

# Executive Board Meeting

**10 Jul 2007**

**Agenda item no. 7**

Prepared by: Roger Garland (National Secretary)

Date: 9 July 2007

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## **Topic: ICOM Australia representation on Blue Shield committee**

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### **1. Recommendation**

That the Executive Board of ICOM Australia nominate a new representative for the Australian National Committee of the International Council of the Blue Shield (ICBS).

### **2. Background**

Bryan Handley's term as ICOM Australia's representative on the Australian Blue Shield committee has expired.

#### **1.1 What is the International Committee of the Blue Shield?**



The Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross. It is the symbol specified in the 1954 Hague Convention for marking cultural sites to give them protection from attack in the event of armed conflict. It is also the name of an international committee set up in 1996 to work to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters

The International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) covers museums (including art museums and galleries), archives, libraries, monuments and sites. It brings together the knowledge, experience and international networks of the four expert organisations dealing with cultural heritage: an unrivalled body of expertise which is now available to advise and assist in responding to events such as the war in the former Yugoslavia, the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2005, and hurricane damage in Central America. The ICBS is international, independent and professional.

#### **1.2 The pillars of the ICBS**

The four expert organisations that work together as the ICBS are:

- International Council on Archives (ICA)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

#### **1.3 The Australian pillar bodies**

In Australia, the expert organisations are:

- Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities, representing ICA

- Australia ICOMOS
- ICOM Australian National Committee
- Australian Library and Information Association, representing IFLA.

### **3. Issues**

- 3.1 As a founding pillar of the Australian Blue Shield committee it is important for ICOM Australia to maintain its representation and involvement in the committee.
- 3.2 The next teleconference meeting of the Australian Blue Shield committee is:
  - Wed 15 Aug 2007.
- 3.3 The Blue Shield committee needs to be advised of the new representative as soon as possible. Meanwhile Bryan Handley has agreed to handle any matters arising.