



National Gallery of Australia (NGA)  
GPO Box 1150  
ACT 2601 Australia

Attention: Melinda Carlisle  
Assistant Manager, HRM

**UPDATE TO REPORT OF 8 MARCH 2002  
FOLLOWING WORKSITE VISIT 12 APRIL**

Dear Ms Carlisle,

Further to the report of 8 March 2002 and our subsequent communication, I visited the National Gallery last Friday morning 12 April and was shown around many of the areas not open to the public by Assistant Manager Security (Control Room) Mr Mike Hansen.

The walkthrough visit covered areas such as:

- The security control room
- The loading dock
- Several storage areas (textile store, small object store, main painting store, Solander boxes store)
- The plant room
- Exhibitions and general workshops
- Lower staff room
- Library
- Conservation area
- Several administrative areas
- Main staff lounge and canteen
- Education department
- Projection room and theatre.

Mr Hansen advised me that there were about 50 security staff altogether who worked on a shift basis. I learned that the security staff who worked from the control room and patrolled the building and its environs were in general a different group to the security staff who patrolled the public viewing galleries. Could you please thank Mr Hansen for showing me around.

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Though I found these "non public" parts of the Gallery interesting from an occupational perspective and fascinating from a general perspective, the conclusions expressed concerning the instances of cancer in the March report are unchanged.

Concern was expressed during the worksite visit about electromagnetic fields in the security control room where there is much electrical equipment of different types such as TV monitoring screens, battery chargers and digital video recorders.

From the general OH&S perspective I do think it would be worthwhile for the Gallery to arrange for the e-m fields (in particular the magnetic fields) in the control room to be checked if this has not been done in recent times, to ensure that the levels remain below safe exposure levels. This recommendation is made from a general perspective - I do not believe that a problem in this area, if there was one, would account for the cancers observed.

Please contact me on 6269 2001 if there are any queries concerning this update.

I will ask our administrative staff to contact you in relation to the session with the security staff that you mentioned.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Lark  
Occupational Physician, HSA, ACT Office

15 April 2002

