

Executive Board Meeting

11 Aug 2009
Agenda item no. 11

Prepared by: Jonathan Sweet

Date: 10 Aug 2009

Topic: Blue Shield

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Executive Board approve a donation to Blue Shield operating costs of \$500.00 for year 2009-2010.
- 1.2 That Museums Australia be considered for membership of Blue Shield Australia.

2. Background

- 2.1 Representation on Blue Shield ought to include Museums Australia. In order to facilitate the work of Blue Shield I am of the opinion that Museums Australia has a significant role to play.
- 2.2 It has become clear that a great deal (although not all) of the focus of the Blue Shield ANC is on domestic issues of disaster management. Particularly, as a result of the recent bushfires and floods.
- 2.3 It is also clear that Blue Shield ANC is growing rapidly and is very keen to disseminate information, particularly within Australia.
- 2.4 Amongst the pillar bodies, our sector is in the unusual position in having two professional organizations representing the museum profession. However, I understand that increasing it has been considered useful to think of ICOM as an international committee in partnership with Museums Australia. The recent establishment of the ICOM sec at MA is one example of the closer relationship.
- 2.5 In my mind, we ought to continue to reduce overlap in administration within the museums sector and also make Blue Shield more clearly identifiable as a flagship organization (disaster management) that has the support of a unified museums profession.
- 2.6 Our coordination would demonstrate support for the integrated preservation principles of Blue Shield, and would enhance the ability of Blue Shield to speak for all heritage professionals (across museums, built, archives, libraries etc) on preservation issues concerning natural disasters and heritage protection in times of armed conflict, when this was appropriate.
- 2.7 I therefore recommend that Museums Australia become a partner with ICOM on all things Blue Shield, and that a means of formalizing this relationship be developed. The exact arrangement would need to be in tune with the operational guidelines recently developed.

3. Issues

4. Attachment