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> PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tas 7018

> > 20 June 2019

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,

I represent the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. (TFHS), a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the study and research of Genealogy and Family History. We maintain reference libraries/training centres at five branches located at Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, Mersey (Latrobe) and Huonville. Branch libraries are open to all researchers; members and the general public. TFHS currently has a membership of just over 1,000; 5% of which are located in mainland states. We host an annual conference and publish the journal *Tasmanian Ancestry* four times a year.

Our members rely heavily on access to archive records; particularly Immigration/Naturalisation and War Service records. The co-located reading room with Archives Tasmania is of great benefit to researchers, especially beginners, who can receive valuable advice from staff of both agencies.

Those researchers who do not have ready access to the Archives office search for appropriate information on-line via 'record search', particularly the digitised WW I records. Unfortunately, the digitisation on demand scheme for WW II records has not been successful; the cost to an individual researcher appears to be the main cause but the time taken to make them available would also be a factor. We strongly recommend that the WW II records be digitised as a matter of urgency.

Funding for National Archives obviously needs increasing to a practical level to enable appropriate staff to be employed to carry out the work of the agency in a timely manner.

Perhaps the digitising of some special projects, like the WW II records, could be sponsored. Even a small organisation such as TFHS would be interested in contributing funds toward such a project. Certainly, there are a prolific number of genealogical or historical bodies in Australia who would have a vested interest in such a project.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Appleyard **President**

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