

1st December 2016

Hon Robert Borsak MLC
Committee Chair
General Purpose Standing Committee No.4
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Borsak

Re: Inquiry into museums and galleries in NSW

In her testimony on Monday 14th November 2016, Ms Kylie Winkworth was referred to two documents – **‘Review of Museums & Galleries NSW’ (2010)** and **‘Future Frameworks’ (2011)**. **Both documents were commissioned by Arts NSW. I have attached a copy of the Review (vol 1) and a draft of Future Frameworks for your information. I’m writing to provide details about the background to these documents and their status.**

The 2010 review, titled **‘Review of Museums & Galleries NSW’** was a timely 10 Year performance analysis of the ‘Role, Programs and Operations of M&G NSW’. It was for all intent and purposes an internal working document and not a report about the sector. The appropriate forum for this report was the M&G NSW Board.

The 2011 document, titled **‘Future Frameworks - Towards a Strategic Plan for the Visual Arts and Museum Sector in NSW’** remains unpublished. It was commissioned by Arts NSW in response to one of the key findings of the 2010 review, *‘to develop a long term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Sector’*. M&G NSW assisted a team of academics and industry specialists with its development. This process included wide-spread sector consultation. As it was never published, its ‘planning proposals’ were not adopted. Given its overview of issues, continued relevance and clarity of vision for the sector, its content informed the basis of our earlier submission.

When asked by The Hon Ben Franklin on Monday 14th November 2016 to comment on *‘a review commissioned by Arts NSW into the museums and galleries sector (in 2010) and then another conducted (in 2011), to devise a strategic plan for the sector’* Ms Winkworth replied;

‘In my view many of the findings have not been addressed, in particular concerning supporting museums and giving museums a stronger voice in the structure of the organisation. I know what came through very clearly to those inquiries was that the community volunteer-managed museums did not feel that their needs were properly represented within that organisation. I do not particularly want to be critical of the organisation.....’

This assessment of both documents is misleading. Neither expresses the view that community museums felt their needs were not being met by M&G NSW. Data collected as part of a sector survey to help inform the performance review, showed that museums

recorded a high satisfaction rating for services and support provided (**63% for museums - pgs. 62/63 Review of Museums & Galleries NSW**).

Should the Committee seek clarification or wish to discuss these reports further I am available to address the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Michael Rolfe
CEO