

**Museums
& Galleries
of NSW**

Annual Review 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

Museums & Galleries of NSW acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and all the other Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay respect to them as First Nations people with continuing connection to land, place, waters and community.

As a NSW-based cultural organisation, we value the role NSW Aboriginal peoples play in maintaining and continuing culture.

Contents

CEO & Chair's Report	2
What We Do	5
Highlights in 2024	6
Sector Advice Service	16
M&G NSW Site Visits	19
Diversity	19
Communications	22
Partnerships in 2024	24
Advocacy and further impacts	28
Devolved funding	30

Front cover: M&G NSW Board visit the Riverina, Museum of the Riverina.
Photo: Campbell Cole
Sandstone texture: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dietmardownunder/>

CEO & Chair's Report

2024 was another big year for Museums & Galleries of NSW and the sector. We have continued to deliver on our strategic objectives and focused on initiatives identified in our **2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan** to build sector resilience; foster regional partnerships and storytelling; and enhance national touring capacity. These areas continue to be high priorities for the sector; and we will build on the successes of 2024 to deliver greater support to the sector across each of these areas.

Operating in an increasingly volatile environment remained topical for many organisations in 2024. We delivered 6 **Let's Get Prepared** workshops in 2024, reaching 113 people from 42 organisations, to enhance disaster preparedness. These workshops are part of a suite of important sector development programs delivered by Museums & Galleries of NSW. Our other development programs include the Standards and Museum Advisors programs, which reached almost 80 organisations. Our development programs provide vital capacity and capability building support for smaller museums and galleries. We will continue to deliver and improve these programs into 2025.

Our focus on fostering regional partnerships and storytelling is primarily being delivered through Storyplace. Access to Storyplace continues to increase. The website has grown to 933 stories, accessed by 15,163 users. We also delivered 2 digitisation workshops in community museums in North West NSW. The Storyplace Roadshow was delivered in partnership with Museums of History NSW and included workshops on engaging with schools through collections, which were held in partnership with 6 small museums and other regional collecting bodies across the state.

Museums & Galleries of NSW secured 4 Year Delivery Partners funding through Creative Australia as one of the 7 NETS agencies (National Exhibitions Touring Support) in 2024. We thank Creative Australia for this support, which will assist in the delivery of a range of initiatives to enhance exhibition touring nationally. This will include the development of a new website, implementing a set of Standards for Exhibition Touring, along with new touring resources and sector development programs.

Significantly, 2024 also saw the NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA) become its own independent organisation, with a separate office in The Arts Exchange. This is a significant achievement that delivered on the key recommendation from the 2011 summit **Keeping places & beyond: building cultural futures in NSW**. We would like to acknowledge ACHAA's CEO Steve Miller, on this achievement, as well as the ACHAA team, Elias Wilson and Isabel Wilson for their contributions to the team effort in this remarkable milestone.

Our exhibition touring program continues to strengthen. In 2024, we delivered high quality cultural products across the nation for all Australians to access, with 8 touring projects being presented across 31 Venues, and seen by audiences numbering 141,088. These tours are a critical part of ensuring all members of our community can access exhibitions, particularly outside of metropolitan areas and in regional areas.

We also administered \$420,210 of funding in 2024 including Volunteer Museum Grants; the Audience Development Fund; Museum Advisor Program, NSW Health Infrastructure and Volunteer-led Museums Stipend Program. The Sir William Dobell Art Foundation also recognised the impact of our organisation and renewed their partnership with us to administer the Dobell Exhibition Grant through to 2030. We thank the Foundation for their continued belief in the importance of this program.

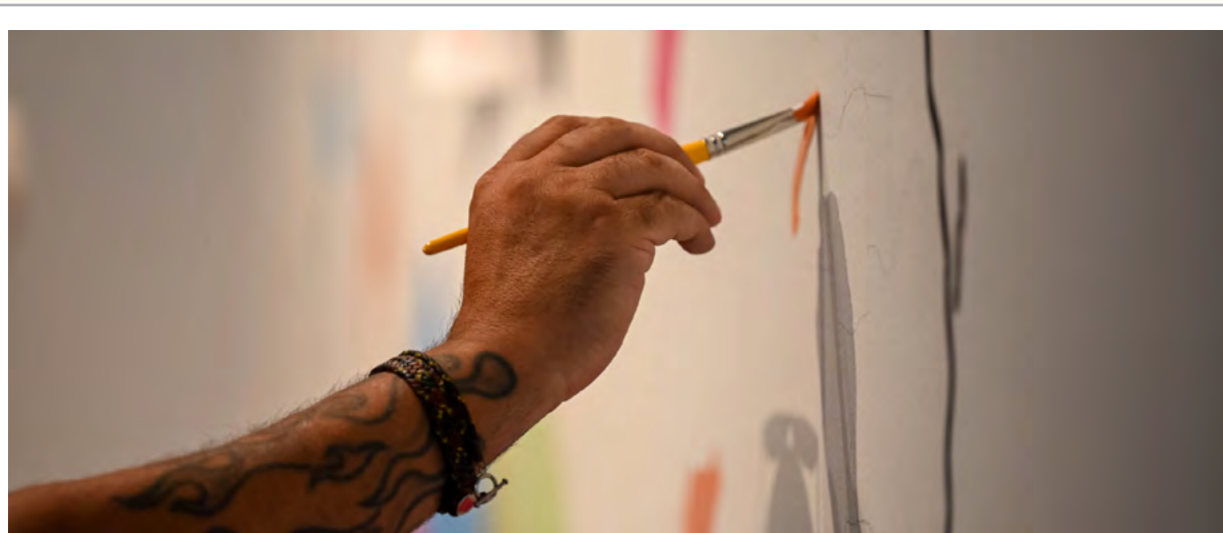
Create NSW, as our primary funding partner, acknowledged M&G NSW's important role as a peak body for the NSW museum and gallery sector, and awarded our organisation 4+4 Multi-Year Funding commencing in 2026. This is a vote of confidence in the organisation,

and we thank Create NSW and the NSW Government for this decision. We will be undertaking further detailed planning in 2025 on this funding as we continue to engage with our stakeholders and partners.

Finally, we both offer our sincere thanks to the entire team at Museums & Galleries of NSW for their contributions to these fantastic achievements in 2024. We look forward to working collaboratively in 2025 on more extraordinary achievements. We would also like to extend our thanks and acknowledgement to our Peers, Museum Advisors, Standards Reviewers, artists and Board members. Each of you play a critical role in ensuring communities across the state continue to receive access to first class cultural experiences. With cost of living challenges continuing, it is now more than ever important that first class cultural experiences remain accessible to all in our community and not just the few.

Kylie Tung
Chair, M&G NSW

Brett Adlington
CEO, M&G NSW



Opposite: Tony Albert, *Terra Nullius (with Scrooge)*, participatory work in progress, 2021-ongoing, as part of *OCCURRENT AFFAIR* at Gosford Regional Gallery, 2024. Photo: Travis De Vries



What we do

Museums & Galleries of NSW advocates for and supports small to medium public museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres and keeping places in NSW.

Our Purpose

To support small to medium galleries, museums and Aboriginal cultural centres in NSW to maximise their impact and help create strong and thriving local communities.

Our Values

Respect - We value Aboriginal people and their right to cultural ownership and their need for cultural self-determination.

Relevant - We remain relevant to contemporary cultures, government policy, industry, community and sector needs.

Collaborative - We embrace a spirit of sharing, partnering and learning.

Inclusive - We believe that diversity across cultures, people, ability and geography represents a strong sector and organisation.

Ethical - We are trustworthy, accountable and transparent, and work consciously to increase diversity and environmental sustainability.

Our Methods and Outputs

M&G NSW uses four key methods to assist museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres and keeping places to maximise their cultural impact within communities and across the State.

The four methods used are:

1. Services - providing programs and support

These include the promotion of sector organisations and activities, touring exhibitions, capacity building programs, formal and informal learning opportunities, skill development workshops, seminars and events.

2. Resources - advice, fact sheets and grant funding

These include a range of alternative and targeted funding opportunities, for small and large projects, and widely used 'on-demand' text and media-rich practical guides, discussion papers, case studies and research reports are undertaken for and about the sector.

3. Connections - enhancing direct and social media communication

Our programs create and provide opportunities for people to connect face to face and remotely. We provide contacts and facilitate connections across the state.

4. Governance - promoting transparency, accountability and integrity

We observe strong governance to ensure stability, sustainability, transparency and accountability. This keeps the organisation connected to its agreed KPIs, with purposeful Board engagement, managed risk and financial health.

Highlights in 2024

NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA) independence

2024 saw the first year of operation of ACHAA as an independent, Aboriginal-led, organisation. M&G NSW has provided secretariat support for ACHAA since its inception in 2012 and continues to work with the organisation. At independence, M&G NSW and ACHAA signed a Service Agreement outlining mutual roles of support. Over time, this agreement will be adjusted to recognise ACHAA's development as a major peak body for the sector.



Above: IMAGinE Awards 2024, Laura Fernando accepts the ACHAA award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts on behalf of Donna Biles Fernando, with Auntie Jeanette Crew. Photo: Jacquie Manning

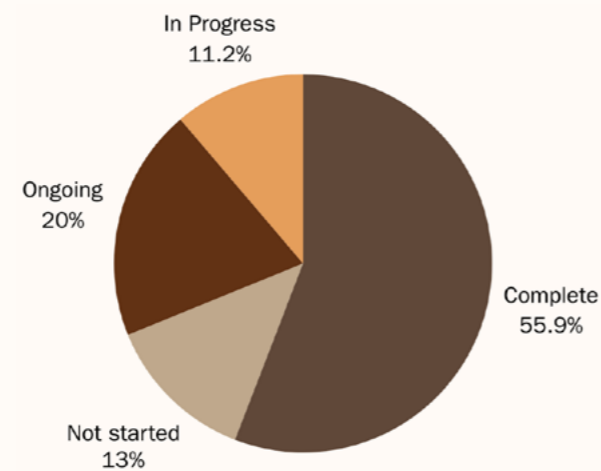
Opposite: Dale Maxwell-Smith on a site visit to Anglican Parish of Port Macquarie St Thomas' Church

Reconciliation Action Plan

In 2024, we launched our [third RAP](#), and our second Innovate RAP, which has become a vital vehicle for our organisation to monitor progress in areas supporting First Nations peoples. Part of this activity included: Deep First Nations engagement embedded in to touring exhibition program; Continuation of conversations with ACHAA on NSW Aboriginal culture at staff meetings; Dedicated MS Teams channel for staff to share First Nations stories; attendance of staff at various First Nations events (such as UTS event *Tokenist, ally or accomplice?*).

M&G NSW was able to talk about its RAP journey with the [Australian Institute for Company Directors](#) acknowledging National Reconciliation Action Week and in a panel discussion with the Professional Historians Association (NSW-ACT).

RAP 2024 Deliverables



Major Funding secured

Under the new Create NSW Arts and Cultural Funding Program, M&G NSW secured 4+4 funding, offering long term financial stability and greater flexibility in program delivery. Changes to the M&G NSW program delivery will be announced in 2025 for implementation from 2026.

As one of the 7 state National Exhibition Touring Support (NETS) agencies, Delivery Partners Funding through Creative Australia was secured by M&G NSW on behalf of the network. This program, commencing in 2025, will provide a range of initiatives to enhance the touring sector nationally.

Sector Benchmarking

At the end of 2024, we shared with the sector new Benchmarking resources for small to medium [museums](#) and [galleries](#) with salaried staff. Based on 2022 Sector Census data, and recently acquired statistics, these resources allow organisations to compare where they sit alongside like sized organisations based on staffing, programs, collections and budgets. We aim to provide updated Benchmarking on a more regular basis.

Let's Get Prepared

Our disaster planning program, **Let's Get Prepared**, continued throughout 2024 with workshops delivered at Bangalow Heritage House Museum, Newcastle Museum (x2), Manilla Town Hall, The Slim Dusty Centre (Kempsey) and Yarrowarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre. Across the year, 113 individuals took part in the training, representing 42 organisations.

Workshops are tailored to the region, and cover traditional disaster planning as well as theory, practical examples, cost and resource effective measures and a particular focus on collaboration and networking between local organisations. Participants ranged from museum volunteers, regional gallery staff and risk management staff from local government. Each workshop informed M&G NSW's knowledge and ability to support the sector through future disasters.



Highlights in 2024

IMAGinE Awards

The IMAGinE Awards were held at Paddington Town Hall in November, with over 250 representatives from museums, galleries, and Aboriginal cultural organisations attending. This prestigious annual event, with 134 nominations received in 2024, recognises the exceptional achievements of cultural institutions and individuals, with this year's winners showcasing outstanding excellence in exhibitions, community engagement, and accessibility initiatives.

The inaugural Accessible Arts NSW Awards for Engagement and Exhibitions were respectively won by Gosford Regional Gallery for *Studio Gossie* and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre for *Sensorial*. Rachel Burns from Nambucca Headland Museum won the Volunteer Achievement Award, while the ACHAA Award for Excellence by an Aboriginal Curator went to Meagan Gerrard from the Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation for *Secrets of Dawn*. The ACHAA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage and Arts went to the late Donna Biles Fernando. See the [full list of winners here](#).

Stipend Program

The 'Lights On, Doors Open' funding program for volunteer-led museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces continued throughout 2024. Launched in 2023 with funding from the NSW Government, this program was aimed to relieve financial pressures faced by these small organisations through a quick and efficient grants process. By January 2025, funding for this program had been fully allocated to 113 organisations.

"The Stipend Program is a great idea. The Society appreciates that M&G NSW trust the Society to use the funding as best as it sees fit."

"Museums & Galleries of NSW grant programs are instrumental in supporting the growth and relevance of cultural institutions. By prioritising community engagement, capacity building, and innovative projects, these programs can help museums fulfil their vital role in preserving and sharing cultural heritage."

- Stipend recipients



Storyplace

Extending [Storyplace](#) and [Storyplace Roadshow](#) continued through 2024 with funding from Create NSW and partnerships with Powerhouse and Museums of History NSW (MHNSW). As part of this partnership, MHNSW completed the production of 5 new video resources on museum practice. Storyplace Roadshow toured 6 workshops on Storyplace, education programming and collection management to 124 individuals representing 71 collecting organisations, while Extending Storyplace travelled to and digitised at 4 locations and collections across the north west and Far North Coast of NSW including: Inverell Pioneer Village Museum, Namoi Echo Museum (Wee Waa) Iluka Museum (Iluka) and New Italy Museum (New Italy).

Museum Advisors Program

The Museum Advisor Program is one of our signature programs offered in partnership with local government. In 2024, 11 Advisors supported a range of activities for 75 museums/collecting organisations in 18 local government areas across the state.

In 2024, the Museum Advisor Program has had a significant impact by assisting museums in applying for and securing grants, running training workshops to build capacity, connecting museums with professionals to provide expert guidance,

and addressing the common issue of missing foundational documents, helping museums establish essential governance and operational frameworks.

Standards Program

In 2024, we implemented a region-based Standards Program to enable more organisations to participate. The Northern Rivers was our focus, with Alumny Creek School Museum, Ballina District and Historical Museum, Iluka Museum and Evans Head Living Museum taking part in the program. In 2025, the Standards Program will take place in the Tamworth region.

"For those of us who have had no professional training in museum management, the Standards Program provided an affirmation that we were 'on the right track', giving us the confidence we needed to progress. It provided the impetus to re-visit and examine our policies, procedures and governance documents to ensure they were current, up-to-date and relevant. In particular, it provided the opportunity to discuss the collection development policy with external professionals, to assess the collection as a whole, and the individual components."

- Alumny Creek School Museum

Opposite: IMAGinE Awards 2024

Above: Museum Advisors meeting, Art Gallery of NSW

Highlights in 2024

Engagement with NSW LGAs

The breadth of M&G NSW's impact throughout 2024 is evidenced by our engagement with 65% of NSW local government areas. We measure this engagement through locations of our site visits; organisations we have funded; LGAs we have provided detailed and specific advice for; Standards and Museum Advisor locations; touring exhibition venues and other M&G NSW programs and events.

Board Activity

The annual Board trip to regional NSW took place in the Riverina in August, with the CEO, Finance Manager and Board members visiting Wagga Wagga Art Gallery; Museum of the Riverina, The Station Creative Workspace and Ambo Gallery (Eastern Riverina Arts); Up to Date Store & Coolamon RSL Museum; Greens Gunyah Museum (Lockhart) and the CAD Factory. These trips are a chance for Board members to hear directly from sector staff and volunteers and to witness first-hand the great work these organisations are doing and the impact they make on their local communities.

After 8 years on the Board, the terms of Susi Muddiman (OAM) and Ray Christison concluded in 2024 and they were replaced by Sarah Gurich and Margot Jolly. Kylie Tung was appointed Chair (replacing Ray Christison). Other continuing Board members were Judy Jaeger, Suzanne Cotter, Danny Yap, Phil Gordon and Tamara Hynd.

Placement Program

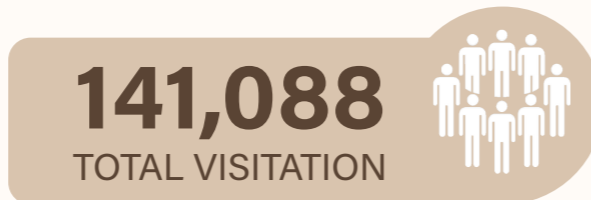
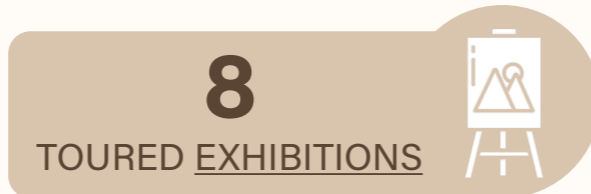
In 2024 9 funding recipients successfully completed their 2 week placements including 3 international Fellowships, 4 Mentorships and 2 Volunteer placements.

New Touring Projects launched

In 2024, we launched [Primavera: Young Australian Artists](#), touring in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art, and being shown in 9 regional galleries across the country. This exhibition joins 8 other projects that toured throughout 2024.

In 2024, we secured \$189,577 through the Office of the Arts' Visions of Australia program to tour **Dr Christian Thompson AO | House of Gold**.

We are also supporting Verge Gallery for their tour of **ESSSENSSE by HOSSEI**. This project received funding of \$89,885 from the Create NSW Regional Arts Touring fund.

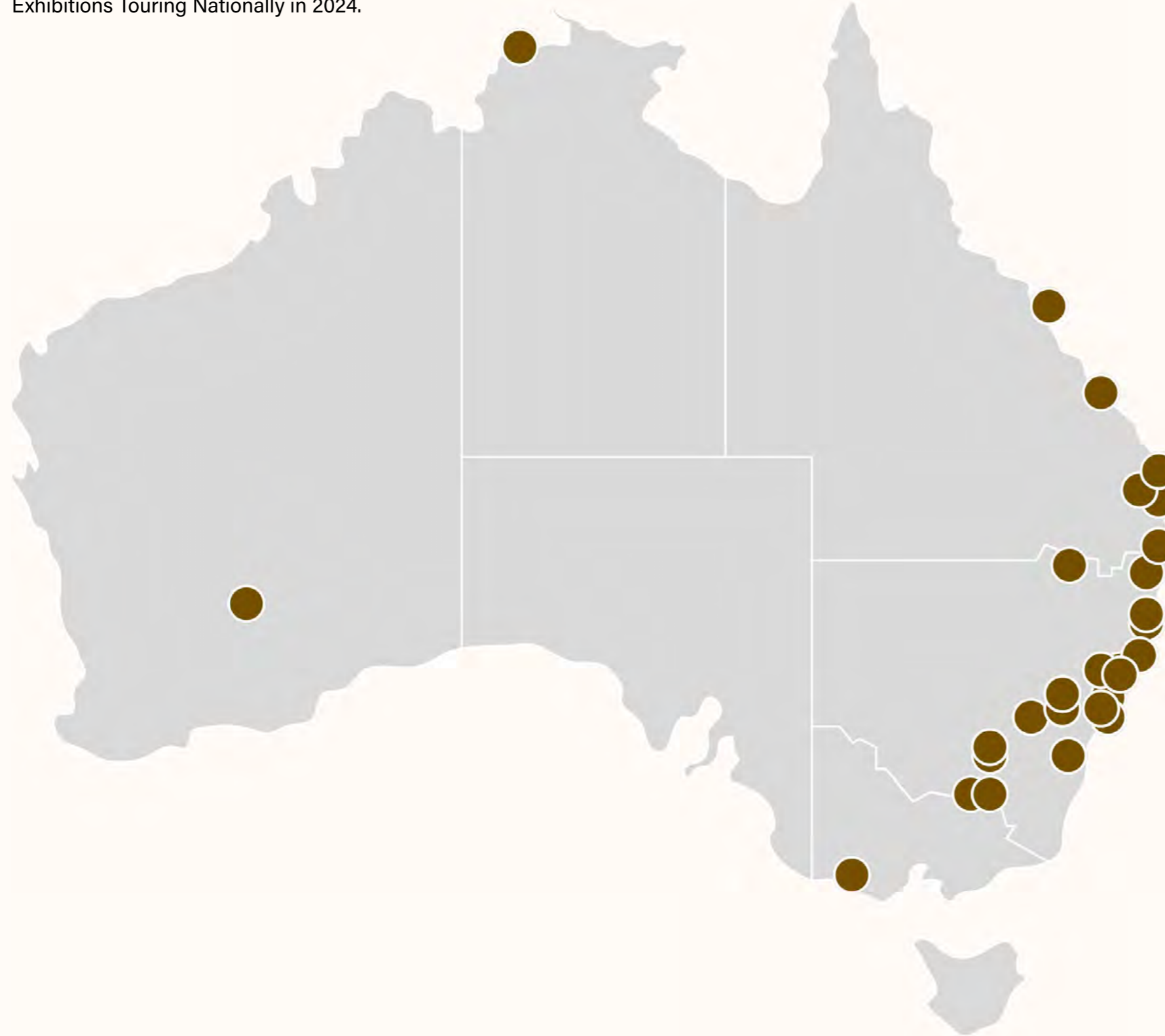


Top: Alstonville Storyplace Roadshow. Photo: Natalie Grono
Bottom: M&G NSW Board visit the Riverina, Museum of the Riverina. Photo: Campbell Cole

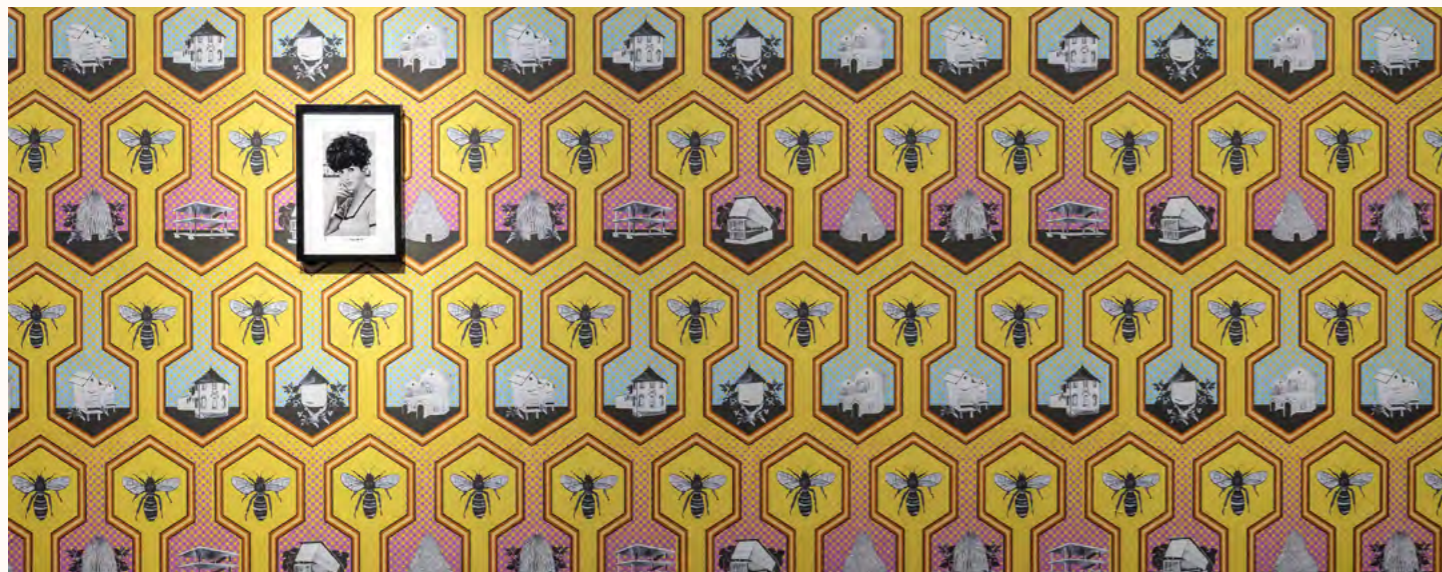
Highlights in 2024

Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions Touring Nationally in 2024.



Touring Exhibition	Venues	Audience Numbers
<i>Zanny Begg These Stories Will be Different</i>	3	4,789 visitors NSW 6,963 Nationally (total)
<i>Suspended Moment</i>	1	635 visitors NSW
<i>proppaNOW OCURRENT AFFAIR</i>	3	6,291 visitors NSW 12,058 Nationally (total)
<i>Dennis Golding POWER - The Future is Here</i>	5	43,629 visitors NSW
<i>52 ACTIONS</i>	5	5,871 visitors NSW 55,141 Nationally (total)
<i>Anna Louise Richardson The Good</i>	5	3,436 visitors NSW 17,968 Nationally (total)
<i>Primavera: Young Australian Artists</i>	3	176 visitors NSW 4,570 Nationally (total)
<i>Storyplace Roadshow</i>	6	124 visitors NSW
Total	31	64,951 visitors NSW 141,088 Nationally (total)



Top: *Suspended Moment*, installation view at Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, 2023/24. Image courtesy of Goulburn Regional Art Gallery. Photo: Silversalt Photography.

Middle: Zanny Begg | *These Stories Will be Different*, installation view at UniSC Gallery, 2024. Photo: Carl Warner.

Bottom: Anna Louise Richardson | *The Good*, installation view Wangaratta Art Gallery 2024. Photo: Jeremy Weirhauch.



Top left: Dennis Golding | *POWER – The Future is Here*, installation view Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 2024. Photo: Leighsa Cox.

Bottom left: Zanny Begg | *These Stories Will be Different*, installation view Glasshouse Port Macquarie, 2024. Photo: Jeremy Rogers.

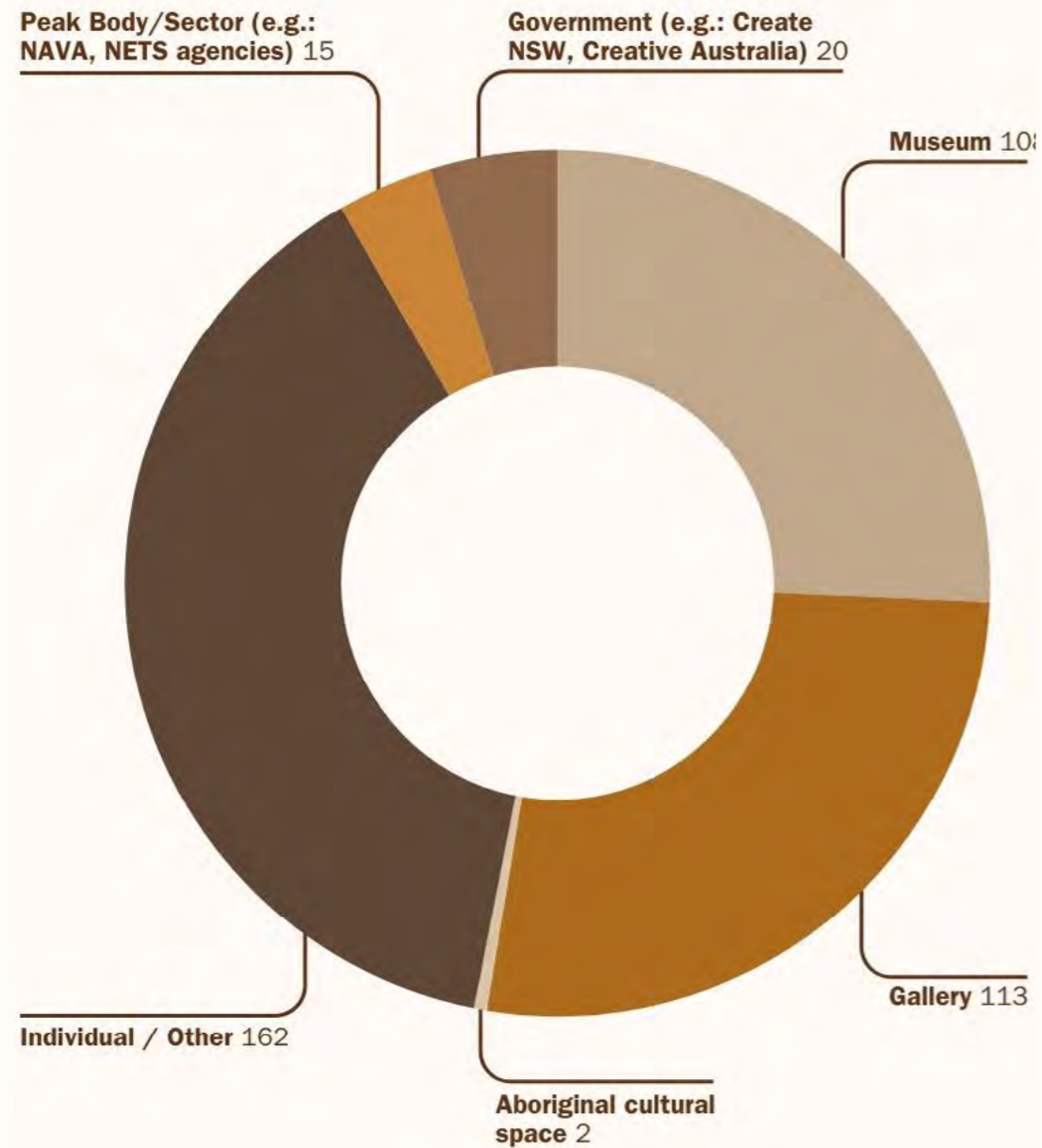
Top right: Primavera | *Young Australian Artists*, installation view Noosa Regional Gallery, 2024. Photo courtesy Noosa Regional Gallery.

Bottom right: The Blak Laundry takeover, public program for *OCCURRENT AFFAIR*, UniSC Art Gallery, 2024. Photo: Sasha Parlett, Red Handed Productions.

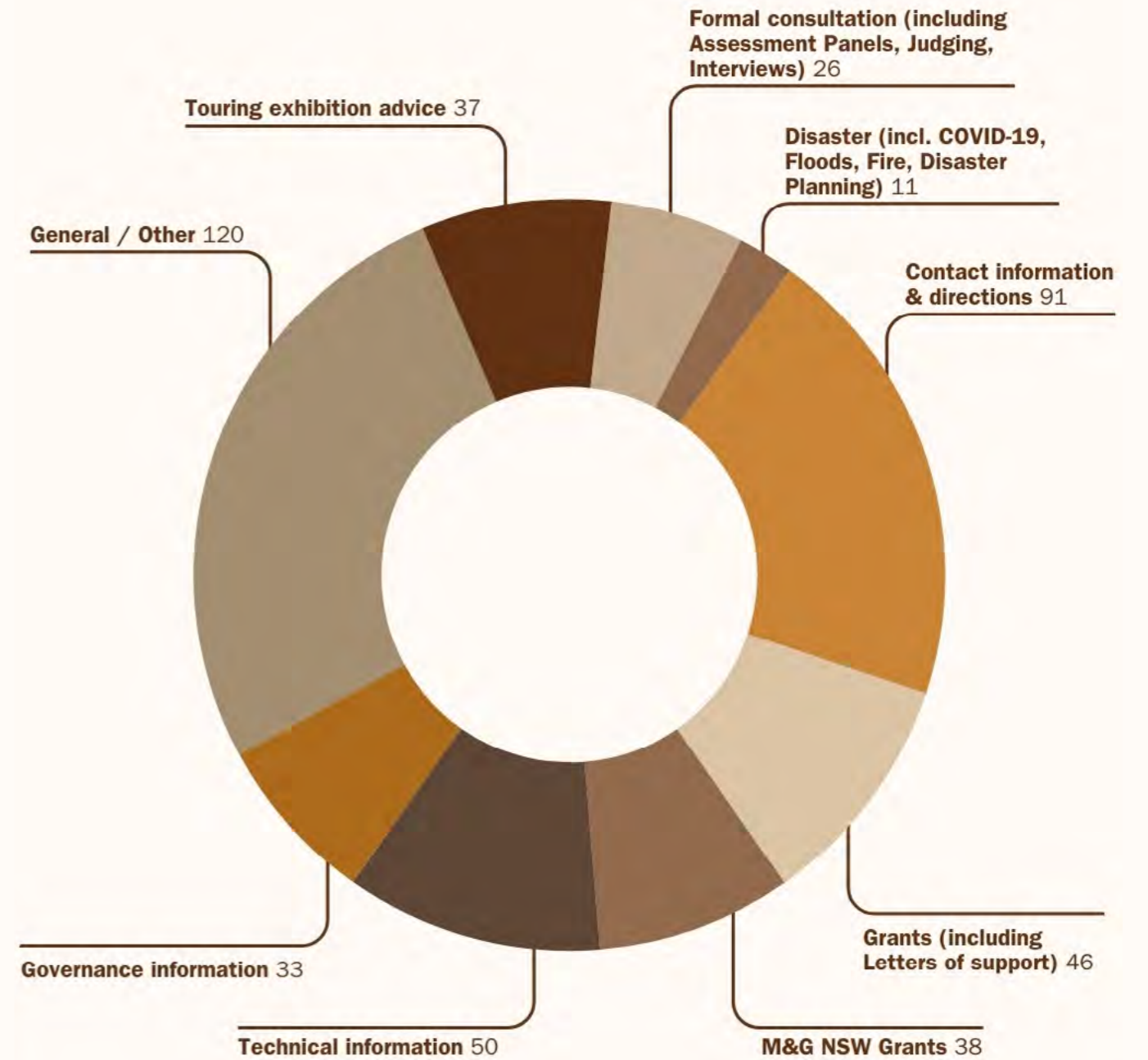
Sector Advice Service in 2024

We handled 412 enquiries, amounting to 244 hours through the Sector Advice Service.

Type of organisation seeking advice

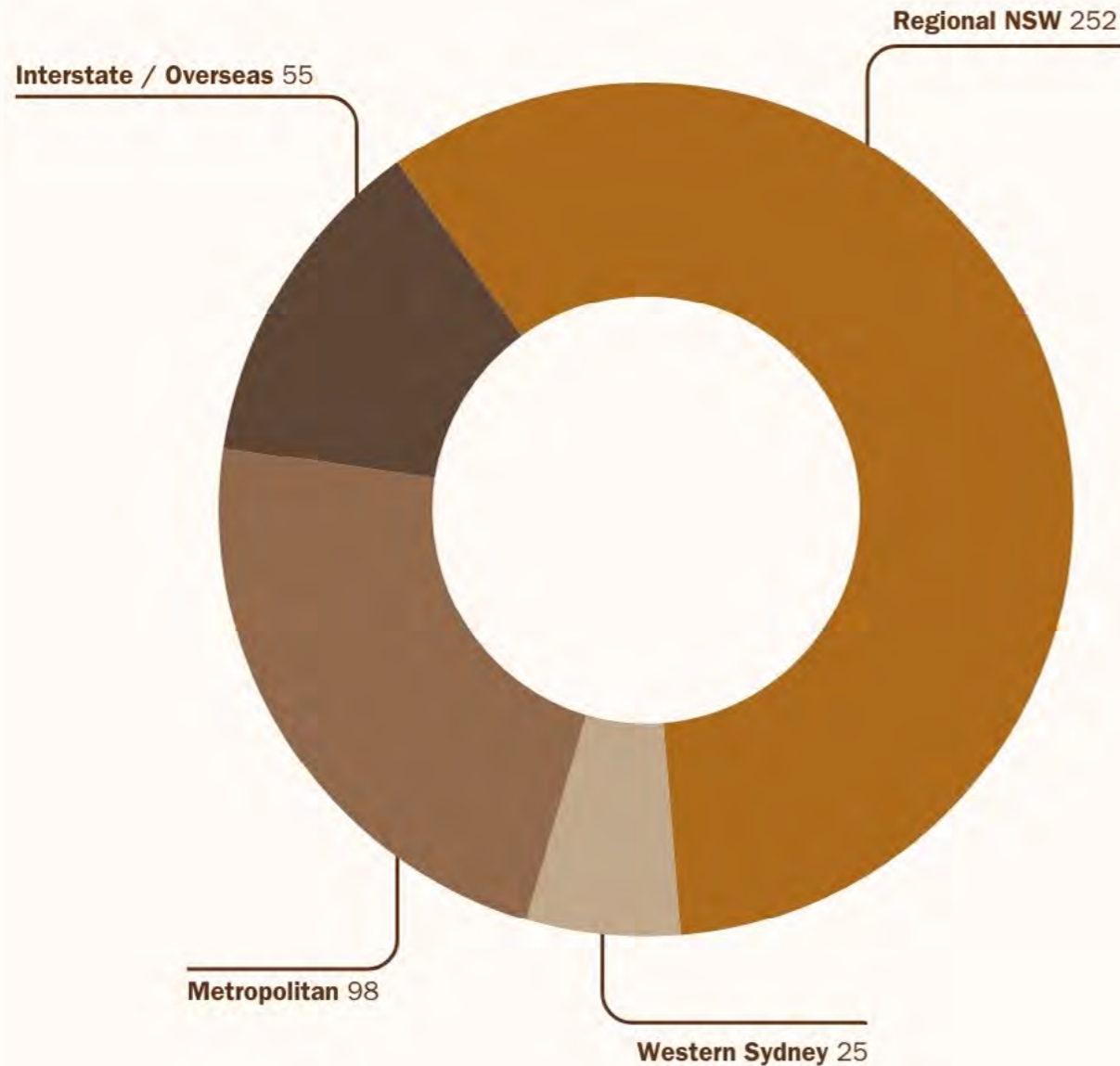


Type of information provided



Sector Advice Service in 2024

Create NSW Priority Area



M&G NSW Site Visits in 2024

M&G NSW staff and board visited **89 organisations** in 2024.

While online meetings allow for efficient ways to connect, site visits ensure our staff and board understand the nuances and complexities facing our sector.

Site visit location		Type of organisation	
Regional NSW	40	Museum	31
Western Sydney	7	Gallery	42
Metropolitan	36	Aboriginal Cultural Centre	2
Interstate	6	Other	14

Diversity

The organisation's adopted [Diversity Statement](#) acknowledges our leadership, working environment and programming. During 2024, our Board of 8 was represented by 6 women, with 50% Board representing Regional NSW. There is an ongoing commitment to ensure Aboriginal representation on the Board. Throughout 2024, 40% of permanent and contract staff lived outside metropolitan Sydney, including a regionally-based CEO. Additionally, 60% of our Museum Advisors are located outside Metropolitan Sydney. In 2024, 4 of our 9 touring projects were 100% female identifying artists, with 2 exhibition projects being First Nations led and including only First Nations artists. An additional 2 touring projects included First Nations content.



Top middle: IMAGinE Awards 2024
Top right: Blue Mountains Cultural Centre accept IMAGinE Award 2024 for *sensorial* in the Accessible Arts Award for Access and Inclusion, Exhibition Projects category
Middle left: IMAGinE Awards 2024
Middle centre: Julian Bickersteth, CEO, International Conservation Services, Major Sponsor of the Awards.
Bottom left: Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Blacktown Arts with IMAGinE Award 2024 for *Lifting the Tapu* in the Engagement Programs, Large Organisations category
Bottom right: IMAGinE Awards 2024

Communications

2024 was a year of strong digital engagement for Museums & Galleries of NSW. The website saw significant traffic, receiving 421,263 visits from 276,780 unique users, with visitors from NSW making up 51% of all traffic. In all, it had a total of 650,179 pages viewed. The website maintains a listing of 490 NSW museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres. In many instances, these pages are the only web presence and contact point for smaller organisations. The listings of Organisations had 155,100 page views.

Storyplace also demonstrated strong user engagement, reinforcing its role as a valuable resource. Our social media presence continued to grow across all platforms, with notable increases in Instagram followers and LinkedIn engagement. Looking ahead, continued focus on content strategy and digital outreach will further enhance sector support and visibility.

Alert e-newsletter

	2024	2023
Number of subscribers	5,283	5,092
Number published	27	26

Social media

	2024	New followers
Facebook fans	5,176	808
Instagram followers	4,375	540
LinkedIn followers	4,501	422

421,263
WEBSITE VISITORS

490
MUSEUM & GALLERY LISTINGS

51%
WEBSITE TRAFFIC FROM NSW

650,179
TOTAL WEB PAGE VIEWS



Opposite: Caroline Whitley, Senior Conservator at International Conservation Services.

Above: Conservators from International Conservation Services

Partnerships in 2024

Partnerships are a key avenue for M&G NSW to diversify support for the sector and leverage skills and expertise to support our work, grow connections and opportunities.

Additional partnerships in 2024 included:

With **Museums of History NSW**, delivered 6 workshops across regional NSW for the Storyplace Roadshow. This also included MHNSW producing 5 video resources on museum practice.

Continued to partner with the **Powerhouse** to deliver the **Regional Stakeholders Forum**. This also included dispersing Bursaries provided by Powerhouse to support the travel of representatives from Clyde River & Batemans Bay Historical Society; Greens Gynyah Museum, Lockhart and District Historical Society; Macleay River Historical Society; Evans Head Living Museum and Port Macquarie Museum

Progressed Storyplace partnership with the **Powerhouse**.

Worked with the 6 other state and territory-based **NETS** (National Exhibition Touring Support) agencies to share resources and knowledge around touring exhibitions. This included securing Delivery Partners funding through Creative Australia.

Participated in sector networking with **National Public Galleries Alliance** members and collaborated on federal government budget submission.

Participated in monthly **Visual Arts Roundtable**, convened by NAVA.

The Sector Development Manager represented the organisation on **The National Standards working party** for Australian Museums and Galleries.

Partnered on touring exhibitions with **Artspace Sydney NSW**; Solid Ground (Carriageworks, and Blacktown Arts) NSW; **MONA** (Museum of Old and New Art) TAS; **ACCA** (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art) VIC; **The Condensery** QLD; **Wagga Wagga Art Gallery** NSW; **University of Queensland Art Museum** (UQ Art Museum) QLD; **UNSW Galleries** NSW; **Storyplace** NSW; **Museums of History NSW**; **ACHAA** (NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Arts Association), **Museum of Contemporary Art Australia** (MCA), NSW; **4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art**, NSW and **Verge Gallery**, NSW.

Supported NSW cultural facilities including **Cowra Regional Gallery**; **The Glasshouse, Port Macquarie**; **Granville Art Centre**; **Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree**; **Maitland Regional Art Gallery**; **Bank Art Museum Moree**; **Bondi Pavilion**; **Grafton Regional Gallery**; **Gosford Regional Gallery** and **Wagga Wagga Art Gallery** as well as national institutions such as **The Condensery**, Qld; **Noosa Regional Gallery**, Qld, **Wangaratta Art Gallery**, VIC; **Warrnambool Art Gallery**, VIC; **Goldfields Arts Centre**, Kalgoorlie WA; **University of the Sunshine Coast Gallery**, QLD and **Artspace Mackay**, QLD with the delivery of touring exhibitions, associated engagement activities and training events for sector staff and volunteers.

Artspace Sydney; **Paddington Town Hall** (The City of Sydney); **Bangalow Heritage House Museum**; **Hyde Park Barracks** (MHNSW); **Manilla Town Hall**, (Tamworth Regional Council); **Newcastle Museum**; **Powerhouse Castlehill**; **QTOPIA**; **The Slim Dusty Centre, Kempsey**; and **Yarrowarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre** all partnered with M&G NSW to host

and deliver professional development events. Extending Storyplace partners: **Namoi Echo Museum**, **Wee Waa**, **Pioneer Village Museum**, **Inverell**, **Iluka Museum**, **Iluka** and **New Italy Museum** at New Italy. Storyplace Roadshow workshop delivery partners included: **Albury Library Museum**, **Bathurst Museums**, **Maitland Library**, **Port Macquarie Historical Society & Museum** and **Museum of the Riverina**.

Partnership with **The Centre for Volunteering** in hosting a webinar on Strategies for Volunteer Operated Museums & Galleries with 70 attendees.

With **Sydney Contemporary**, supported regional galleries in NSW in being able to offer their own supporters complimentary VIP access to the art fair.

Partnered with the **National Library of Australia** and **Museums & Galleries Queensland** to host a webinar on changes to collection platform, Trove.



Opposite: Alstonville Storyplace Roadshow.
Photo: Natalie Grono



Primavera | Young Australian Artists, installation view The Condensery, Somerset Regional Art Gallery, 2024. Photo: Jim Filmer.

Advocacy and further impacts

M&G NSW plays an active role across many aspects of the NSW cultural sector. While many of our programs have an immediate and positive effect on the organisations and communities we support, such as the Standards Program, touring exhibitions and skill development programs, others may evolve over longer periods of time and be less visible.

- M&G NSW advocacy led to the establishment of the **Lights On, Doors Open** stipend program with devolved funding provided by Create NSW. While implemented and announced in 2023, 2024 saw the program reach over 100 organisations across the state. By the start of 2025, allocations for this important pilot program were exhausted.
- In late 2023, M&G NSW joined many other sector partners to advocate for the continuation of Griffith University Art Museum after it was announced that the University would be closing the Museum. After a 12-month review, Griffith University announced: *'This productive process has provided several recommendations and key findings with the aim to strengthen and enhance GUAM's reputation and position as one of Australia's significant university art museums, which we will now implement.'*

M&G NSW continuously advocates for the sector through regular meetings with Create NSW, correspondence to government, including local government, participating in interview and funding assessment panels and collaborating with other peak bodies to share content for submissions and consultation. Sometimes this advocacy is necessarily confidential, other times it is more public.



Above: Cape making workshop for Dennis Golding | *POWER - The Future is Here*, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, 2024. Photo: Courtesy Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

Opposite: Museum Advisors and Local Government Museum Managers meeting, site tour of Hyde Park Barracks

Across 2024 Advocacy included:

Written Submissions:

- [Joint Select Committee on Arts and Music Education and Training in NSW](#). This also included the CEO presenting at a Committee Hearing at NSW Parliament House
- [Refresh of Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections](#)

Direct Advocacy:

- Letter to Queensland University of Technology regards cessation of 2025 programming at QUT Art Museum
- Joint letter with NAVA and Arts Northern Rivers to Southern Cross University, Lismore, regarding closure of Bachelor of Art and Design degree
- Meeting with NSW Arts Minister's Office outlining current challenges faced by the sector

- In April, we also provided direct support to a number of organisations across the Illawarra and Shellharbour affected by flood and storm damage

Consultation meetings, panels and roundtables:

- Creative Australia: Children, Young People and the Arts Report (with PGAV & M&G Qld)
- Regional Arts Network: Regional NSW Cultural Tourism Project
- Visual Arts, Craft and Design Focus group for Creative Australia's consultation for Service and Creative Skills Australia on workforce challenges in the creative industries
- Create NSW: Regional Arts Touring Round Table meetings
- Staff also participated in numerous interview panels and funding assessments

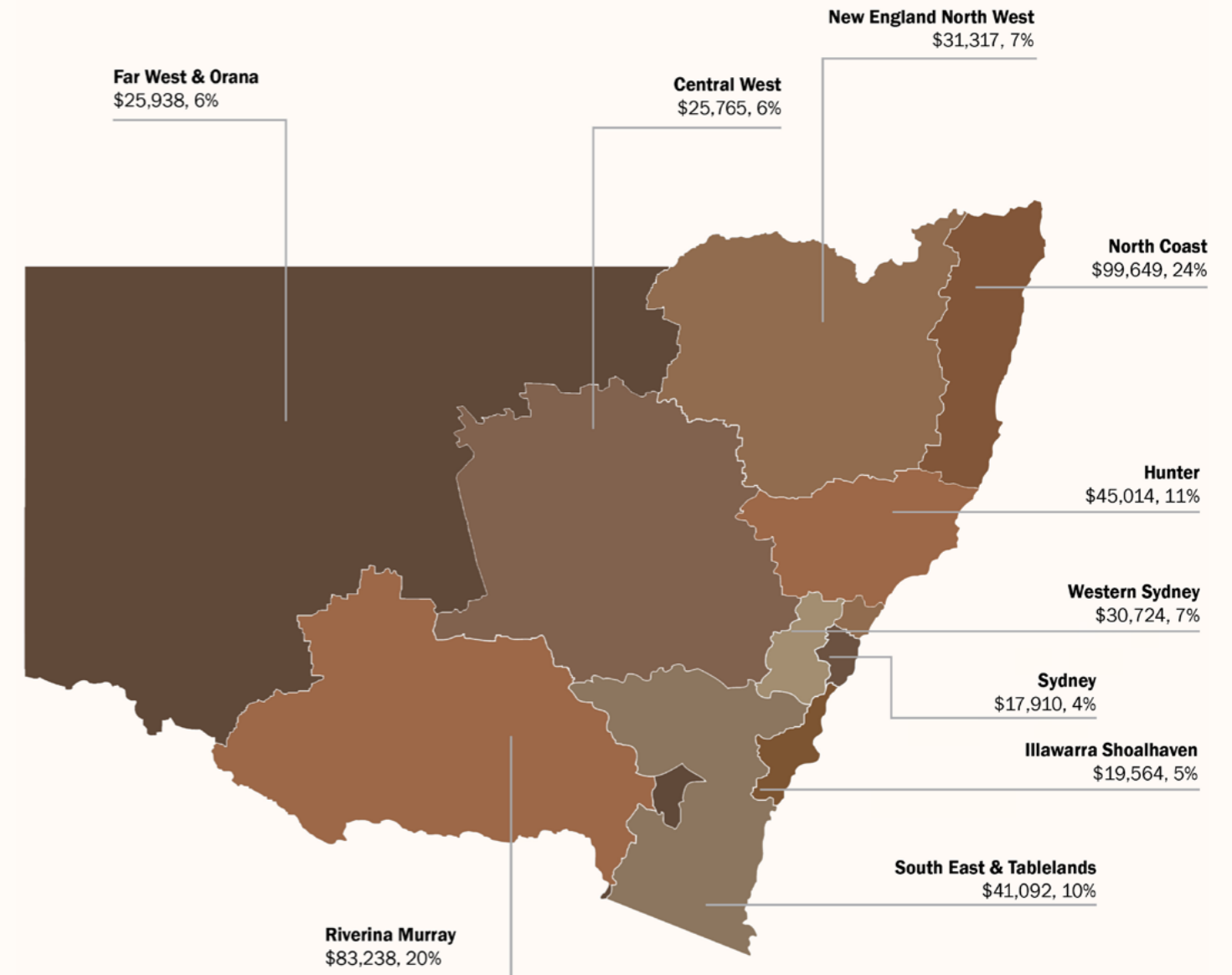


Devolved funding

In 2024, the organisation managed 4 Devolved Funding Programs on behalf of Create NSW - the **Audience Development Fund (ADF)**, **Placement Program**, **Stipend Program** and the **Volunteer Museum Grants**, as well as the **Dobell Exhibition Grant** supported by The Sir William Dobell Art Foundation and the **NSW Health Infrastructure Arts and Health Award**.

Program	Number of orgs supported	Total funding
Audience Development Fund	5	\$45,000
Volunteer Museum Grants	34	\$78,301
Lights On Doors Open Stipends	51	\$102,000
Dobell Exhibition Grant	2	\$40,000
NSW Health Infrastructure Arts and Health Award	1	\$10,000
Museum Advisor Program	15 (LGA's)	\$142,567
Regional Stakeholder Forum Bursaries (Powerhouse)	5	\$2,345
TOTAL	113	\$420,212

Devolved grants by region



Opposite page: Marie Humphrey, Evan's Head Living Museum during the Standards Program 2024

Additional acknowledgements

Museums & Galleries of NSW, including our Placement Programs, Audience Development Fund, 'Lights On, Doors Open' – Stipend Program and Volunteer Museum Grants are supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.



Storyplace is proudly funded by the NSW Government.



The IMAGInE Awards are an initiative of Museums & Galleries of NSW, developed with support from the Australian Museums and Galleries Association NSW and Regional and Public Galleries of NSW.

The 2024 IMAGInE Awards were made possible through the generous support of our sponsors, including International Conservation Services as the Major Sponsor of the Awards and the City of Sydney as Venue Partner for the IMAGInE Awards night.



The Regional Stakeholder Forum is presented in partnership with Regional Arts NSW and The Powerhouse Museum.



The Dobell Exhibition Grant Program is supported by the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation and managed by Museums & Galleries of NSW.



Touring Exhibition Program

Exhibitions touring nationally and in development in 2024

Primavera: Young Australian Artists

A Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition curated by Talia Smith. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



proppaNOW | OCCURRENT AFFAIR

An exhibition from The University of Queensland Art Museum touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. This project is assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



Dennis Golding | POWER – The Future is Here

A Solid Ground project with Dennis Golding and Alexandria Park Community School, curated by Kyra Kum-Sing, presented by Carriageworks and Blacktown Arts, and touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



Storyplace Roadshow

A Storyplace and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring project supported by Museums of History NSW and proudly funded by the NSW Government.



Zanny Begg | These Stories Will be Different

A UNSW Galleries and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Suspended Moment

A Carriageworks and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, developed in partnership with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne and the Museum of Old and New Art (Mona), Hobart. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. This project is assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



52 ACTIONS

52 ACTIONS was developed and curated by Artspace, Sydney. The exhibition is touring nationally with Artspace, Sydney, with support from Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government through Create NSW. It has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Visions of Australia program and through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. It is also supported by the City of Sydney and by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.



Anna Louise Richardson | The Good

Curated by Rachel Arndt & Dr Lee-Anne Hall. A Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, The Condensery and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition. This project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia and the Government of Western Australia through the Department, Culture and the Arts (WA). This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal art investment and advisory body.



In Development:

Dr Christian Thompson AO | House of Gold

A 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art exhibition, in partnership with Golden Dragon Museum Bendigo, supported by The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Global and touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program.



Museums & Galleries of NSW

Level 1, The Arts Exchange, 10 Hickson Rd, The Rocks NSW 2000
W: mgnsw.org.au | T: (02) 9270 3100 | E: comms@mgnsw.org.au