



Medical Association for Prevention of War

MEDIA RELEASE

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NCA DECISION ON WAR MEMORIAL COMPLETES THE TRAVESTY OF DEMOCRACY

The approval of the National Capital Authority (NCA) for the expansion of the Australian War Memorial comes as no surprise, as their previous decision to start demolition in preparation for the expansion made any further deliberation meaningless.

Dr Sue Wareham, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia), said, ‘Having received an overwhelming message of opposition to the whole redevelopment from public submissions to the “early works” (demolition) inquiry, the NCA is now pretending that most Australians, all except the citizens of Canberra, want the expansion to go ahead’.

NCA Chief Sally Barnes has commented that she didn't know why Canberrans opposed the redevelopment. Dr Wareham said, ‘Did the NCA consider the fact that after 99 percent opposition to the “early works” was not sufficient to put a stop to the project, many people would have given up and not have wasted time doing a further submission to an agency whose decision was already made?’

Dr Wareham said also, ‘Is the NCA aware of the AWM’s [most recent annual report](#), which included (page 28) a visitors’ survey which stated, “Of those who attended Anzac Hall exhibitions, 96 per cent were satisfied with this permanent gallery.” That building is now destroyed. Presumably many of those visitors were not Canberrans.’

The AWM is definitely for all Australians. However, perhaps it is relevant that Canberrans have simply been exposed to more debate for and against the proposed changes to the Memorial. In an online national survey in February 2020 conducted by the AWM, only 21 per cent of those surveyed knew anything about the redevelopment plans, only half had ever been to the AWM, and yet that survey was used to boost support for the plans.

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