

**Submission
No 35**

**INQUIRY INTO STATE RECORDS ACT 1998 AND THE
POLICY PAPER ON ITS REVIEW**

Name: Dr Marlene Kanga AM

Date Received: 11 April 2020

8 April 2020

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Review of the *State Records Act 1998*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I make the following submission into the review of the *State Records Act 1998* and the potential changes to the administrative arrangements for the State Archives & Records Authority NSW (SARA) and Sydney Living Museums (SLM). I understand that the proposed changes would result in a new agency that will amalgamate the responsibilities of these two organisations.

I have been a beneficiary of the excellent work done by the SARA in profiling trail blazing women leaders in various fields in NSW in the project: "*Blaze – Working Women, Public Leaders*", released in April 2018. This project told the stories of trail-blazing women leaders from more than a century ago and in modern times, including my story, from the State Archive records. The women featured are essential role models for girls today and the exhibition is "a living museum", having travelled through regional NSW and engaged many young people in repeated showings.

Importantly, the project was launched at the historic Children's Home in Western Sydney University, bringing together the stores of both people and the built environment. This project is thus a great example of the benefits of the merger of SARA and SLM, and the value of bringing together their complementary heritage assets and information. This will enhance the value of the important work that is done for current and future generations of the citizens of NSW.

I agree and support the proposed reforms that will make the historic records more accessible and relevant to our lives today, facilitate research and documentation and inform policies by learning from the past. The amalgamation will encourage the improved use of technology and digital resources, improve outcomes for the public, including better access to the State's cultural collections and improved recordkeeping and governance. Importantly it will enable improved connections with people, as shown by the *Blaze* Project, with stories from our past being used to effectively inform and improve our future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Marlene Kanga AM FTSE