Indigenous Cultural Centre/ Keeping Place category winner 2008)
- North Burnett Regional Council (incl. Mundubbera Art Gallery (Gayndah), an Indigenous cultural centre and gallery (Gayndah)
- Cairns Regional Gallery (Cairns)
- Tableland Regional Gallery (Atherton)
- Brisbane Botanic Gardens (Mt Coot-Tha)
- University of Queensland Art Museum (UQ)
- University of Technology Art Museum (QUT)
- University of Queensland Anthropology Museum (School of Social Sciences, UQ)

NT

- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (Darwin)
- Northern Territory Police Museum, Winnelli (Darwin)
- Catherine Outback Heritage Museum (Catherine)
- Chung Wah Society Inc. (Darwin) (for Chinese heritage; volunteer-run)
- Northern Territory Police Museum (Darwin)
- Strehlow Research Centre (Alice Springs)
- National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame (Alice Springs)

TAS

- Levendale and Woodsdale History Room (Orford)
- Devonport Regional Gallery (Devonport)
- Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre (Beaconsfield)

VIC

- Zoos Victoria (Melbourne)
- Museum Victoria (Melbourne)
- Latrobe Regional Gallery (Morwell)
- Sovereign Hill (Ballarat)
- Insectarium of Victoria (Mt Macedon)
- Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery (Swan Hill)
- Golden Dragon Museum (Bendigo)
- Bendigo Art Gallery (Bendigo)
- Ararat Regional Gallery (Ararat)
- Parks Victoria
- Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Library (MA has some library members – eg. of schools, caring for archives and collections of a school)
- Monash University Museum of Art (Clayton)
- La Trobe University Art Museum (Bundoora)

NSW

- Lake Macquarie Regional Gallery (Lake Macquarie)
- Zoology Museum, University of New England (Armidale)
- Goulburn Regional Art Gallery (Goulburn)
- Goulburn Mulwaree Parks and Recreation Services

SA

- Architecture Museum, University of South Australia
- Art Gallery of South Australia
- Army Museum of South Australia (Keswick)
- Flinders University Art Museum
- Mary McKillop Penola Centre (Penola)
- Olive Wood, Renmark

WA

- Broome Historical Society (Broome) (Volunteer-run)
- Museum of Natural History (Guildford, WA)
- Geraldton Art Gallery (Geraldton)
- Ongerup and Needilup District Museum, Ongerup (north of Albany)
- Carnamah Historical Society (300 km north of Perth)
- Kodja Place and Visitors Centre, Kojanup, south of Perth (* winner of MA and ABC Radio National "Marvellous Regional Museums" National Winner (all categories), 2008); ABC Radio National Life Matters program travelled Sydney-WA and produced a 1-hour from Kodja Place in August, to mark their winning of the national award.

ACT

In addition to the major institutional members of MA in Canberra (**National Gallery of Australia, Australian War Memorial, National Museum of Australia, Old Parliament House**) MA includes the following institutional members:

- Australian Customs Service
- ACT Historic Places (incl. Lanyon Art Gallery; Blundells Cottage)
- Canberra Museum and Art Gallery (Canberra Civic)
- Australian Natural Wildlife Collection (CSIRO)
- Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT)