

## **The Charter**

### **Preamble**

1. The National Film and Sound Archive represents and expresses the cultural significance and distinct character of the screen and sound media in Australian life. It is national in character and perception, specific in its focus on the screen and sound media and their derivatives, and archival in its commitment to the dual aims of preservation and accessibility.

### **Role**

2. Whether or not other parties are involved in these tasks, it will ultimately fall to the Archive to ensure the identification, preservation and accessibility of the moving image and recorded sound heritage of Australia. Within its field it will therefore offer national leadership, set standards, encourage co-ordination and co-operation, provide centralised services, skills and facilities, and generally undertake and promote the rational development of screen and sound archiving
3. The Archive will represent Australia in its field and shall contribute fully to international activity, especially in its relationships with neighbouring countries in the Asian and Pacific region.
4. As a trustee of part of the national heritage the Archive has a specific contribution to make to the quality of life and the development of the national consciousness, permitting the values, events and achievements of the past to influence the future.
5. By its nature the Archive has a special relationship~ with the screen and sound industries, whose output and history it preserves and embodies. It shall work to merit their support and trust, and to complement, aid and stimulate their creative activity.

### **Functions**

6. The Archive seeks to ensure the acquisition and preservation of all material of permanent national cultural significance without loss or degradation. It will monitor Australian screen and sound production and maintain the definitive national record.

7. The Archive will encourage and provide public access to the moving image and recorded sound heritage.
8. In order to promote appreciation, interpretation and articulation of the relevance of the heritage to our society and national character, and to extend the boundaries of archival expertise, the Archive will encourage and undertake research, and creative and entrepreneurial activity.

### **Character and motivation**

9. As a publicly funded, publicly accountable body the Archive carries out its work on behalf of the nation. It will base its activities on published policies on which discussion will always be welcome. It will articulate and defend its own professional integrity, independence and judgment.
10. Within that framework, it will also seek external support, financial or otherwise, in advancing its work.
11. Access and preservation are perceived as complementary concepts of equal importance. Permanent accessibility is the aim of preservation: but the imperatives of preservation will not be compromised in order to provide access.
12. The Archive will reflect the populist character of the screen and sound media, as well as their cultural and creative significance. It will cater for general as well as specialist needs.
13. The Archive will be national in outlook and will endeavour to offer balanced and equitable services to all Australians regardless of their geographic location.

### **Defining the heritage**

**The moving image and recorded sound heritage of Australia** shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Recorded sound, film, television or other productions comprising moving images and/or recorded sounds created or released within Australia, or by Australians, or with relevance to Australians, whether or not primarily intended for public release.

(b) Objects, materials, works and intangibles relating to the moving image and recorded sound media whether seen from a technical, industrial, cultural, historical or other viewpoint; this shall include material relating to the Australian film, television, broadcasting and sound recording industries and fields such as literature, scripts, stills, posters, advertising material, manuscript material and artefacts such as technical equipment and costumes. It also includes such concepts as the perpetuation of obsolescent skills and environments associated with the presentation of these media.

The National Film and Sound Archive perceives the moving image and recorded sound media in all their manifestations, whether as art, communication, historical record, entertainment, industry, technology, science, cultural and social phenomenon, or otherwise.

**The Committee *recommended* that the Government recognise this Charter as the basis of the Archive's functions and policies, including the definition of the moving image and recorded sound heritage of Australia.**