

DASSH welcomes change at the ARC

31 August 2022

The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities welcomes the review of the Australian Research Council announced this week.

The Minister has requested all future grants rounds are delivered on time to a pre-determined timeframe and that the National Interest Test (NIT) should be clearer, simpler and easily understood.

He has also requested that the National Manufacturing Priorities be replaced by the National Reconstruction Fund in assessing Linkage Grants.

The process of change and renewal provides the ARC with the opportunity to integrate arts, social sciences and humanities research more fully into its funding priorities.

The way the NIT has been used is counterproductive and damaging to 'blue skies' research and we encourage the Minister to think broadly about the kinds of research that serves the national interest.

We are heartened by the Minister's request that the ARC develop processes and provide clear guidance to minimise workload for researchers. This also signals a greater understanding of the value of research discovery.

DASSH looks forward participating in a wide-ranging consultation process around this issue which has caused high levels of uncertainty and distress for many researchers.

We note the move away from the National Manufacturing Priorities to the National Reconstruction Fund.

Our members look forward to learning how our disciplines will be better represented through this new measure.

As the Federal Government's National Research Infrastructure Roadmap highlights, arts, social sciences and humanities are absolutely crucial in driving and delivering projects with national impact.

DASSH warmly welcomes the appointment of former DASSH President Professor Susan Dodds to the review process to be led by Vice Chancellor of the Queensland University of Technology Margaret Sheil AO.

These changes provide the ARC with an opportunity to work more closely with universities and researchers to achieve better outcomes for Australia's research profile and those conducting the research.

Professor Catharine Coleborne
President, Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities

Jane Ryan, Executive Director
0468 632 044
jane.ryan@dassh.edu.au