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**The Parliamentary Friends of Museums Libraries and Galleries believe our cultural organisations are vital at this time of national crisis and recovery**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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The Parliamentary Friends of Museums Libraries and Galleries believe in the power and importance of our cultural organisations even more so at this time of national crisis.

Co-chairs of the Friendship Group, **Senator James Paterson and Luke Gosling OAM, MP**, are keen to promote the innovative ways in which our nation's cultural sector has responded to the immense disruption of COVID-19. From developing virtual and behind the scenes tours of museums and art exhibitions, to school, university and public libraries supporting students and educators through mobilising remote access to essential learning materials, the sector has been outstanding in its desire to serve the community.

Senator Paterson says while this has been a tough time for the sector, it has shown its willingness to step up, and its role now in helping the country recover and rebuild cannot be overstated.

Luke Gosling adds that arts and culture have immense value to how we identify as Australians as well as to how we create new opportunities and a stronger economy.

The Parliamentary Friends are supported by GLAM Peak, the network of Australia's peak representative bodies for galleries, libraries, archives, historical societies, museums and humanities research.

Spokesperson, Alex Marsden, states "arts, culture and heritage are vital for individual and community identity and wellbeing. They are also critical contributors to national and regional economies and are key drivers of successful cultural tourism and regional development. Post pandemic planning must include culture if we wish to do it well."

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