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Research Infrastructure Investment Plan A Cause For Concern For Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Researchers

The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) joins with our colleagues from the Australian Academy of the Humanities to express our concern at the lack of proposed investment for our disciplines in the Government's [Research Infrastructure Investment Plan](#), which was released yesterday.

Platforms for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) and Indigenous Research was clearly identified as one of the nine priority areas for investment recommended in the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap. DASSH welcomes the Government's allocation of \$53.4M over the next five years to Platforms for HASS, however the projects that this funding has been distributed to has greatly alarmed the Council.

Under the proposed investments for Platforms for HASS, only one of the three projects is an actual investment in HASS and HASS researchers. While we agree that funding allocated to the CSIRO and the Atlas of Living Australia is worthwhile and needed, it should not be funded from the limited pool allocated to HASS researchers and at the expense of HASS projects.

The Plan includes funding for a scoping study will be undertaken to identify the technology platform and capabilities needed to establish HASS and Indigenous research platforms. This is one of eight scoping studies proposed of which \$3.2M is allocated to be shared among the studies. This equates to less than 1% of the total research infrastructure investment for the next five years allocated to HASS researchers, a workforce that makes up 41% of the nation's research workforce.

"This is a significant workforce which has been effectively excluded from research infrastructure. These capabilities are essential to HASS researchers as we increasingly engage in digital forms of research to record and analyse all elements of our lives," said Professor Mandy Thomas, President of DASSH.

DASSH calls on the Government to show real support to the work of Australia's humanities, arts, and social sciences researchers and provide them with the long overdue investment in research infrastructure that will enable us to strengthen Australia's data capability and the next-generation HASS research workforce.

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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), a Network of Associate Deans (Research) and a Network of Associate Deans (International).