

National Aboriginal Art Gallery Reference Group Terms of Reference Draft

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1. Background

The Northern Territory Government is establishing a National Aboriginal Art Gallery dedicated to the display, celebration and interpretation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. Through the medium of artistic and creative expression, and exciting educational programming, the Gallery will share the stories of the world's oldest continuous culture, brought together under one roof in the heart of the nation and the birthplace of contemporary Aboriginal art.

The National Aboriginal Art Gallery will be the centrepiece of the Territory Arts Trail, dedicated to the display, celebration and interpretation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

The Gallery will be housed in an iconic building in Mparntwe and will be managed on a 'First Peoples' Principles' basis. It will not be a collecting institution, but will instead draw on existing collections across the country and internationally to deliver a changing program of exhibitions.

The Gallery will be a catalyst for boosting tourism and investment in the Northern Territory, and for developing a range of career pathways, including cultural tourism, curatorial, and people leadership. Its exhibitions and programs will be contemporary and inclusive, with a strong emphasis on co-creation. In this and other ways, the Gallery seeks to achieve a range of positive economic, social and cultural outcomes for Mparntwe and the Northern Territory, and to support reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advancement nationally and internationally. The governance and operational model for the Gallery is to be based on majority Aboriginal governance and workforce participation, with "First Peoples' Principles" enshrined into every aspect of the Project.

2. Purpose

The primary purpose of the Reference Group is to promote and inform the development of a National Aboriginal Art Gallery (the project) to be built in Mparntwe. The Reference Group will provide advice and recommendations to the Northern Territory Government on the Gallery's development, establishment and operations.

3. Membership

The Reference Group will comprise active cultural, industry and sector leaders who can help the Gallery achieve its vision of being an exemplar of bicultural museum practice in Australia, audience and community driven, participatory, and committed to lifelong learning.

Reference Group members will be appointed by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Members are selected for their skills and expertise relevant to these Terms of Reference. The membership will include representatives of the Arrernte/ Aranda Apmereke artweye (Traditional Owners) and Kwertengerle (Traditional Managers) of Mparntwe and its environs, as well as custodians of the art and the stories represented in the Gallery.

4. Role

The Reference Group will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister for Arts and Culture and Heritage. This may relate to:

- the overall Gallery concept;
- planning and development of the building design and surrounds;
- legislation to establish the Gallery, functions, governance arrangements, accountability and reporting requirements;
- key policy development and implementation, such as curatorial policy, approach to scholarship, workforce planning and enterprise development;
- integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems and practices into gallery planning and operations;
- advocacy and consultation and engagement with stakeholders;
- promotion and marketing of the Gallery;
- fostering and building relationships with galleries and cultural institutions with shared focus and purpose nationally and internationally; and
- establishment and fostering of partnerships with the corporate and philanthropic sector.

Advice and recommendations from the Reference Group will be delivered by the Chair of the Group through the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage during the Group's term. The Chair will provide a written brief to the Minister following every meeting of the Group.

5. Term

The Term of Reference Group members shall be for a period of two years from the date of the Group's first meeting. The Term may be extended at the discretion of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

6. APPENDIX ONE - GUIDELINES

1. Conflict of Interest

Reference Group members will be required to sign and adhere to a Conflict of Interests/Private Interests Declaration form and be required to declare any potentially conflicting interest arising at each meeting and subsequently at any time.

2. Confidentiality

Reference Group members will be required to sign a Confidentiality form and maintain strict confidentiality around all aspects of the project including the Reference Group's discussions and endeavours and recommendations to Government.

3. Code of Conduct

Members of the Reference Group must adhere to the Northern Territory Government Boards Handbook (the NTG Board Handbook) which supports the work of all NTG Boards and Committees. The NTG Board Handbook provides practical advice to Board members in relation to their duties and responsibilities, the legislation that affects them, and their relationship with Government and other stakeholders.

In particular, Members of the Reference Group are expected to observe the following standards when dealing with Group-related matters:

- a) Members should avoid any situation in which the private interests of themselves or of their immediate family, whether pecuniary or otherwise, conflict or might reasonably be thought to conflict with their Group duty.
- b) Members should not use information obtained in the course of official duties to directly or indirectly gain a pecuniary or other advantage for themselves or for any other person.
- c) Members should not solicit or accept from any person any remuneration or benefit for the discharge of information not available to the public.
- d) Members should not solicit or accept any benefit, advantage or promise of further advantage, whether for themselves, their immediate family or any business concern or trust with which they are associated from persons who are in, or seek to be in, any contractual or special relationship with government.
- e) Members must take care to maintain the integrity and security of documents or information provided to them as members of the Group. This includes protecting the integrity of electronic documents on mobile devices and laptops

4. Remuneration

Members will be remunerated and costs associated with travel will be covered.

Remuneration will be in line with the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act* approved classification.

5. Meetings

The Reference Group will meet not less than three times a year and the first meeting will be held in Alice Springs. Subsequent meetings may be held via online channels at the discretion of the Chair/s.

6. Governance

The Reference Group is accountable to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

The Minister appoints the Chair/s of the Reference Group. The role of the Chair/s of the Group is to:

- facilitate the Group's meeting arrangements including setting meeting dates and developing the agendas for meetings;
- conduct meetings in a way that facilitates the flow of information and discussion, and ensures the effective operation of the Group;
- liaise with and report to the Minister;
- be responsible for reviewing the performance of the Group; and
- act as the primary media spokesperson for the Group.

Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities will provide Secretariat support to the Reference Group which includes:

- making arrangements for meetings of the Group;
- preparation and distribution of agenda papers for meetings;
- ensuring that proper records are kept of each meeting including decisions made by the Group; and
- preparation of reports as required, or as requested by the Group or Chair/s.

As a rule, interactions between the Group and the Department should occur between the Group Chair/s and the Senior Director, National Aboriginal Art Gallery Project Implementation Team. The Chair/s and Senior Director are encouraged to maintain regular contact and to work collaboratively.

7. Review

This Terms of Reference is effective until July 2023.

A review of the Terms of Reference will be undertaken by the Reference Group in collaboration with the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities at least annually.

8. Relevant Documents and Legislation

Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act.
The Northern Territory of Australia.

Northern Territory Government Boards Handbook – a guide for members and administrators of Northern Territory Government boards and committees. May 2019.
Department of the Chief Minister.