

**Museums  
& Galleries  
of NSW**

# Annual Review 2025



# 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.

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# CEO & Chair's Report

Museums & Galleries of NSW proudly present this Annual Review of our 2025 program, a year in which we strived to continue supporting this diverse and vital sector, with many highlights, including:

- delivering a ground-breaking touring exhibition program seen by over 100,000 people;
- overseeing the implementation Creative Australia's 4 Year Delivery of Partners Funding to the 7 NETS Australia touring exhibition agencies;
- partnering with Museums of History NSW on the inaugural Volunteer Symposium for NSW Regional and Community-Run Museums, and;
- completing the disaster training program, Let's Get Prepared for 388 volunteers from 47 organisations.

However, our greatest sense of accomplishment was our work collaborating with Regional Arts NSW, and the sector more broadly, in ensuring that the great impact of museums and galleries in communities across the state was better acknowledged and supported. While acknowledging that funding is always tight, we felt that our voices and concerns were heard and understood throughout government. Finishing the year with the IMAGinE Awards, as we always do, is public validation of the incredible work these organisations continually deliver.

2025 also marked a period of transition for Museums & Galleries of NSW as we prepared to implement a new operational funding model from 2026.

As a grateful recipient of Create NSW 4+4 Multi-Year Funding, we have had the opportunity to revisit our delivery model to ensure we can continue being a vital service to the sector. We believe that we have arrived at a place that will bring positive continuity and changes to our programs, while also allowing for greater flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

Our priorities remain: to support small-to-medium museums, galleries, and Aboriginal cultural centres; build skills and capabilities; advocate for the sector; and ensure communities across NSW have access to meaningful cultural experiences.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without the dedication of our volunteer Board and the entire team at Museums & Galleries of NSW. This includes not only our wonderful staff, but also our Peers, Museum Advisors, Standards Reviewers and artists. We thank you all.

**Kylie Tung**  
Chair, M&G NSW

**Brett Adlington**  
CEO, M&G NSW

# Staff and Board

## Museums & Galleries NSW Staff 2025

### Chief Executive Officer

Brett Adlington

### Finance and Administration Manager

John Thompson

### Exhibitions & Programs Manager

Susan Wachter

### Exhibitions Manager [Acting]

Ashleigh Reardon (parental leave from September)

### Exhibitions Coordinator

Kelly Price (to July)

### Exhibitions & Programs Lead

Fiona Pulford (parental leave replacement from September)

### Exhibitions & Programs Coordinator

Vanessa James (from September)

### Sector Development Manager

Emily Cullen

### Museums Coordinator

Alice Norwood (to September)

### Museums Coordinator

Alana Leslie (from September)

### Communications Manager

Jason Gee

### Communications Coordinator

Lana Marshall

### Training & Engagement Manager

Dale Maxwell-Smith

### Project Manager Storyplace

Kate Gahan (shared role)

### Project Manager Storyplace

Bren Donnellan (shared role)

## Museums & Galleries NSW Board 2025

Kylie Tung (Chair)

Phil Gordon (to April)

Dr Jilda Andrews (to September)

Tamara Hynd

Judy Jaeger

Danny Yap

Suzanne Cotter

Sarah Gurich

Margot Jolly

# 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.



HOSSEI | ESSSENSSE, Opening performance, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG), 2025. Image: Courtesy of BRAG. A Verge Gallery exhibition, touring in partnership with M&G NSW.

# Highlights in 2025

744

attendees at M&G NSW workshops/events

74

grants dispersed

31

workshops & events delivered\*

198

hours spent answering enquiries

103,306



audiences at M&G NSW touring exhibitions



engaged with

55%

of NSW LGA's through funding, touring exhibitions, events and visits

445,874



M&G NSW website users

8,428

school children engaged though touring

23

venues hosting a M&G NSW touring exhibition

687,362

M&G NSW & Storyplace website page views

34

event and exhibition partners

70

site visits by staff and board

\$346,249

amount of funding distributed

338

enquiries handled by M&G NSW staff

Photo: Regional Public Galleries Conference. Photo: Jacquie Manning.

\* includes major partnership conferences such as the Volunteer Symposium for NSW Regional and Community-Run Museums (MHNSW) and Regional Public Galleries NSW conference (RPG NSW)

# Highlights in 2025

## Volunteer Symposium for NSW Regional and Community-Run Museums

August saw the delivery of this inaugural 2-day Symposium held in partnership with Museums of History NSW (MHNSW) at The Mint in Sydney. More than 70 volunteers from across the state, alongside regional museum staff, MHNSW and M&G NSW teams enjoyed a packed program of presentations, discussions and hands-on workshops across 20+ breakout sessions covering topics such as succession planning, storytelling, collections care, engaging First Nations communities and school learning programs.

## Regional Public Galleries NSW conference

M&G NSW partnered with Regional Public Galleries NSW to deliver their biennial conference at Yarrila Arts and Museum on Gumbaynggirr Country (Coffs Harbour) in March. 79 delegates representing 39 organisations enjoyed a 2-day program which brought together artists, arts workers and community leaders to explore the theme of Creative

Wellbeing through the lenses of First Nations communities, audiences, artists and the creative sector.

## Storyplace

2025 saw Storyplace brought on as an ongoing program within M&G NSW, with the engagement of Kate Gahan and Bren Donnellan as Storyplace Project Managers (job share).

A partnership with the Powerhouse Museum and Port Macquarie Museum saw the commissioning of new digital stories. [Blackmans Point Yarn](#) and [Barayal Bila \(River Song\)](#) as told by Dr Aunty Rhonda Radley and Trish McInherny.

We also assisted with ongoing digitisation work at Land of the Beardies History House Museum and Research Centre (Glen Innes) as well as New Italy Museum. Objects from both organisations have been added to curriculum-based story content with 2 educators engaged to develop teaching resources to accompany this content. Curriculum-based learning will launch on the website in 2026.



**Opposite:** Bren Donnellan and Kate Gahan speaking at the Volunteer Symposium. Photo: Joshua Morris for Museums of History NSW.

**Top:** Regional Public Galleries NSW conference

**Bottom:** Volunteer Symposium for NSW Regional and Community-Run Museums. Photo: Joshua Morris for Museums of History NSW.

# Highlights in 2025

## Let's Get Prepared

2025 marked the conclusion of the delivery of [Let's Get Prepared](#), our series of workshops and resources designed for organisations to navigate the challenges of disaster planning funded through specific Create NSW funding.

Presented across eight regional areas with conservator and disaster expert Tegan Anthes, the workshops were tailored to each region. Workshops covered traditional disaster planning as well as theory, practical examples and effective measures focusing on collaboration and networking. Two

workshops were presented in each location, with the first workshop focusing on planning for disasters including understanding risks, resources needed and guiding steps during response and recovery; with the second follow up session allowing for practical salvage techniques to be demonstrated and experienced with mock objects in disaster scenarios.

While these funded workshops concluded in 2025, M&G NSW's commitment to supporting the sector in disaster planning and recovery will continue.



**Above:** Let's Get Prepared workshop at Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre in Deniliquin

**Opposite:** Standards Review Program 2025, Moonbi Museum

## Collections Response and Safe Storage Unit

As Cyclone Alfred loomed in February/ March, Create NSW announced the launch of a [public-private partnership](#) to provide urgent disaster response and conservation support for art, cultural, and heritage collections across NSW in times of crisis. Led by Create NSW in collaboration with International Conservation Services (ICS), International Art Services (IAS), Bunnings Australia and Museums & Galleries of NSW, this initiative offers specialist care and recovery services to protect cultural heritage at risk due to natural disasters.

The program builds on the 2022 Northern Rivers flooding disaster, when Create NSW partnered with ICS and IAS to remove and treat flood-affected state-significant cultural items. Recognising the need for a dedicated rapid-response service, the Collections Response and Safe Storage Unit has been established to ensure immediate action can be taken to safeguard NSW's irreplaceable cultural assets.

This initiative ensures that when a crisis occurs, NSW's valuable cultural and heritage materials can receive immediate expert care, minimising damage and preserving them for the future.

## Lights On, Doors Open Stipend Program

2025 saw the completion of this pilot program which was devolved by M&G NSW on behalf of Create NSW. 113 organisations received a stipend of \$2,000 to help them cover a wide range of essential projects that they would have otherwise needed to fundraise for. This provided museums with greater ownership over the ways in which the funds were spent and allowed for enhanced engagement with the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries 2.0*.

In the words of one museum: *'These grants enabled us to meet our necessary compliance while allowing us to focus on more creative projects to help make our properties financially better off and increase visitation.'*

M&G NSW continues to advocate for the continuation of this initiative.



# Highlights in 2025

## National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Australia

2025 marked the commencement of a renewed collaborative partnership between the 7 NETS Australia agencies thanks to Delivery Partners funding from Creative Australia. The network; consisting of Artback NT, ART ON THE MOVE, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Country Arts SA, Museums & Galleries Queensland, NETS Victoria and M&G NSW is committed to the delivery of best practice touring exhibitions of contemporary visual culture to remote, regional and metropolitan communities throughout Australia.

With M&G NSW acting as the lead agency for this project, in 2025 we

commenced work on a new NETS Australia website as well as the development of a new set of National Standards for Touring (being developed by ex-M&G NSW Exhibitions Manager, Olivia Welch) – both set for launch in 2026.

In October, representatives from all agencies had the opportunity to meet together in Darwin to discuss these projects and further consolidate our work.

M&G NSW continues to advocate for the continuation of this initiative.



**Above:** Staff from the 7 National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Australia agencies hosted by Artback NT in Darwin

## Museum Advisor Program

The Museum Advisor Program has been operating since 2000, and to date has been active in over 40 Local Government Areas. In 2025, the Program took place across 16 Local Government Areas as outlined below, with some key outcomes, including project managing Artist in Residence programs, post break-in support, pest management, grant assistance and exhibition development. More than 20 individual workshops were run across the program, including disaster preparedness, significance assessment training, textile storage and collection priorities.

- Albury City Council (Maggi Solly)
- Bega Valley Shire Council (Joan Kelly)
- Blue Mountains Council (Rebecca Turnbull)
- Broken Hill Council (John Petersen)
- Clarence Valley Council (Kate Gahan)
- Eurobodalla Shire Council (Lynn Collins)
- Greater Hume Shire Council (Maggi Solly)
- Lithgow City Council (Tegan Anthes)
- Lockhart Shire Council (Margôt Jolly)
- Murray River Council (Kim Biggs)
- Nambucca Valley Council (Joan Kelly)
- Narrandera Shire Council (Kim Biggs)
- Shoalhaven City Council (Tegan Anthes)
- Tamworth Regional Council (Kim Biggs)
- Tenterfield Shire Council (Libby Newell)
- Walgett Shire Council (Kate Gahan)



**Above:** Museum Advisors meeting

# Highlights in 2025

## 2025 IMAGinE Awards

Over 250 people attended the IMAGinE Awards held at The University of Sydney. Highlighting best practice from across the sector, the 2025 Awards demonstrated the exemplary work organisations of all sizes are doing supporting Aboriginal communities across the state.

Winning Exhibition Projects included:

- Bathurst Regional Art Gallery; *Dhuluny: the war that never ended*
- Grafton Regional Gallery, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre & Lismore Regional Gallery with Arts Northern Rivers; *Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali*
- Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney; *Mungari: Fishing, Resistance, Return*
- Port Macquarie Museum; *Barayal Bila*
- Tweed Regional Museum; *How To Draw A Dinosaur*
- Qtopia Sydney; *We're Here, We're Queer*

Winning Engagement Projects included:

- Bank Art Museum Moree; *Team Trampoline*
- Bathurst Regional Art Gallery; *Dhuluny: the war that never ended*
- Newcastle Art Gallery; *Megan Cope: Ngumpi Kinyingarra Oyster House*

Parramatta Artists' Studios won the Accessible Arts Award for Access and Inclusion; while Barbara Foster, from Cooma Cottage won the Volunteer Achievement Award.

The ACHAA Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage and Arts went to Gumbaynggirr/Bundjalung man Gary Williams for his dedicated work supporting Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung languages. The ACHAA Award for Excellence by an Aboriginal Curator went to Marika Duczynski (Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney) for *Mungari: Fishing, Resistance, Return*.



**Opposite:** 2025 IMAGinE Awards  
**Top:** Brett Adlington, CEO, Museums & Galleries of NSW  
**Middle left:** Julian Bickersteth, CEO, International Conservation Services, Major Sponsor of the Awards  
**Middle right:** Marika Duczynski accepting ACHAA Award for Excellence by an Aboriginal Curator for *Mungari: Fishing, Resistance, Return*  
**Bottom:** Newcastle Art Gallery accepting Engagement Award for *MEGAN COPE: Ngumpi Kinyingarra Oyster House*

All IMAGinE 2025 photos by Garry Trinh

# Advocacy and further impacts

2025 was a busy year for the organisation on the advocacy front. This was particularly evident on the back of the announcement of Create NSW 4-Year Multi-Year Funding in April. We were incredibly grateful to be doing this work in tandem with Regional Arts NSW CEO Dr Tracey Callinan OAM.

Specifically, this advocacy included gathering relevant information from the sector to inform a briefing note and subsequent meetings with the government, the opposition and funding agencies on the impacts of these funding decisions. Articles and interviews in the national media, including *The Guardian*, *ArtsHub*, *ABC Radio National* and *The Saturday Paper* helped amplify our message. We are also grateful to many other organisations who recommended alternative advocacy pathways as well as amplifying our message. While acknowledging there are still challenges ahead for the sector, both Regional Arts NSW and M&G NSW feel that we were able to enact some small change in subsequent funding rounds and thank Create NSW and the NSW Arts Minister for hearing our concerns.

Other advocacy included:

- Direct letter to all Local Government Authorities in NSW to highlight the vital role of LGA cultural organisations. This was on the back of NSW Council elections late 2024;
- Issued a public statement in support of Khaled Sabsabi and Michael Dagostino and letters to the Federal Minister for the Arts and Creative Australia CEO seeking their reinstatement to represent Australia at the 2026 Venice Biennale;

- Wrote to Lismore City Council on two separate occasions expressing grave concern for the future of Lismore Regional Museum;
- CEO spoke at the LGNSW 2025 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference (held in partnership with Destination NSW) on the Creative Destinations through Art, Culture and Museums panel alongside Andrew Gray who led the *Cultural Tourism in Regional NSW* project;
- Wrote to the NSW Minister for the Arts in support of the Australian Design Centre;
- Wrote to the NSW Minister for the Arts to seek the inclusion of funding for Lights On Doors Open Stipend Program in NSW Regional Strategy;
- Wrote to the Queensland Minister for the Arts and the Director of Queensland Museum for the continuation of Queensland's Museum Development Officer Program;
- Delivered Quarterly Briefings on M&G NSW and sector activity to the NSW Minister for the Arts and Create NSW executive;
- Continued advocating for the implementation of the NSW Museum Strategy;
- Held regular meetings between M&G NSW and Create NSW staff to discuss current initiatives and issues.

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



## Written Submissions:

Across 2025, M&G NSW made the following Submissions:

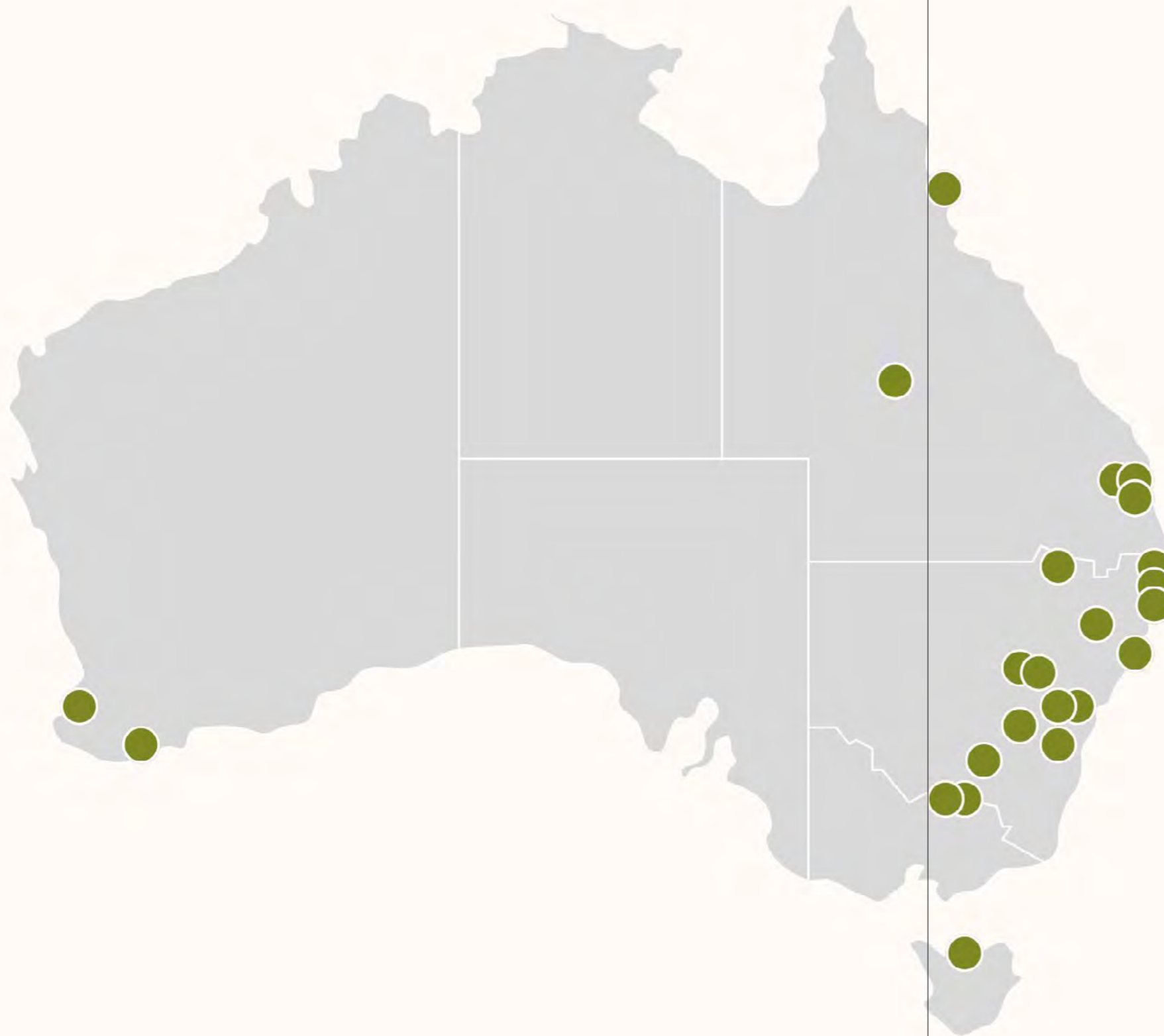
- [Listing of Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum on the State Heritage Register](#). The Heritage Council of NSW recommended that the Minister for Heritage directs the listing of **Lithgow Small Arms Factory** on the State Heritage Register. The Minister is in the process of deciding whether to direct the listing
- [NSW Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Cultural Tax Reform](#). This also included the CEO attending the Tax Summit held at Sydney Opera House
- [Inquiry into the Structure and Funding of the Arts, Music, Night time economy and Transport Portfolios](#). This also included the CEO presenting at the Committee Hearing

Above: M&G NSW Brett Adlington, CEO speaking at the LGNSW 2025 Destination and Visitor Economy Conference



# Touring Exhibition Program

## Exhibitions Touring Nationally in 2025



Touring Exhibition	Venues	Audience Numbers
<i>Primavera: Young Australian Artists</i>	5	11,119 (NSW only) 21,021 (total)
proppaNOW   <i>OCURRENT AFFAIR</i>	1	7,947 (total)
Dennis Golding   <i>POWER – The Future is Here</i>	3	1,928 (NSW only) 9,649 (total)
Zanny Begg   <i>These Stories Will be Different</i>	2	7,300 (NSW only) 7,687 (total)
<i>52 ACTIONS</i>	3	34,033 (total)
Anna Louise Richardson   <i>The Good</i>	6	8,488 (NSW only) 12,402 (total)
Dr Christian Thompson AO   <i>House of Gold</i>	1	3,833 (total)
HOSSEI   <i>ESSSENSSE</i>	2	6,734 (total)
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>47,349 (NSW only)</b> <b>103,306 (total)</b>

# Touring Exhibition Program



**Top, left:** Anna Louise Richardson | *The Good*, Opening night, Tamworth Regional Gallery, 2025. Photo: Antony Hands Chasing Summer.

**Middle, left:** Dennis Golding | *POWER - The Future is Here*, installation view, Hyphen Library Gallery, 2025. Image: Courtesy of Wodonga Council.

**Bottom, left:** Dr Christian Thompson AO | *House of Gold*, installation view, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, 2025. Photo: Dylan Smyth.

**Top, centre:** HOSSEI | *ESSENSSE*, Opening performance, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG), 2025. Image: Courtesy of BRAG.

**Middle, centre:** Zanny Begg | *These Stories Will be Different*, installation view, The Condensery, Somerset Regional Art Gallery, 2025. Photo: Louis Lim

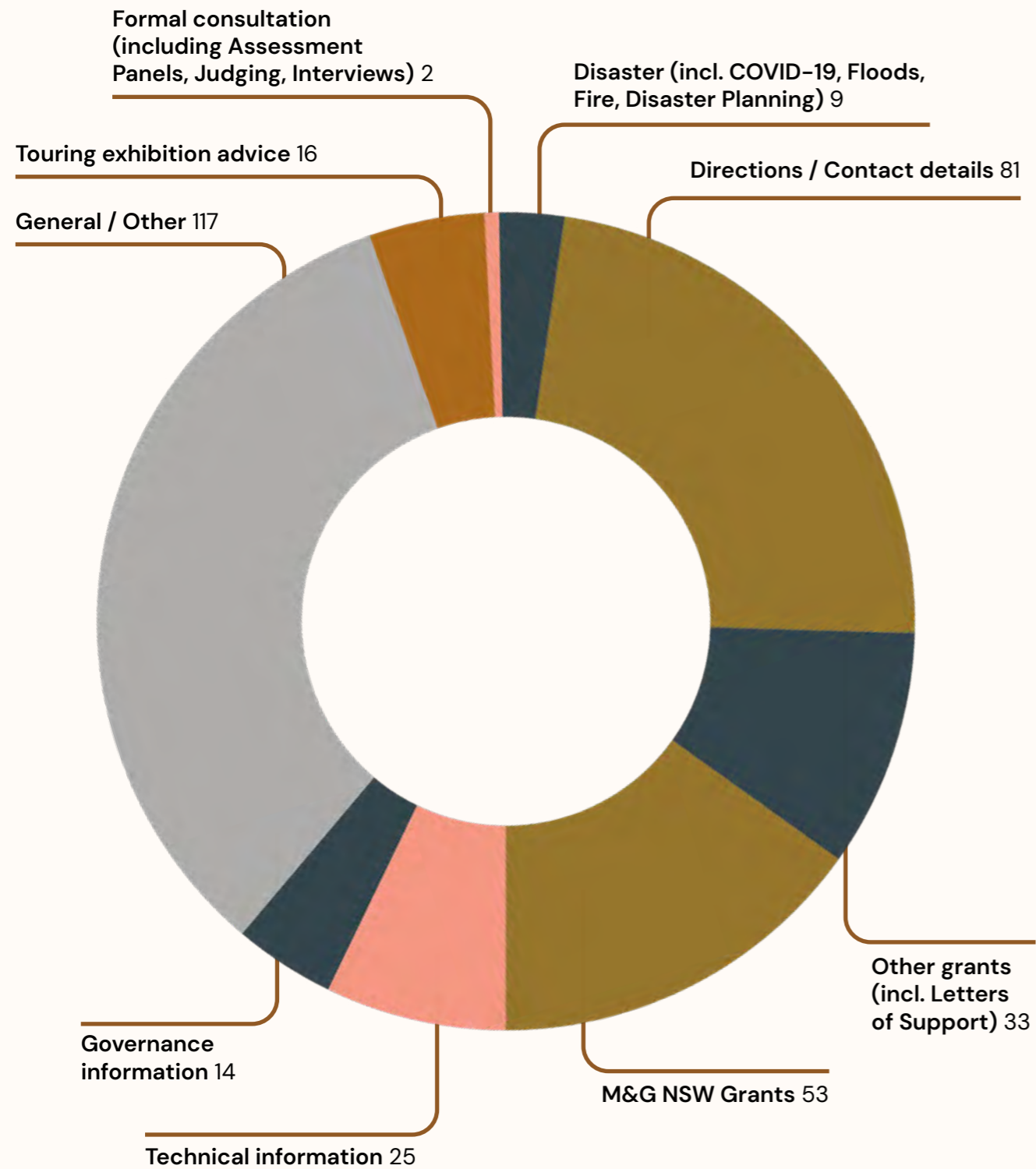
**Bottom, centre:** *OCCURRENT AFFAIR*, Exhibition opening, Lismore Regional Gallery, 2025. Image: Courtesy of Lismore Regional Gallery.

**Above:** *Primavera: Young Australian Artists*, Exhibition opening, Wangaratta Art Gallery. Photo: Jeremy Weihrauch.

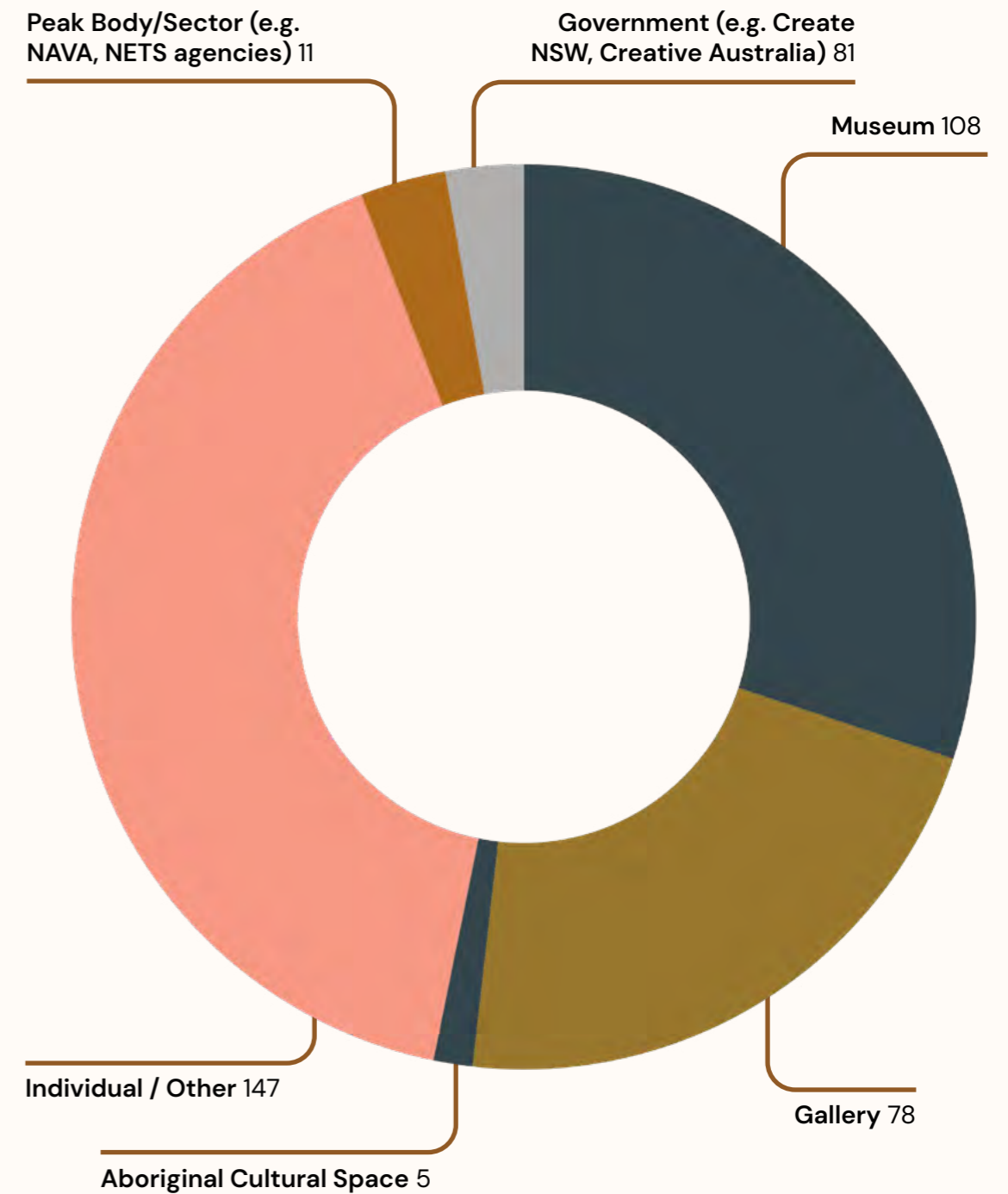
# Sector Advice Service in 2025

We handled **338 enquiries**, amounting to **198 hours**, through the **Sector Advice Service**.

## Type of information provided

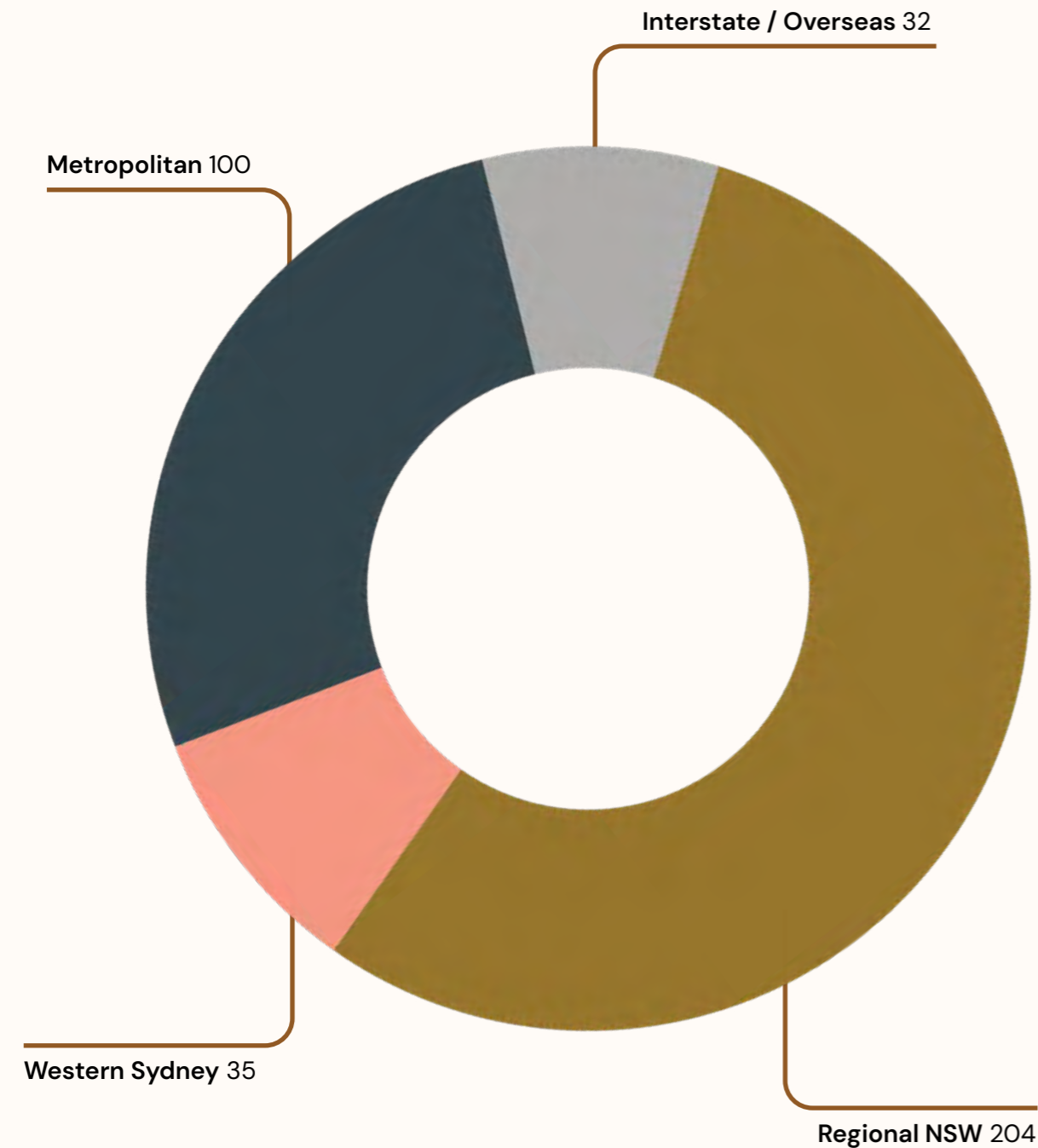


## Type of organisation seeking advice



# Sector Advice Service in 2025

## Create NSW Priority Area



# M&G NSW Site Visits in 2025

M&G NSW staff and board visited **70 organisations** in 2025. 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	47	Museum	39
Western Sydney	7	Gallery	24
Metropolitan	11	Aboriginal Cultural Centre	2
Interstate	5	Other	5
Other	8		

## Diversity

The organisation's adopted **Diversity Statement** acknowledges our leadership, working environment and programming. During 2024, our Board of 8 was represented by 7 women, with 50% Board representing Regional NSW. There is an ongoing commitment to ensure Aboriginal representation on the Board. Throughout 2025, 33% of permanent staff lived outside metropolitan Sydney, including a regionally-based CEO. Additionally, 80% of our Museum Advisors are located outside Metropolitan Sydney. In 2025, of our 8 touring projects, 3 were led-by and showcased exclusively First Nations artists, with 3 others including First Nations work. We toured 3 solo exhibitions by LGBTQIA+ artists, 2 solo exhibitions by female identifying artists, and reached audiences at 22 regional venues.

# Communications

In 2025, Museums & Galleries of NSW maintained a strong digital presence, with the website continuing to function as a critical access point for sector information, resources, funding opportunities and employment.

The M&G NSW website recorded 445,874 visit sessions from 290,486 users, reflecting sustained engagement across the year. Visitors from New South Wales accounted for 47% of all traffic, reinforcing the site's role as a key resource for the state's museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres. A total of 647,427 pages were viewed, indicating a consistent depth of engagement.

The Storyplace website continued to show steady reach, recording 30,343 sessions from 26,315 users and 39,935 page views, reinforcing its value as a trusted collections resource.

Our Social media presence maintained steady growth and engagement across its social media platforms. Facebook reached 111,522 users with 2,561 content interactions. Instagram continued to show strong growth, gaining 1,134 new followers. LinkedIn saw significant audience growth and generated strong professional engagement.

Overall, 2025 demonstrated sustained digital engagement across all platforms.

## INSIGHTS Interview series launched

In 2025 we launched of a new interview series spotlighting the voices of museum and gallery professionals across the state. This series features insightful interviews with individuals

working at the forefront of the sector, highlighting how their ideas, leadership, and day-to-day practice are helping to shape a more vibrant, resilient, and inclusive future.

## Alert e-newsletter

Number of subscribers	5,287
Number published	24

## Social media

	2025	New followers
Facebook followers	5,244	68
Instagram followers	5,509	1,134
LinkedIn followers	5,179	678

**445,874**

WEBSITE VISITORS

**497**

MUSEUM & GALLERY LISTINGS

**47%**

WEBSITE TRAFFIC FROM NSW

**647,427**

TOTAL WEB PAGE VIEWS

Above: Delegates at the 2025 Volunteer Symposium, The Mint, Museums of History NSW. Photo: Jason Gee.



# Partnerships in 2025

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.

## Major Cultural Institution partnerships

With **Museums of History NSW** partnered on the delivery of the inaugural *Volunteer Symposium for NSW Regional and Community-Run Museums* and hosted 2 volunteer placements.

Continued to partner with the **Powerhouse** to deliver the *Regional Stakeholders Forum*. This also included dispersing the Bursaries provided by the Powerhouse to support the travel of representatives from Nambucca District Historical Society; Mid-Western Council; Temora Shire Council; Tweed Regional Council and an independent artist.

## National peak body and sector partnerships

Worked with the 6 other state and territory-based **NETS Australia** agencies (National Exhibition Touring Support) to implement Creative Australia Delivery Partners funding. M&G NSW is the lead agency on this project, with the CEO as Co-Chair (along with M&G QLD Executive Director Rebekah Butler).

Participated in sector networking with **National Public Galleries Alliance** members.

Partnered with **Accessible Arts** to provide self-paced learning modules on Disability Confidence and Accessible Exhibition Design for public and regional galleries nationally, and deliver the Accessible Arts IMAGinE Award.

M&G NSW has continued to collaborate with **ACHAA** (NSW Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association) which is informed by a Service Agreement outlining mutual roles of support. This is agreement recognises ACHAA's ongoing development as a major peak body for the sector.

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

Collaborated with **International Conservation Services** on the implementation of the Collections Response and Safe Storage Unit as well as development of sector resources.

With **Sydney Contemporary** supported regional galleries in NSW in offering their own supporters with complimentary VIP access to the art fair.

## Touring exhibition partners

**Artspace Sydney NSW; Solid Ground NSW; Carriageworks NSW; Blacktown Arts NSW; Alexandria Park Community School NSW; The Condensery QLD; Wagga Wagga Art Gallery NSW; University of Queensland Art Museum (UQ Art Museum) QLD; UNSW Galleries NSW; ACHAA (NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Arts Association); Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) NSW; 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art NSW; Golden Dragon Museum Bendigo VIC; UTS Gallery NSW; and Verge Gallery, NSW.**

## Touring exhibition venue partners

Supported NSW cultural facilities including **Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo; Lismore Regional Gallery; Grafton Regional Gallery; Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree; Mudgee Art Precinct; Tamworth Regional Gallery; Cowra Regional Art Gallery; Goulburn Regional Art Gallery; Bank Art Museum Moree; Blue Mountains Cultural Centre; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery; Yarrilla Art & Museum, Coffs Harbour; and Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.** As well as national institutions such as **The Condensery Qld; Pine Rivers Art Gallery QLD; Hyphen Wodonga VIC; Redcliffe Art Gallery QLD; Devonport Regional Gallery TAS; Qantas Founders Museum QLD; Albany Town Hall Gallery WA; Bunbury Regional Art Gallery WA; and Wangaratta Art Gallery VIC.**

## Workshop and event venue partners

**Yarrilla Arts and Museum, Coffs Harbour; Verge Gallery, The Refectory (University of Sydney Union); Deniliquin Town Hall (Edward Rivers Council), Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Deniliquin; St Thomas' Anglican Church Heritage, Port Macquarie; The Mint (MHNSW); Hyde Park Barracks (MHNSW); Powerhouse Castle Hill; Old Pambula Courthouse, Pambula; Cobargo RSL Memorial Hall, Cobargo; and Manila Town Hall, (Tamworth Regional Council)** all partnered with M&G NSW to host and deliver professional development events.

## Standards Program Partners

**Tamworth Historical Society; Calala Cottage; Moonbi Museum; Tamworth Astronomy and Science Centre; and Australian Country Music Hall of Fame, Tamworth** all participated in the Standards Program.



Above: Museum Managers and Museum Advisors meeting at The University of Sydney

# Funding

In 2025, 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.

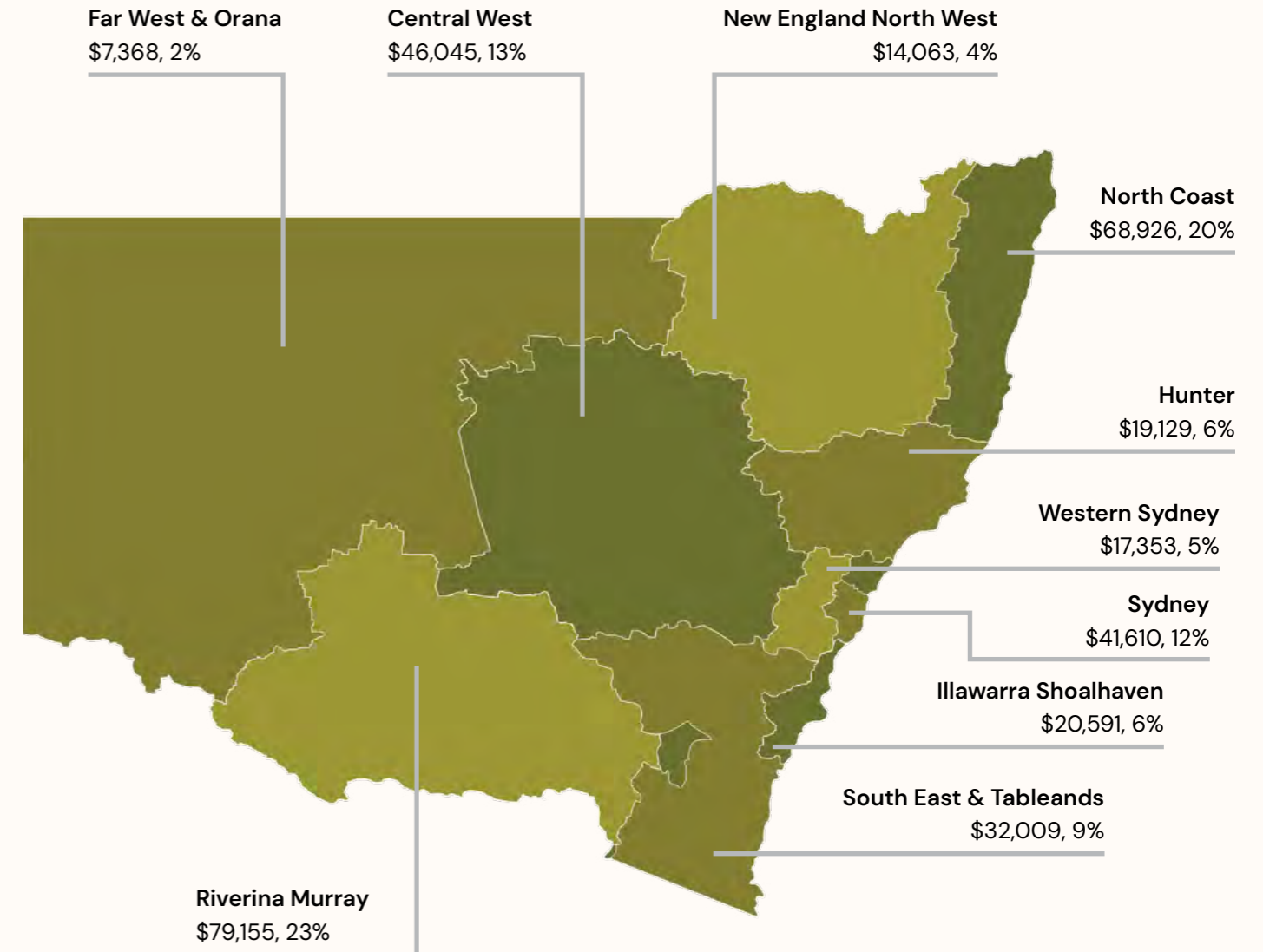
Program	Number of orgs supported	Total funding
Audience Development Fund	5	\$45,000
Volunteer Museum Grants	35	\$77,985
Stipend Program	3	\$6,000
Dobell Exhibition Grant	1	\$40,000
Mentorships, Fellowships, Placements	10	\$30,093
Museum Advisor Program	15 (LGA's)	\$144,710
Regional Stakeholder Forum Bursaries (Powerhouse)	5	\$2,461
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>\$346,249</b>



2025 Small Grants Round 1 recipient - Woolpack Inn Museum

This project involved the conservation of two c.1900 Peanut Dolls for permanent exhibition at the Holbrook Woolpack Inn Museum. The project was managed by volunteer and Committee Secretary Wendy Swan, who oversaw the work from inception to completion and liaised with professional conservators Art & Archivals.

## Devolved grants by region



## Funding Impacts

### Miss Porter's House funding successes

Starting with a M&G NSW Small Grant in 2020 for a virtual tour, volunteers at Miss Porter's House have worked hard to ensure that the house and collection are accessible to the community. They built on the initial grant with a successful Project Development Grant in 2021 to add audio information about the house, making stories of 15 objects accessible to the public through QR codes and via the National Trust website. Following this, in 2024, Miss Porter's House received a Project Development Grant to install insulation in the roof of the house in order to better preserve the objects within the house. The volunteers have reported that this change has led to improved community access and they used the opportunity to have professional photography done of the site. They now have 90 new images to use for promotion and are using them to attract new audiences.



Above: New visitors at Miss Porter's House after ceiling insulation installation, 2024 Project Development Grant

Liam Benson, Hello, Good to Meet You, 2023, *sensorial*, installation view, Tamworth Regional Gallery, 2026. Photo: Rilka Oakley.



## Funding Impacts

### NSW Tour of *Sensorial*

The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre's *Sensorial* exhibition, seed funded through the Dobell Exhibition Grant in 2023, received Create NSW Regional Art Touring funding in 2025 to travel to Singleton Arts & Cultural Centre, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie, and Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo from 2025–2027.

Also awarded the IMAGinE Accessible Arts Award for Access in 2024, *Sensorial* is a ground-breaking exhibition created with the neurodivergent community in mind. Audiences are encouraged to touch, listen and be immersed in the artworks, rather than simply observe them. Curated by Rilka Oakley, *Sensorial* includes new and existing work made by neurodivergent and disabled artists, and those who work with them.

# Additional acknowledgements

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



Museums & Galleries of NSW is a member of **NETS Australia**. NETS Australia is assisted by the Visual Art, Craft and Design Framework, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



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 2025 IMAGinE Awards were made possible through the generous support of International Conservation Services as the Major Sponsor of the Awards; Regional Public Galleries NSW and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (NSW) as Major Supporters and Verge Gallery, University of Sydney, as our venue partner.



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



The **Dobell Exhibition Grant** 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 2025

## **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.



## **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.



## **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 of Culture and the Arts (WA). This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal art investment and advisory body.



## **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.



## **HOSSEI | ESSENSSE**

A Verge Gallery exhibition, touring in partnership with Museums & Galleries of NSW, supported by the University of Sydney and proudly funded by the NSW Government. Verge Gallery is supported by the University of Sydney Union.

**In Development:**



## **Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA) touring exhibition**

An ACHAA member exhibition curated by Kyra Kum-Sing and touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal art investment and advisory body.



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