



MEDIA RELEASE

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PARTING WITH A LITTLE PERSONAL HISTORY TO BECOME PART OF AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House has launched a national drive, *The Great Badge Swap*, asking Australians to donate badges they've worn at significant times in their lives and the stories behind them—to become part of its *Living Democracy* exhibition and the museum's permanent collection.

The *Living Democracy* exhibition explores the way Australians participate in, shape and challenge our democracy. The museum already has 150 badges in its collection and while they can be placed in historical context due to the message shown or the time period they come from, most of the personal stories behind them remain a mystery.

The Great Badge Swap is about finding and preserving those missing stories and the stories of other Australians and their badges. For over a century, Australians have been wearing badges not just to protest, but to express their identity, solidarity, dissent, pride, anger, celebration, commemoration, humour or hope.

The museum's Curator, Corinne Perkin says, "Badges are worn for protest but they are worn to get other messages across too. It's a very broad variety of things—what we're trying to do with this campaign is to capture that breadth."

Submitting a badge and story is easy. Donors need only go to moadoph.gov.au/greatbadgeswap and follow the steps.

Corinne Perkin explains what happens next, 'Once we've seen a submission we'll let people know which ones we're able to take into the collection. We'll provide them with post packs and everything they need to send the badges in.' Donors will receive a commemorative *Great Badge Swap* badge in return.

A selection of badges will be displayed in the physical exhibition, *Living Democracy* at the Museum of Australian Democracy and the entire collection will be viewable in digital form at the museum. An online exhibition of the badges and stories will follow—making access to the collection possible for all Australians, no matter where they are located.

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House links the past, present and future of Australia's democracy in one of Australia's most-loved buildings. Open daily 9am – 5pm except Christmas Day, moadoph.gov.au.

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