



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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Appointments to the Visions of Australia Committee

Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, today announced the appointment of four new members to the Visions of Australia Committee.

"I am pleased that Ms Margie West AM, Ms Helen Kon, Ms Christine Ballinger and Ms Amy Barrett-Lennard have each accepted a three-year term," Mr Garrett said.

"These new members of the committee bring a diverse range of skills to Visions of Australia and I am confident that they will help ensure continuing success for the organisation."

Ms West, Emeritus Curator of Aboriginal Art at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, has more than 30 years experience in the museum sector, specialising in Indigenous art. She has published extensively on Aboriginal art, and has been a member of many national committees and boards, including the National Association for the Visual Arts and the Australia Council's Visual Arts and Craft Board. In 2006 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her contribution to Aboriginal art and culture.

Ms Kon has been assistant director-general of public programs at the National Library of Australia since 1999. Before being appointed to the Library, Ms Kon was the general manager of education and client liaison at the State Library of New South Wales. Her management expertise and experience in the field of education and public programs will enable her to bring to the committee constructive advice and guidance on these areas.

Ms Ballinger is currently director of the Noosa Regional Gallery in south-eastern Queensland. She was previously executive director of Craft Queensland and is also a member of the Australian Craft and Design Associations. Ms Ballinger is a practising visual artist and curator. Her creative professional practice spans 25 years and includes solo exhibitions in Australia, Japan and Europe.

Ms Barrett-Lennard is the director of the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, and she has brought extensive curatorial and management experience to her current role. She was previously the director of Linden St Kilda Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne. She has also been involved in regional arts in Western Australia since 1999, including as a member of the working party to establish Museums Australia Regional Galleries' Special Interest Group.

Visions of Australia supports not-for-profit organisations and public collecting institutions to develop and tour exhibitions of Australian cultural material across Australia. The Visions of Australia Committee's role is to assess applications and make funding recommendations to the Minister. The Visions program makes a significant contribution to the cultural lives of Australians by providing them with high-quality cultural exhibitions, particularly in regional and remote areas.

See www.arts.gov.au/visions for further information.