

20 January 2023

Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for the Arts,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT 2600
Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Australian Women's History Network, we express deep concern about the proposed 21 per cent cut to the National Library of Australia's operations budget, and the ending of federal budget support for Trove on 30 June 2023.

The Australian Women's History Network promotes research and writing in all fields of women's history. It brings together scholars, students and others working in women's history to exchange ideas, information, support and resources. We are affiliated with the International Federation for Research in Women's History. Our official journal, *Lilith: A Feminist History Journal*, has been published since 1984. We would like to draw your attention to the recent volume of the journal that contains excellent works of Australian women's history by emerging scholars who make use of Trove: <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/journals/lilith> Furthermore, our public engagement mouthpiece, VIDA: Blog of the Australian Women's History Network, was established in 2016. This open access online forum makes regular use of Trove, as it seeks to share knowledge about women's history directly with the Australian public: <http://www.auswhn.org.au/blog/>

We are very concerned that one of Australia's most utilised collections is at risk of being taken offline. As researchers and writers of the lives, experiences and achievements of Australian women, we fully appreciate the essential role of the Trove archive in our work and the essential role it plays in democratising access to historical knowledge. Trove receives 20 million hits each year and is a vital tool for research by scholars working both with and without institutional support, who have come to embrace digitisation as a desirable method of preserving precious archival collections and making them internationally available.

On behalf of the Australian Women's History Network, we call upon you in your portfolio as Minister for the Arts to ensure adequate funding for the National Library, and to guarantee that Trove remains available and free to the Australian public now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Australian Women's History Network co-convenors: Dr Chelsea Barnett (University of Technology, Sydney), Dr Kate Laing (The Australian National University), Dr Micaela Pattison (Flinders University), Dr Ana Stevenson (University of Southern Queensland), Michelle Staff (The Australian National University)