

**Submission
No 45**

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

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Review of the State Records Act 1998

**By Chris McDiven AM
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While I write as a Trustee of the Historic Houses Trust it is my background in education that has prompted me to take this opportunity to support the merging of Sydney Living Museums and the State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales.

I am a retired primary school teacher, a student teacher trainer, the former president of an independent school council for ten years (Kambala), a former member of the Board of the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) and now the Chair of Together for Humanity, an organisation working in schools to increase inter-cultural understanding and respect.

Students and educators alike will benefit from the amalgamated collections and resources accessible through a single institution, as proposed in the policy paper.

The merged entity will provide an invaluable, unique, comprehensive resource for schools and universities with courses studying NSW history, culture and heritage.

The available display facilities at various Sydney Living Museums will allow material from the State Archives to be displayed to the public for the first time.

I can foresee excellent exhibitions to fit in with various aspects of school and university curricula. The lessons to be learned from history will be so much more meaningful when primary documents and objects can be seen in displays relating to these topics.

I sincerely hope the Inquiry supports the merger and it can proceed as soon as possible.