

Mr David Tune AO PSM
Independent Reviewer
c/o Tune Review Secretariat
National Archives of Australia
Queen Victoria Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600

Dear Mr Tune,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the review. I am writing as an author, historian and former Northern Territory public servant. In these roles, I have drawn on the resources of National Archives, most particularly in the Northern Territory, over many years. My submission supports the continued presence and services of National Archives in the Northern Territory, which best relates to the issue of how the National Archives might best perform its vitally important role in the protection, preservation and use of Commonwealth information.

National Archives has been a very important resource for historical research and scholarship in the Northern Territory—for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's research into their family connections, and for historians supporting those efforts. National Archives has also been an important source of information for the NT Government, from the time of NT self-government in 1978, about the lives and movements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, supporting its understanding and reaching out to its many remote communities.

The creation of the Northern Territory Archives Centre in Darwin, NT, achieved through the co-location of the National Archives of Australia with the Northern Territory Archives Service in 2013 has created a greater economy of scale and community resources of high value. The service brings together archival records reaching back more than 150 years, not only Commonwealth records but the records of the early NT Government, NT communities and the unique and important NT oral history resource.

Through the Centre, National Archives has provided community outreach in Darwin and Alice Springs. I draw your attention to the well-known and well-attended seminar series through the attached sample flyer, in which the former Northern Territory Administrator and local personality Mr Ted Egan presented his book about the first Commonwealth Administrator, Sir John Gilruth. My own ANU Press book on the history of Indigenous public sector employment in the Northern Territory, which drew on archival records and interviews with current and former Indigenous public servants, was launched to a packed audience by the ANU's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Centre. The public seminar series and its outreach are highly reputable and widely promoted events, and I always recommend them to Canberra-based scholars seeking a good audience for their work.

Although I am now based at the Australian National University in Canberra, I still draw on the Northern Territory Archives Centre, including the NAA, in Darwin. I strongly support the submissions of the Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, The Genealogical Society of the NT Inc, and the Professional Historians Association (NT), which have raised similar issues.

Yours sincerely,

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<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/series/centre-aboriginal-economic-policy-research-caep/reluctant-representatives>