

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY TEMPLATE**

<b>Aim of Policy / Scope of Service:</b> <i>Request for return of human remains to Australia (RP&amp;M Report to Cabinet for Sept 2008 meeting)</i>				
<b>Different Groups included in scope</b>	<b>Potential Impact on this group</b>	<b>Existing data/information inc. relevance of legislation</b>	<b>Data/Information required</b>	<b>Potential Actions to minimise negative impact / promote positive impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religion &amp; Belief</li> <li>Ethnicity</li> </ul> <p>Indigenous Australians in particular but possibly other groups who in future may call for return of human remains</p> <p>There is not considered to be an impact for any of the following groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age</li> <li>Disability</li> <li>Gender (including Transgender)</li> <li>Sexual Orientation</li> <li>Homeless people</li> <li>Unemployed people</li> <li>People employed on a part-time, temporary or casual basis</li> <li>Lone parents</li> <li>People with caring responsibilities</li> <li>People with mental health needs</li> <li>People with substance misuse issues</li> <li>People with HIV</li> <li>Refugees &amp; Asylum seekers</li> <li>Ex – offenders &amp; people with unrelated convictions</li> <li>People experiencing Domestic Violence</li> </ul>	<p>Positive impact of return of remains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Acquisition and Disposal Policy (RP&amp;M 2005)</i></li> <li><i>Guidance for the Care of Human Remains (DCMS 2005)</i></li> <li><i>Policy for the care and treatment of Human Remains (RP&amp;M 2006)</i></li> <li></li> </ul>		<p>If return agreed to, place details on RP&amp;M website and other websites detailing museum collections which have repatriated human remains</p>

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What consultation has been used / undertaken?	Date	Findings
Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (OPIC) Dept of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs of Australian Govt/Australian High Commission	2005 to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Australian human remains have strong cultural, religious and social significance to Indigenous Australians.</li> <li>• Request for return of Indigenous Australia remains held by RP&amp;M made by OPIC in 2005</li> <li>• Assurances from OPIC regarding the treatment of the remains if/when returned to Australia</li> </ul>
Professor William Wright, University of London	January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific analysis carried out on two of skulls held confirmed Australian Aboriginal ancestry.</li> <li>• It is likely that the femora are associated with one of the skulls and are therefore of Australian Aboriginal ancestry.</li> </ul>
Culture & Tourism sub committee BHCC	October 2005; June 2006; and November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members briefed on the <i>Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums</i> (DCMS 2005); Members updated on the development of the <i>Policy for the care and treatment of human remains</i>; and <i>Policy for the care and treatment of human remains</i> (RP&amp;M 2006) agreed by Members.</li> </ul>
Specialists in UK museums:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to follow DCMS <i>Guidance</i>, <i>RP&amp;M Policy</i> and <i>Acquisition and Disposal Policy</i> (RP&amp;M 2005) in addressing requests for return of remains.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Chaplin (Director of the museums of the Royal College of Surgeons, London)</li> </ul>	Summer 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice on precedent set by other museums, including some nationals, i.e. to return unmodified Indigenous Australian remains in response to OPIC request via the Australian High Commission in London.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Eccles (Curator of Ethnography, Royal Albert Memorial Museum Exeter)</li> </ul>	Ditto	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynne Heidi Stumpe (Curator of Oceanic Collections, World Museum, National Museums, Liverpool).</li> </ul>	Ditto	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Museum Ethnographers Group</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Remains Subject Specialist Network.</li> </ul>	2005 to date 2005 to date	

Agreed Actions	Timescale	Lead Officer	Review date
Seek Cabinet approval for Repatriation of Remains.  Any further actions will follow from the Cabinet decision in September and subsequent negotiations with the Australian High Commission.	September 2008	Sarah Posey	

Lead Equality Impact Assessment Officer:

Date:

Departmental Management Team

Date:

Assistant Director:

Date:

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Date:

(N.B. ACTIONS MUST NOW BE TRANSFERRED TO SERVICE BUSINESS PLANS)

