

**Question on notice no. 598**

**Portfolio question number: 4**

**2023-24 Budget estimates**

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio**

**Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan:** asked the Australian War Memorial on 31 May 2023—

Senator CANAVAN: In answer to question on notice No. 4, the War Memorial provides a copy of the incoming chair brief, which I've already mentioned. In section 19, gallery development, it says:

A project plan and background research will commence from mid-2023 for more focussed discussions on the overall approach to the pre-1914 gallery and inclusion of Frontier Wars content.

Has this project plan commenced?

Mr Anderson: No. Most likely, the team will be set up for that in late 2024 to early 2025

Senator CANAVAN: So there has been a delay on that, compared to-

Mr Anderson: Yes.

Senator CANAVAN: It says here it will commence mid-2023. Now you're saying not till next year. Is that right?

Mr Anderson: Correct.

Senator CANAVAN: So you haven't selected the team members or anything like that yet?

Mr Anderson: Correct. They're fully engaged.

Senator CANAVAN: There are no terms of reference?

Mr Anderson: No.

Senator CANAVAN: The same briefing goes on to state:

The subject of Frontier Wars is also a priority topic with the Advisory Group and it will continue to be a standing agenda item at the biannual meetings until the GD team is formed in late 2024.

Are there any other priority topics for the advisory group?

Mr Anderson: Yes. We have five advisory groups, it must be said. We have an Indigenous advisory group, a veterans advisory group, a youth advisory group, a culturally and linguistically diverse cultural group, and an accessibility group. They all have priority areas relevant to their particular areas of expertise, but on this one where they're focused right now is providing advice to us on the current galleries that we're working on: Afghanistan, Iraq, peacekeeping, and the like. That's what they're working on, but as part of that process they're being-

Senator CANAVAN: And those other issues are priority topics?

Mr Anderson: Yes, they are.

Senator CANAVAN: Are there other standing agenda items as well?

Mr Anderson: I'd have to take that on notice.

**Answer —**

Answer attached.

**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**  
**Budget Estimates 2023-24 – 31 May 2023**  
**Answers to questions on notice from the Veterans' Affairs portfolio**

**Question 4**

**Outcome: All Program: All**

**Topic: Council Minutes - Meeting 179 - 10 November 2022 - standing agenda items**  
(FADT Hansard Proof 31 May 2023, p 114)

**Senator Matthew Canavan asked:**

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**Answer**

Typical meeting structure across the advisory groups is:

- Review of previous meetings actions.
- Update on recent gallery designs.

- Presentation and group discussion on a specific area, design element and/or content that is proposed for the new galleries that the gallery development team is seeking feedback on. (Typically 1 to 2 items)
- Meeting wrap-up

### **Business specific to the Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander Advisory Group**

Standing Agenda items include:

1. Minutes approval and actions from the last meeting
2. Southern Entry art commission and Reg Saunders content progress
3. Glazed Link and Anzac Hall design progress updates for feedback
4. Frontier conflict planning and program
5. Other items as required (multimedia, graphics, visitor experience, architectural features and finishes, gallery orientation and wayfinding etc)

Aside from the subject of Frontier conflicts, the Advisory Group is currently focussed on the experiential design, visitor experience and content development including identifying First Nations veterans who served in modern conflicts for their story inclusion in the new Anzac Hall galleries (Afghanistan, Peacekeeping, Gulf War, Iraq War, Maritime Security and North Iraq and Syria).