

*Your local voice*



[www.westoncreek.org.au](http://www.westoncreek.org.au)  
[info@westoncreek.org.au](mailto:info@westoncreek.org.au)

PO Box 3701  
Weston Creek ACT 2611

Telephone **(02) 6288 8975**

The Secretary,  
Joint Standing Committee on the  
National Capital and External Territories  
P.O. Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600

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[jscneet@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscneet@aph.gov.au)

### **Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions**

The Weston Creek Community Council [WCCC] from the Weston Creek District in the Australian Capital Territory, welcomes the opportunity to comment on the inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions. Our Council is a community based volunteer organisation which acts on behalf of the residents and businesses of Weston Creek.

Firstly, we consider that the title of the Inquiry should be an Inquiry into Australia's National Institutions located in the National Capital, Canberra. This is a more accurate description of the Inquiry.

Canberra is the National Capital of Australia and is the seat of Government. It is also here that the majority of Australia's National Institutions are based. In this vein these Institutions are here for ALL Australians and we see this in the visitors who come to visit the Institutions. For this reason our Community believes that it is the responsibility of the Government of Australia to fully fund these Institutions.

Over the years we have seen a relentless drive by successive Governments to diminish these Institutions through continued budget reductions whether they be through the so-called "efficiency dividend" or other cuts. Our community believes that there is a Community Service Obligation on the Parliament of Australia and its Members and Senators to fully fund these Institutions to enable them to operate for the benefit of all Australians.

There is no benefit to the people of Australia if our Government/Parliament will not support the Institutions. This is the situation today with the Parliament failing to preserve Australia's history through their inability to undertake the preservation of

documents, material, film and recordings and various goods and chattels due to a lack now of resources to undertake all of these activities.

Programmes designed to take Exhibitions to the people have been stopped by Institutions due to reduced funding yet this Committee seeks to “conduct outreach outside of Canberra”.

In conclusion, it is critical that these institutions remain adequately funded and controlled by the Commonwealth Government to ensure they maintain their status as national treasures with respect to Australian culture, history and ethos. It is important that they should not become self-funding nor really have any involvement with the private sector.

Council thanks the committee for the opportunity to comment.

Tom Anderson  
Chair  
Weston Creek Community Council