

28 March 2023

MoAD welcomes Barrie Cassidy's appointment as Board Chair

The Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) welcomes the appointment of former journalist Mr Barrie Cassidy as the new Chair of the Board of Old Parliament House.

The Government announced the appointment today and also announced the reappointment of Ms Gai Brodtmann as a member of the Board for a further three-year term.

MoAD's Director Stephanie Bull says she is looking forward to working with Mr Cassidy over the next three years. 'The time he spent as a press secretary here in this building and as a journalist for five decades has given him a depth of experience relevant to the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House.'

Mr Cassidy's appointment commences in May when the term of the current Chair, The Hon Nick Minchin, AO, expires.

'Mr Minchin has led the Board superbly through a period of impressive growth in digital engagement and significant heritage building works. During his term he also guided MoAD through significant challenges as we dealt with COVID, the building fire and extended museum closures. I thank him for his strong leadership during his time as Chair,' says Ms Bull.

Gai Brodtmann's re-appointment for a second term enables her to continue her important contribution to MoAD.

'Ms Brodtmann's support has been tremendous, and we are very pleased she has agreed to continue to serve on our Board,' says Ms Bull.

Barrie Cassidy

Mr Cassidy is a retired political journalist and current affairs television presenter. He began his career working at regional newspapers before joining the *Melbourne Herald* as a court reporter, and in 1979, became a federal political correspondent for radio and television. He was also previously the President of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery.

In 1986, Mr Cassidy became the personal press secretary, and later, senior political advisor to Prime Minister the Hon Bob Hawke MP. In 1991, he worked as a correspondent for *The Australian* newspaper in Washington and subsequently worked for the ABC as a European correspondent based in Brussels. When Mr Cassidy returned to Australia he played a pivotal role in the creation of the ABC's *Insiders* television program, which he hosted from 2001 to 2019. He has also hosted *ABC News Breakfast*, *Offsiders* and *One Plus One*.

Gai Brodtmann

Ms Brodtmann is a former parliamentarian who served as the Federal Member for Canberra from 2010 to 2019. During that period, Ms Brodtmann was Shadow Assistant Minister for Cyber Security and Defence from 2016-2019 and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence from 2013-2016. Prior to entering parliament, Ms Brodtmann ran her own small business for ten years and before that spent 10 years in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Attorney General's Department. Ms Brodtmann sits on a number of corporate boards and is the Co-Founder and Chair of 'Fearless Women'. This will be Ms Brodtmann's second term on the Board.

The Hon Nick Minchin AO

Mr Minchin served as a Senator for South Australia from his election in 1993 until 2011. During that time he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Special Minister of State, Minister for Industry Science and Resources, and Minister for Finance as well as leading the Government in the Senate between 2006 and 2007.

Mr Minchin was the Minister responsible for running the 1998 Constitutional Convention held here at Old Parliament House. Following his retirement from the parliament, Mr Minchin was appointed Australian Consul-General in New York. Mr Minchin sits on a number of boards including the Foreign Investment Review Board.

Read the [media release issued by the Minister for the Arts](#).

For enquiries, please contact the Office of Tony Burke MP, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Leader of the House of Representatives.

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