



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR GRANTS TO COMMEMORATE EMINENT AUSTRALIANS

A new Federal heritage grants program is providing \$100,000 a year to fund the conservation of memorials to Australians both here and overseas who have made a significant contribution to our nation and the world.

The Federal Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, has called for expressions of interest for the inaugural 2009–10 round.

“The new *Commemorating Eminent Australians* program, announced by the Prime Minister in July this year, is part of the Government’s commitment to protecting and enhancing Australia’s culture and heritage,” Mr Garrett said.

“It is important that as a nation we provide due recognition to the memory of Australian men and women who have made significant contribution to Australia and in other places around the world.

“The *Commemorating Eminent Australians* program is designed to provide individual support for the conservation of graves, memorials and other commemorative material that honours the outstanding achievements and deeds of Australian men and women throughout our history.

“I welcome expressions of interest from community groups, not for profit groups and local councils.

“Whilst the priority is to support projects here in Australia, many renowned Australians have distinguished themselves internationally and may be either buried overseas or have memorials dedicated to them in other countries. Projects related to these may be eligible for support,” Mr Garrett said.

The *Commemorating Eminent Australians* program is administered by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Expression of Interest forms and Guidelines for the program are available from www.environment.gov.au/heritage/programs/index.html

The period for Expressions of Interest is open to 23 December 2009.