

## **MEDIA RELEASE: September 2014**

### **Valuing Impact in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities DASSH Conference 2014**

More than 90 academic leaders are attending a two-day gathering to discuss the future of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities amid one of the most radical upheavals the Australian higher education sector has seen in decades.

The 2014 Conference of the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH), is an annual event, but this year's theme – Valuing Impact in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities – is particularly significant.

“This conference is a key way for leaders in the sector to discuss the role and impact of ASSH in the impending teaching and research landscape,” DASSH President, Professor John Germov said.

“The Coalition's higher education reform package has the potential to affect the ASSH sector significantly and over the next two days we will be looking at ways to ensure we remain resilient to future challenges and continue to deliver public value and impact for all our communities.”

The themes that will be addressed highlight a growing recognition in universities and beyond that our disciplines remain relevant, perhaps more so than ever.

“The assembled Deans from Faculties across Australia and New Zealand will be making the case that subjects such as history, philosophy, music, drama, sociology, languages, classics, political science, area studies – are vital if humankind is to live with dignity and purpose in an interconnected and sometimes dangerous world,” said Professor Tim Dunne, Executive Dean of the Humanities and Social Sciences at The University of Queensland

Conference sessions include:

- Can Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Influence Public Policy?
- Funding Prospects in the ASSH Disciplines
- Eight Challenges to the Future of Universities and How We Should Respond
- Non-Traditional Research Outcomes in ASSH Disciplines
- Global Rankings and their Relevance in ASSH
- Philanthropy in the ASSH Disciplines
- Research Centres and Institutes in ASSH.

**Key speakers include:**

- **Professor Peter Shergold AC, former permanent secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**

- **Senator Kim Carr, Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Industry**
- **Senator Scott Ryan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education**
- **Professor James Arvanitakis, Prime Minister’s Teacher of the Year**
- **Professor Stephen Garton, Provost, University of Sydney**
- **Professor Bruce Chapman, Australian National University (and the “father of HECS”)**

The Conference will be held on 18 and 19 September 2014, at Customs House Brisbane and is hosted by The University of Queensland. A number of satellite events will be held on 17 September.

To learn more about the conference, including the full program, visit the [conference website](#).

For media enquiries contact:

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### ***Who are DASSH?***

*The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) is the authoritative agency on research, teaching and learning for the arts, social sciences and humanities (ASSH) in Australian and New Zealand universities.*

*DASSH supports those within these institutions who have responsibility for the governance and management of research and teaching and learning in their universities.*

*DASSH also supports those who aspire to these positions through a Network of Associate Deans (Learning and Teaching) and a Network of Associate Deans (Research).*