**World’s best archivists join forces in Brisbane**

**International Council on Archives (ICA) Congress, 20–24 August**

**Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**

 ***What does a former head of MI5, an eminent Spanish jurist and human rights lawyer and the Head Archivist of the United States have in common?***

All three are among the more than 1000 top archivists from 92 countries who will tomorrow join forces to help solve the archival challenges of the digital age. The International Council on Archives (ICA) Congress, *A Climate of Change,* will be held in Brisbane from 20 to 24 August. The four-yearly congress, held in Australia for the first time, is hosted by the National Archives of Australia.

Social media, blogs and ‘smart devices’ are just some of the new technologies creating challenges for modern archivists. Keynote presenters, **David Ferriero** - Head Archivist for the United States of America, **Dame Stella Rimington**, former Director-General of the British Security Service MI5, and **Mr Baltasar Garzón Real**, former Judge Magistrate of Spain’s central criminal court and human rights lawyer, will share their archival experiences in our rapidly changing world.

‘This international exchange of knowledge and ideas is very timely,’ says David Fricker, Director-General of the National Archives of Australia. ‘Around the world, citizens are demanding more accountability from governments and greater access to information, and this “people power” is driving the future of archives.’

Dedicated to protecting global archival heritage, the International Council on Archives brings the world’s top archivists together every four years. ‘Archives are an irreplaceable resource, witnessing past events and underpinning democracy, the identity of communities and human rights,’ said Mr Fricker.

Throughout the Congress, archivists will attend over 200 presentations and workshops, exploring the themes of trust, identity and sustainability. Information on the Congress program is at [ica2012.com](http://www.ica2012.com/index.php).

**The media are invited to register their interest in attending the opening ceremony, keynote presentations and daily media conferences by contacting** elizabeth.masters@naa.gov.au

**Director General David Fricker is available for interview on Monday 20 August.** **All keynote speakers are available for interview.**

Media are also encouraged to follow Congress events on social media:

* **Twitter** – #ICA\_2012
* **Facebook** – [www.facebook/com/naagovau](http://www.facebook/com/naagovau)
* **Flickr** – [www.flickr.com/national-archives-of-australia/](http://www.flickr.com/national-archives-of-australia/)
* **Storify** – [www.storify.com/naagovau](http://www.storify.com/naagovau)

**Media contacts**

Shaun Rohrlach on +61 434 664 621 or shaun.rohrlach@naa.gov.au or

Melanie Harwood on +61 422 535 213 or melanie.harwood@naa.gov.au

20 August 2012