

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

4 January 2021

**RE: NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020**

Dear Committee Secretary

As co-convenors of the National Public Galleries Alliance (NPGA) we write in relation to the National Collecting Institutions Legislations Amendment Bill 2020, which aims to provide the six National Collecting Institutions (NCIs) with broader investment powers than are currently permitted under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), improve efficiencies and address longstanding administrative inconsistencies between the six NCIs.

The NPGA is comprised of two national networks and nine state peak bodies and public gallery membership organisations, working collaboratively to support the Australian small-to-medium public gallery sector. Public galleries are an intrinsic part of our social fabric, engaging audiences with art, ideas and culture. They stimulate learning, debate and critical thinking; encourage creative expression; and enrich the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of our country's metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

We understand that the proposed legislative changes have been developed in consultation with the NCIs.

On reviewing the proposed amendments to the National Collecting Institutions Legislation, the NPGA supports all of the amendments:

- Schedule 1 to the Bill will provide NCIs with powers to develop an investment policy for donated revenue and invest for the long-term benefit and improved financial sustainability of those institutions.
- Schedule 2 to the Bill making administrative amendments to address certain inconsistencies between the enabling Acts for each NCI. These amendments seek to modernise and better streamline the legislation to improve efficiency and productivity. They include provisions to standardise:
  - delegation powers,
  - the power to appoint a person as an acting member of a governing body,
  - and the maximum length of service for members (which will include any period of acting);
  - remove ministerial approval requirements related to routine financial transactions and asset disposals; and
  - remove reporting requirements that are either inconsistent with the other NCI related Acts or superfluous since the introduction of the PGPA Act.

We believe the Bill will enable the National Gallery of Australia and the National Portrait Gallery to increase earned income – strengthening their financial sustainability, and streamline the processes involved in administering the requirements of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Rebekah Butler  
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