

Senior Curator

Qantas Founders Museum | Longreach, Queensland

Big ideas. Big skies. Big impact.

Ready to lead a world-class curatorial team and shape Australia's aviation heritage?

Qantas Founders Museum — an award-winning museum with art gallery at the birthplace of Qantas — is seeking an experienced curator to lead the care, interpretation, and renewal of one of Australia's most distinctive heritage collections.

This is a senior leadership role for a curator who wants more than business-as-usual. You'll lead collections stewardship and curatorial practice, drive exhibition renewals and innovative projects, manage significant funded initiatives, and help shape the future of a landmark regional museum — all while enjoying the genuine lifestyle and creative freedom that regional Queensland offers.

What you'll be doing

- **Lead collections stewardship** — Manage a nationally significant aviation collection with professional curatorial practice, conservation strategies, and heritage compliance
- **Drive museum innovation** — Develop and lead exhibition improvements, upgrades, and contemporary interpretation across physical and digital platforms
- **Deliver major projects** — Manage funded and capital projects from concept to completion, coordinating budgets, timelines, consultants, and stakeholders
- **Secure funding & recognition** — Write competitive grant applications, prepare acquittals, and lead award submissions that recognise museum excellence
- **Build sector relationships** — Represent the Museum at industry events, conferences, and professional networks, contributing to contemporary curatorial practice
- **Lead & mentor your team** — Supervise a Curatorial & Collections Assistant, support other team member and foster a collaborative culture focused on excellence.

Why this role matters

This is more than a curatorial position — it's a leadership opportunity at a nationally recognised institution. You'll have the autonomy and resources to shape how Australia's aviation heritage is preserved, interpreted, and shared with diverse audiences, both locally and nationally.

You'll work directly with the CEO, lead a supportive team, and contribute to the Museum's ongoing evolution as a centre of excellence in regional cultural heritage.

Why Longreach?

Because impact looks different out here:

- **A welcoming and connected regional arts community** — Collaborate with peer institutions, community partners, and a supportive cultural sector
- **Real work-life balance** — Short commutes, big skies, genuine time to breathe, and space for creativity
- **Affordable living with a genuine lifestyle** — More space, and a tight-knit regional community
- **Your work is visible and valued** — See the direct impact of your leadership on visitors, your team, and the Museum's future
- **Professional development** — Engage with national museum networks, conferences, and sector opportunities.

About you

You're a manager with:

- A relevant tertiary qualification in museum studies, curation, heritage management, or related field
- Minimum 5+ years of demonstrated senior curatorial experience in a museum, gallery, or heritage institution
- Strong project management experience, including budget oversight and stakeholder coordination
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills — with the ability to engage diverse audiences and stakeholders
- Knowledge of collection management systems, conservation principles, and professional museum standards
- A commitment to professional ethics, accessibility, and inclusive curatorial practice.

Selection Criteria

- Aviation or industrial heritage experience
- Experience managing exhibitions and interpretive projects from concept to delivery
- A track record in grant writing and funding acquisition
- Familiarity with digital collection platforms and online interpretation
- Experience with awards, accreditation, or sector recognition programs
- A graduate qualification in museum studies or curation.

What we offer

- **Competitive salary:** \$90,000–\$100,000 + superannuation (dependent on experience)
- **Relocation support**
- **3-year fixed-term contract** — Full-time, 38 hours per week
- **Professional development** — Engagement with the broader museum sector and contemporary curatorial practice
- **A leadership role with real influence** — Shape collections, exhibitions, and the Museum's future direction
- **A collaborative, supportive workplace** — Committed to excellence, innovation, and inclusive practice.

Ready to make your mark?

If you're a senior curator ready to step into a leadership role with genuine autonomy, national relevance, and the space to innovate — and you're open to a meaningful tree change in regional Queensland — we'd love to hear from you.

Location: Longreach, Outback Queensland

Salary: \$90,000–\$100,000 + super

Employment: Full-time, 3-year fixed-term contract

Apply: Closes Friday 13 February 2026 send application by email to ceo@qfom.com.au

Qantas Founders Museum is committed to creating an inclusive workplace. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences and are committed to providing reasonable adjustments to support your application.