

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Humanities and social sciences mapping project crucial

The Government's announcement today of a new project to map the national research and teaching capacity in the humanities and social sciences recognises the critical role that these disciplines will play in shaping Australia's future, particularly in the Asian Century.

"The humanities and social sciences touch every aspect of our lives – so ensuring that we have an up-to-date picture of the overall health of these disciplines is a decision that we welcome," said Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of Universities Australia.

"The value of these types of mapping exercises was highlighted last year when the Chief Scientist's Health of Australian Science report was released.

"This complementary report into the humanities and social sciences will be equally important.

"This is particularly so, because this project will also consider how government, universities and the humanities and social science communities can work together to address issues of sustainability and capability."

The project will be undertaken by the Australian Academy of Humanities and the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, led by Professor Graeme Turner.

"Both of these academies are expertly placed to undertake this vital project and our universities look forward to working with them on to achieve the best outcome possible," Ms Robinson said.

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