

DASSH welcomes Minister's reform measures

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The Federal Government's clear decision to reset relations with universities and higher education, and in particular the fields of the humanities, arts and social sciences is welcomed by the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Equity and inclusion, Indigenous enrolment numbers, student safety and the role and operations of the Australian Research Council (ARC) are of critical importance in the higher education sector.

They were highlighted by Minister for Education Jason Clare last week at the Universities Australia conference.

The announcement of a \$20.5M funding package for the National Centre for Student Equity at Curtin University is of huge significance and one that is welcomed by DASSH membership.

The independent review of the ARC is an important turning point and something DASSH has advocated for over the last six months – particularly when calling for an end to Ministerial vetoes on Discovery Grants.

The appointment of Professor Sue Dodds, former DASSH President and current Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Industry Engagement) at La Trobe University, to the ARC Advisory Committee firms up the Minister's commitment to a reset.

On April 6 this year [DASSH noted](#) the omission of a humanities representative from the Committee was further entrenching a sense of exclusion from these areas at the ARC which was of huge concern to our members.

DASSH is confident these changes and commitments signal the beginning of a set of reforms that will continue to improve outcomes for universities, students and staff, particularly those with a humanities, arts or social sciences background.

We are very much looking forward to working with the new Minister to support the step-change process needed to achieve real reform.

President Catharine Coleborne

Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

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