



Council for the
humanities, arts
& social sciences

Submission to Refreshing the National Research Priorities

March 2012

Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) is the peak body for the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS) sector in Australia. CHASS's membership of 90 organisations includes major universities, faculties, professional peaks and arts organisations. CHASS advocates for issues that concern the disciplines it represents and addresses gaps through collaborative forums and workshops including the flagship event HASS on the HILL which is held at Parliament House. CHASS also links the knowledge disciplines it represents to current social policy debates around issues such as the environment, migration, regional matters and the government's innovation agenda.

REFRESHING THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES 2012 - SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

<p>1. Does the proposed wording of the new <i>Enhancing Society, Culture and Communities</i> NRP and its associated priority goals provide an opportunity for researchers within the humanities, arts and social sciences to contribute to Australia's research priorities?</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>Yes. We would also support the submission of our member History SA in considering the word "values" rather than "celebrate".</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>CHASS commends the department on recognising the significance of HASS sector. This supports the strong advocacy by the sector for Australian research to specifically value the contributions made by HASS disciplines.</p> <p>The word "values" as explained in the History SA submission, is associated with critical thinking and may better support the intent of this priority.</p>
<p>2. Do you consider that those suggested adequately cover the areas of national priority of particular importance to the HASS disciplines? Please provide specific example of any alternate goals and the context to explain your comments or suggestions.</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>Yes it does cover most of the major disciplines. However in support of the input from BARDSNet, we would add business and economic research in recognition of the role of the financial sector.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Business and Economic research is critical for understanding the "underlying mechanisms of economic activity (BARDSNet)". The financial services sector is the largest of all sectors in Australia in terms of contribution to the GDP. In terms of national priorities for competitive funding, these disciplines would need to be included.</p>
<p>3. Do the descriptions underneath the draft NRP and each priority goals adequately explain their purposes? Please provide specific example of any alternate text and the context to explain your comments or suggestions.</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>We would suggest enhancing the intent of some of them as follows:</p> <p>Culture, heritage and identity</p> <p>In support of History SA submission to reword <i>Understanding Australia's identity, culture, heritage and histories</i>.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>We support the rationale of History SA submission which recognises the plurality of cultures, identities and histories in Australia.</p>

<p>To</p> <p>Understanding Australia's identities, cultures, heritage and histories.</p> <p>Social inclusion, diversity and equity</p> <p>Amend</p> <p><i>Fostering tolerance, diversity, multiculturalism and social engagement</i></p> <p>As</p> <p>Fostering diversity, multiculturalism, engagement and participation</p> <p>Quality of Life</p> <p>Amend</p> <p><i>Maximising the wellbeing of Australians by understanding the factors conducive to its growth, including supportive social and working environments and liveable human settlements.</i></p> <p>As</p> <p>Maximising the wellbeing of Australians by understanding the factors conducive to its growth including economic and business activity, supportive social and working environments and liveable human settlements.</p> <p>Knowledge and society</p> <p>We support the suggested changes by the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) which is:</p> <p>Effecting beneficial change through the transformative power of education, lifelong learning and community development, and strengthening the skills and understanding needed for innovation, leadership, and community building.</p>	<p>"Tolerance" is a term that has been contentious in debates around marginalisation or difference. To some, it denotes passive indifference rather than active engagement and interaction.</p> <p>CHASS suggests the addition of participation as it is key to creating inclusion, access and equity.</p> <p>In support of BARDSNet submission, the inclusion of business and financial services activities recognises the contributions that economic activity makes to creating quality of life outcomes.</p> <p>Please see AARE submission</p>
<p>4. Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of <i>An Environmentally Sustainable Australia</i> NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>Yes. We would suggest a specific priority around community engagement. A suggested text would be:</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>There is evidence that we have not focused on effective ways of engaging communities in environmental information and strategies. This</p>

<p>Engaging Australian communities in Environmental strategies</p> <p>Supporting community development and social sciences research to provide best practice models for engaging all Australians in creating a sustainable Australia</p>	<p>creates disengagement and a lack of buy in from them into government policies. Reports such as the “Cross Connections” study prepared for National Water Commission have clearly identified the lack of social research and social sciences information as a critical gap in the failure to procure community buy in for environmental strategies.</p> <p>History SA and AARE submissions have also provided some options for this issue.</p>
<p>5. Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of the <i>Promoting and Maintaining Good Health</i> NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>We support the proposed amendments.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
<p>6. Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of the <i>Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries</i> NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>We support AARE’s welcoming of the broadening of this NRP and of the importance of education in the arena of “institutions and services”.</p> <p>Amend</p> <p>Advanced materials</p> <p><i>Advanced materials for applications in energy, manufacturing, construction, communications, transport, agriculture and medicine (examples include ceramics, organics, biomaterials, smart material and fabrics, composites, polymers and light metals) and the creative industries.</i></p> <p>To</p> <p>Advanced materials and methodologies</p> <p>Advanced materials and methodologies for applications in energy, manufacturing, construction, communications, transport, agriculture and medicine . (examples include ceramics, organics, biomaterials, smart material and fabrics, composites, polymers and</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>The amendment better recognises the context of “creative industries” where the advancement can include innovation in terms of materials and/or processes.</p>

light metals)- and the creative industries.	
<p>7. Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of the <i>Safeguarding Australia</i> NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.</p>	
<p>Your response:</p> <p>Amend</p> <p><i>Understanding our region and the world</i></p> <p><i>Enhancing Australia’s capacity to interpret and engage with its regional and global environment through a greater understanding of languages, societies, politics and cultures</i></p> <p>To</p> <p>Understanding our region and the world</p> <p>Recognising Australia’s position in the region and globally by enhancing engagement through increased understanding of contemporary languages, societies, politics and cultures</p> <p>Amend</p> <p><i>Extreme events</i></p> <p><i>Improving our ability to manage extreme economic, environmental or social events through preparedness and planning, recovery structures and processes, risk analysis, response technologies and protocols.</i></p> <p>To</p> <p>Extreme events</p> <p>Improving our ability to manage extreme economic, environmental or social events through preparedness and planning including community engagement strategies, recovery structures and processes, risk analysis, response technologies and protocols.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>The amendment provides a more active stance for Australia, particularly in terms of its regional context. CHASS’s consultations have revealed that in terms of engaging with Asia, Australia needs to more strongly recognise the contemporary issues that face societies in the region such as climate change and inequality, and how these can be jointly addressed.</p> <p>Here again, the role of engaging communities in this priority is key. It also supports the role of social science research and community development work in order to enhance community participation and access to information and knowledge.</p>

8. Are there any further amendments or refinements which should be considered to the NRPs and/or their associated priority goals in order to reduce repetition or duplication?	
Your response:	Rationale: