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## **Deans release Policy Scorecard for the 2019 Australian Federal Election**

The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) has released a scorecard to help voters understand where political parties stand on issues of importance to the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) sector.

DASSH President, Professor Mandy Thomas, said that the Federal election offers a unique opportunity to examine the positions of Australia's key political players.

Professor Thomas emphasised that DASSH holds no particular political affiliations and does not seek to influence the votes of its members or the public. Instead, the scorecard offers an overview of publicly advertised party positions on a selection of policies which DASSH considers priorities.

"We would encourage voters to consider the positions of parties and candidates across a range of issues," Professor Thomas said. "Our scorecard is designed to help clarify where parties stand on the issues that are important for the future of higher education sector in Australia."

"Government support for education and research in HASS disciplines is of vital importance to the future of Australia's economy, culture and society. As the nature of work transforms, there is growing need and demand for graduates with the highly adaptable and transferrable skills that are fostered through HASS degrees. There is also widespread recognition of the growing importance of cultural and emotional intelligence in the future workplace."

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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).*