



## MP for Mt Albert

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

21 JUL 2020

Phillipa Tocker  
Executive Director, Museums Aotearoa  
phillipa.tocker@museumsaotearoa.org.nz

Kia ora Phillipa

Many thanks for your letter of 12 June 2020 regarding the state of the museum sector. I am responding to your letter as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and on behalf of my colleague Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister for Local Government.

Firstly, I recognise the magnitude of the impact of COVID-19 on the museum sector, and the significant ways that museums are having to adapt their offerings and operations. Thank you for providing your survey data the impacts on the sector. I also understand you are undertaking further analysis of sector impacts, and I will look with interest at your future findings.

As part of Budget 2020, the government announced a suite of Arts and Culture initiatives to support the cultural sector to survive, adapt and thrive following the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes funds focused on innovation, capability, and creative arts employment. I consider that these new initiatives may be an appropriate avenue for the museum sector to consider in order to access funding to support its work caring for New Zealand's important cultural heritage.

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage is currently developing the policy settings for these new initiatives, and would welcome the opportunity to get input from Museums Aotearoa and sector representative to ensure this funding is able to respond to the needs of the museum sector.

I apologise that I am not able to meet with you at present, but I understand you will continue to meet with the Ministry in the near future, and I have asked the Ministry to keep me updated on the state of the museum sector. Thank you again for your letter, and the important work that you do advocating for the museum sector.

Nāku noa, nā

A blue ink signature of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
**Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage**

CC Hon Nanaia Mahuta