

PRESS RELEASE: Tuesday, 23rd August 2016

Backing excellence in Australian Humanities and Social Science research

The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) rejected claims in the media yesterday questioning the merits of funding of research projects and challenging the integrity of the Australian Research Council (ARC).

“Academics in Australian universities conduct research that is recognised internationally as world-leading. The key funding body for much of that research is the ARC. The ARC uses expert reviewers as part of a robust process for allocating competitive research funding based on merit,” said Professor Susan Dodds, President of DASSH.

“DASSH welcomes the comments by Professor Aiden Byrne, CEO of the ARC defending the ARC’s assessment processes.

“Australia has benefited greatly from having a robust, independent, merit-based system for assessing and allocating research funding. The ARC’s processes set the highest standards in rigorous merit-based review, and we need to ensure that this system is not undermined.

“Most Australians understand the value of research that unlocks our history, provides understanding of our neighbours and of our changing place in the world. Strong capacity in research across the disciplines is needed to ensure that Australia has the store of knowledge and understanding required for a changing world.

“Australians understand that while scientific knowledge is important for addressing pressing issues facing our collective future, social and cultural understanding *together with* scientific knowledge is vital for successful industries, businesses, government and societies.”

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About 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).