



## Australian Government

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### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Office for the Arts

Dr Andrew Burnett  
Deputy Director  
British Museum  
Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3DG

Dear Dr Burnett

I am writing in support of the claim made for the repatriation of two Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains from the British Museum by the Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners. The Australian Government has agreed to work with the Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners to advocate for the return of their ancestors' remains to Australia and strongly supports the submission to the Board of Trustees of the British Museum.

The Australian Government is committed to the return in accordance with the wishes of their communities of origin, of all Australian Indigenous ancestral remains held in both Australian and overseas institutions. In doing this, the Government recognises the special connections that Indigenous people have with their ancestral remains, and that repatriation is an important aspect in the journey towards healing and reconciliation.

We note that many remains were taken at a time when the prevailing attitude towards indigenous people and their culture was fundamentally different to what it is today.

We appreciate the progress made to date in the repatriation of Indigenous ancestral remains from the United Kingdom, in particular the British Museum.

The Australian Government looks forward to continuing to address this issue in a cooperative and constructive spirit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacey Campton', written in a cursive style.

Stacey Campton  
Assistant Secretary Indigenous Culture  
Office for the Arts  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet