Archives as a Destination: Creating safe places

Queensland State Archives
Jenny Kidd
Director Access & Engagement
I acknowledge the Turrbal and Yaggera people as the Traditional Owners of where I am speaking from today, Brisbane/Meanjin.

I pay my respects to their community and Elders.

I acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities from around Australia and I recognise them as knowledge holders and recordkeepers of the world’s longest continuing culture over tens of thousands of years.
My role

❖ Director Access & Engagement
❖ Continually looking for ways to improve access to the collection and engagement with the collection
❖ Looking outwards to audiences
❖ Social media, exhibitions, events
❖ First Nations First Strategy
❖ Working to improve online and physical access
Queensland State Archives

- QSA – 200 years of State Government records
- Purpose built facility located in Brisbane, Australia
- QSA is the custodian of the records in its collection
- Colonial archive
- Access is provided under the Public Records Act 2002 or under the Right to Information Act 2009
Queensland State Archives

Statement of Intent

When Queensland was settled, there was no treaty agreement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first custodians. First Nations peoples were displaced from their land without any negotiation, resulting in political, economic and social inequalities that continue to this day. In 2019 the Queensland Government started a conversation with all Queenslanders about a Path to Treaty, to heal the past and create a new relationship for all Queenslanders to prosper.

As the custodian of almost 200 years of Queensland's State Government records, we have an important role to play in supporting the Queensland Government’s Path to Treaty commitments to:

- increase understanding of the need for sharing of truth and importance of historical acceptance in the reconciliation journey
- raise awareness about Queensland’s shared history and the diversity of perspectives
Archival practices have privileged non-Indigenous histories and perspectives.
First Nations Archives Advisor –
Dr Rose Barrowcliffe
Cultural Audit

• Commissioned Blaklash Creative
• Design starts with community consultation
• Combining cultural knowledge with design methodology
• Workshops, one on ones with Elders
• Liaised with local Elders
• Cross cultural sharing
• Story Telling
Outdoor Design Project
First Nations First – Languages Project
Supporting Truth Telling

❖ Making our catalogue safer
❖ Establishment of new First Nations Metadata Team
❖ Acknowledging past practices and identifying areas that could be improved
❖ Mapping of national and international frameworks and practices specific to First Nations data
❖ Using specific descriptions that inform community what information could be located in records
❖ Developing a metadata framework that addresses offensive metadata within the QSA catalogue
Memory Lounge

❖ Social connection program for older Queenslanders and people living with dementia

❖ Aim is to reduce social isolation and loneliness

❖ Facilitated sessions for older people, those living with dementia and carers
Memory Lounge session
Questions?