



Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

Australia ICOMOS Conference
5-8 November 2015
Adelaide Australia



Kate Gray

Kate Gray is an Associate Director with Lovell Chen and has 25 years experience in the heritage field. With training in history and planning, Kate's work now includes the identification, assessment and management of heritage places of all types. She also provides advice and impact assessment for large scale developments and infrastructure projects.

Social value and the management of physical fabric

Paper Abstract

The assessment of social value is an important part of heritage practice, but on occasion it can be challenging to address in developing management policies for heritage places, particularly where major change is proposed. In some cases, these challenges include interpreting the relationship between the social values - which may be varied and evolving - and the physical fabric of that place. The retention and conservation of fabric is one means through which we can acknowledge social value. but the value often also relies on ongoing engagement with the place. This can be difficult in the context of changes of ownership and use, adaptation and development.

This paper explores these issues with reference to the former Ballarat Orphanage, a place invested with an intense attachment by individuals and communities – and where major change is proposed.