

**Submission
No 125**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Name: Ms Clare Ashton

Date received: 14 August 2016

To: NSW Legislative Council, General Purpose Standing Committee No 4

Re - Inquiry into museums and galleries - terms of reference - Item e)

The sale of the Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo and its proposed move to Parramatta, and whether there are alternative strategies to support museum development.

1. The Powerhouse Museum should stay on its site in Ultimo. There is a lot in a name. The words 'power house' have their own power. Move it from its site and you lose that 'power'. The words 'Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences' just do not have the same impact as 'power house'.

2. Alternative strategy for Parramatta - "*Body on Display*" - a Museum of the Human Body

2.1 People have a fascination with the human body - from the microscopic to the gory.

2.2 It would be an avenue of public health education at a time when developed western communities are facing what are seen as health time bombs; a bulge in the numbers of aged in the population and an epidemic of diabetes in ever younger sectors of the population.

In the Netherlands there is a body experience - open since 2008 - see <http://corpusexperience.nl/>

2.3 Parramatta has existing sites that lend themselves to the history of health and welfare in NSW. A focus on the human body can include everything about its environment. For example, my own area of historic interest would fit in; the ANZAC nurses of the First World War went overseas to ameliorate the destruction of the BODIES of the fighting men.

14 August 2016