

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| <b>Job Title:</b>  | <b>Head of Strehlow</b>                                  |
| <b>Terms:</b>      | <b>Ongoing</b>                                           |
| <b>Package:</b>    | <b>\$125,000 salary pa + 12% super</b>                   |
| <b>Location:</b>   | <b>Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs</b>           |
| <b>Reports to:</b> | <b>Head of Aboriginal Heritage</b>                       |
| <b>Supervises:</b> | <b>Aboriginal Heritage Officers, Strehlow Archivists</b> |

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) is the Northern Territory's premier cultural and scientific institution. It offers a dynamic and diverse arts, science and cultural program to more than 300,000 visitors each year.

We are a museum and gallery known for our collections and expertise in Aboriginal cultures, natural sciences, histories and arts across Northern and Central Australia and our neighbours to the north.

We connect people to the stories of the Northern Territory. Our collection drives curiosity, exploration and partnerships. Our physical spaces are destinations loved by locals and a must-see for Territory visitors. Our digital connectivity expands the reach of our collection. Our guests tell their friends about their distinctive Territorian experience.

MAGNT has seven venues: MAGNT Darwin, the Defence of Darwin Experience, Fannie Bay Gaol, Lyons Cottage, Strehlow Research Centre, Megafauna Central and the Alcoota Scientific Reserve.

### Strehlow Research Centre

The Strehlow Research Centre (SRC) was established by the Northern Territory Government to house and preserve the extensive ethnographic and sacred collection of anthropologist and linguist Ted Strehlow. The SRC has local, national and international significance through its role as a keeping place of objects of cultural significance, including repatriated objects, and is an essential source of information for Custodians and other key stakeholders. The Strehlow Research Centre Act 2005 (NT) outlines the objectives for collection maintenance and development and the repatriation of objects to Traditional Owners.

### **Primary Objective**

The Strehlow Research Centre holds one of the most important ethnographic collections of film, sound, archival records and objects relating to Indigenous ceremonial life found anywhere in the world. Relationship-building with Custodians, Elders and communities is a core function of this role, with Traditional Owners being the primary cultural authorities. The Head of Strehlow will lead the Centre ensuring that Traditional Owner-led processes are at the forefront of relationships that reconnect material to custodians. MAGNT works with Traditional Owners to record traditional language, facilitate field work and provide community access to MAGNT's collections led through culturally appropriate consultation and Indigenous governance and decision-making.

The Head of Strehlow will also work closely with other senior staff to create and implement strategies that guide Aboriginal engagement, employment, governance and cultural awareness and respect across MAGNT. They will manage a team and oversee the work being undertaken with senior men and women, elders and family groups to clarify aspirations and procedures for repatriation, as well as storing, caring for and accessing objects relating to their cultural heritage. The Head of Strehlow will also oversee the curation of exhibitions and public programs at SRC that tell publicly accessible Aboriginal stories while giving agency to the communities from which these collections derive.

### **Key Responsibilities**

1. Provide strategic policy, planning, advice and reporting to the Director MAGNT and SRC Board regarding the management and operations of the SRC.
2. Work with the SRC Board and the Executive to ensure that MAGNT demonstrates museum best practice in the work we do with Aboriginal communities, aligning with *First Peoples: a roadmap for enhancing Indigenous engagement in museums and galleries* including shaping Aboriginal engagement and cultural practice across MAGNT.
3. Lead and manage a high-performing Aboriginal Heritage team in the delivery of its functions and services through scheduling and prioritising work; monitoring and reviewing processes; providing performance feedback and staff learning and development opportunities; and ensuring that deadlines and budget commitments are met.
4. Working in close collaboration with the Director and Head of Aboriginal Heritage, provide leadership and support in the development and implementation of multi-disciplinary research, exhibition, engagement and collections management programs, as relate to central Australia, and guide timely program delivery within resource allocations.
5. Seek revenue sources for Aboriginal Heritage projects and work closely with MAGNT's Head of Aboriginal Heritage and Head of Partnerships and Marketing to strengthen relationships with Government (Commonwealth and Territory), industry, benefactors and sponsors.
6. Ensure Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property and Indigenous data sovereignty principles are at the forefront of repatriation activities and the development, management and research of MAGNT's Aboriginal Heritage collections.
7. Support the management of MAGNT's Indigenous Repatriation Program
8. Coordinate the activities of the Strehlow Research Centre Board, including meetings, papers, minutes and follow up on actions.
9. Formalise and strengthen professional networks and partnerships, including research partnerships, with community groups and Aboriginal, education, tourism, environmental and scientific organisations in central Australia.
10. Maintain and promote EEO, cultural diversity, WH&S and ethical principles and practices.

### **Essential Selection Criteria**

1. Indigenous knowledge, cultural authority and community leadership experience
2. Experience working with Aboriginal communities on Country.
3. Degree in a field relevant to a multi-disciplinary museum or art gallery combined with prior experience and training as a senior manager in a related institution.

4. Knowledge of the role of collections in advancing reconciliation, engagement and strengthening culture.
5. Strong project and staff management skills with ability to direct, coordinate and review work plans and to evaluate and to update work practice methods and procedures to ensure quality output performance and program delivery in accordance with the best contemporary museum practices and industry standards.
6. Demonstrated experience in the use of project management methodology and the capacity to manage competing priorities.
7. High-level interpersonal, oral and written communication skills with the proven ability to write complex reports, policy papers, Board and Ministerial briefings, achieve buy-in from colleagues and to negotiate, advise and counsel to achieve agreed outcomes.
8. Knowledge and experience in securing grants and building partnerships with other institutions and industry.
9. Willingness to work on the repatriation of secret / sacred material.
10. An ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures and beliefs
11. A competent understanding of Work Health and Safety (WHS) practices and compliance

#### **Desirable Selection Criteria**

1. Experience with the consultation and research required to deliver the Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Property (RICP) program
2. A good understanding of the fundamentals of collection management, databases, conservation, research, interpretation and exhibition of Aboriginal material culture collections.

#### **Additional:**

1. Preferential consideration will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants who meet the essential selection criteria.
2. MAGNT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in the workplace.
3. This job requires some weekend and out of hours work
4. This role statement is intended to provide an overall view of the role but in addition to this document, the specifics of the role will be described in business work plans.
5. MAGNT promotes flexible ways of working.
6. Applicants must have full Australian work rights.
7. A valid Australian Drivers licence is required.
8. An Orche Card or equivalent working with children card is a requirement of the position.
9. A current Australian National Police Check is required prior to commencing the position.

#### **Further Information**

1. For further information please visit our website at [www.magnt.net.au](http://www.magnt.net.au)
2. Contact Adam Worrall on 08 8999 8220 or via email at [Adam.Worrall@magnt.net.au](mailto:Adam.Worrall@magnt.net.au)