

MEDIA RELEASE
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**NGA CELEBRATES MORE THAN 190,000 VISITORS TO
VERSAILLES: TREASURES FROM THE PALACE**

The exhibition *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace* closed on 17 April at the National Gallery of Australia drawing 190,128 visitors.

The exhibition drove recreational and education tourism with 70% of visitors from outside the ACT and more than 250 school groups in two months. This follows the announcement by the ACT Government that the ACT has recorded its highest-ever number of Australians visiting the capital with a 12.8 per cent increase for the year ending December 2016, contributing \$1.454 billion to the ACT economy.

‘We are thrilled with the response to this very special exhibition,’ said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director. ‘In addition to the show itself, the NGA’s dynamic program of lectures, workshops, activities, conferences, members’ events and children’s programs provided an insight for our many visitors into the lives and loves of the kings, queens and courtiers of Versailles. Given this was the first time an exhibition of treasures from Versailles has ever left France, we are delighted that so many Australians took advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.’

NGA Ambassador Tina Arena launched the exhibition, with an olfactory installation by master French perfumer Francis Kurkdjian, reflecting Louis XIV’s obsession with perfume use, a formal Versailles-inspired garden entrance by celebrity gardener, Paul Bangay, Baroque performances by the Brandenburg Orchestra and the incredibly popular mini-palace playground for children, NGA Play. The experience was also complemented by highly popular events such ‘Paws for Art’ and ‘Enlighten’.

The next major exhibition *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial* opens in May. Media are invited to the launch 11am on Thursday 25th May.

Social media:

Facebook: @NationalGalleryofAustralia

Instagram: @NationalGalleryAus

Twitter: @NatGalleryAus

Download high resolution images:

<http://nga.gov.au/AboutUs/MediaCentre/Versailles/Default.cfm>

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