



THE HON. SIMON CREAN MP

Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government
Minister for the Arts

SHARON GRIERSON MP

Federal Member for Newcastle

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CULTURAL EXHIBITION TO TOUR TO NEWCASTLE

A major exhibition from the Australian War Memorial will soon tour to Newcastle thanks to almost \$1.7million in Australian Government funding announced today by Arts Minister Simon Crean.

"We are committed to taking the great art-forms of the capital cities to the regions to ensure all Australians continue to access and participate in our dynamic arts and culture," Mr Crean said.

"The funding announced today will support 14 organisations to develop and tour exhibitions to venues across Australia, with a particular focus on regional and remote communities."

This support is provided through the Australian Government's national touring program Visions of Australia and the Contemporary Touring Initiative.

The funding will provide a wide variety of communities with the opportunity to view significant exhibitions from major galleries and museums, as well as cutting edge contemporary art.

"In advance of Australia's first National Cultural Policy in almost 20 years, we are demonstrating our commitment to regional arts initiatives," Mr Crean said.

"This investment will enhance the liveability of the regions and encourage greater participation in the cultural life of our nation."

The Australian War Memorial will tour to Newcastle *Perspectives: Jon Cattapan and eX de Medici*, an exhibition that explores peacekeeping through edgy visual content.

Sharon Grierson MP, Federal Member for Newcastle, welcomed the announcement.

"Newcastle has a vibrant cultural community and this opportunity allows Novocastrians to experience a great cultural exhibition from a national institution," Ms Grierson said.

The Visions of Australia program is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting exhibitions of Australian cultural material. Visual arts and craft exhibitions are supported through the Contemporary Touring Initiative, which is a joint program of the Australian, state and territory governments, under the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy.

For more information on the Visions of Australia program and the Contemporary Touring Initiative, or for a full list of funding recipients, visit www.arts.gov.au/regional/visions-of-australia