

INTERPRETATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

A museum collection is held in perpetuity, in trust for the community, for their benefit and enjoyment today and in the future. Part of managing the collection is to ensure its interpretation. This policy guides the interpretation of the Museum collection and other objects in our custody and care from time to time.

For the purpose of this policy, interpretation is defined as the process of engaging visitors and users to create understanding. This policy covers all Museum exhibitions, programs, activities and operations which facilitate understanding of the Museum's collection including exhibitions, educational and public programs, and print and electronic publishing.

This policy establishes the principles that guide the Museum's approach to interpretation and the framework within which interpretative strategies are developed. Interpretative strategies are a set of approaches, including exhibitions, face-to-face interpretation, school programs, public programs, online and print-based material, using a variety of methods and formats appropriate to target audiences.

COLLECTION INTERPRETATION PRINCIPLES

Engaging visitors and users – The Museum's collection is interpreted in vital and engaging ways – with clarity, cogency and meaningful context. The Museum's interpretative strategies aim to inspire, arouse, satisfy curiosity, educate and entertain.

Collection centred – The Museum's collection is central to the Museum's interpretative strategies, and to the dissemination of information about history and identity.

Research and learning – The Museum's interpretative strategies are based on the best research and resources available.

Diversity – The Museum uses a range of interpretative strategies to match the interest, needs and cultural requirements of our diverse audiences, including:

- permanent, temporary and travelling exhibitions;
- programs and activities delivered for a range of audiences e.g. cultural tourists, school students, family groups;
- print and online publishing; and
- innovative and emerging technologies to enhance and enable interactive engagement.

BEST PRACTICE AND INNOVATION

The Museum adopts best practice interpretative strategies, monitoring trends in exhibitions, educational programs, and publications to meet audience needs and expectations within available resources.

The Museum acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of First Nations people in relation to First Nations collection materials, and ensures it observes cultural protocols.

PRESENTATION

The Museum strives to present the most accurate information in the most accessible ways to enable visitors and users to reach their own understanding of history and identity.

Interpretation strategies will be designed to enhance the level of engagement between content and audiences, and encourage visitors and users to participate in reflection, debate and discussion about historical issues.

INTERPRETATION THEMES

Interpretation themes will align with those of the Museum Collection Policy and described in that policy under Section 2 - What the Museum Will Collect, and Why.

EVALUATION

The Museum will regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness and success of its interpretation strategies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Conception, development and design of interpretation strategies is the responsibility of the Museum Curator/s with input from the *Museum Advisory Committee*.

The Curator/s are responsible for the day-to-day organisation and practical management of exhibitions and displays.

POLICY REVIEW

The Interpretation Policy will be reviewed within five years of its adoption by the Management Committee of the Society. Such review will follow an initial procedure of review by the *Museum Advisory Committee* and recommendations submitted to the Management Committee for approval.

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

July 2030