



Response from the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) to Minister Fifield's decision on the National Program for Excellence in the Arts (NPEA)

CHASS congratulates Minister Fifield for addressing industry concerns and returning partial funds to the Australia Council to assist the stability of the small to medium arts organisations. It is assumed that the Australia Council will now adjust the roll-out of its new strategic plan, which was widely supported by industry.

However, CHASS calls on the Government to do more. The arts are a fundamental platform for the expression of human behaviour and understanding. When communities are challenged with disparate views, misunderstanding and tension, the arts can cut through and provide shared narrative, knowledge and 'knowing'. The arts unite, broaden our human experience and create meaningful and engaged communities.

We encourage Minister Fifield to engage deeply with the humanities, arts and social science sector, and in doing so, broaden the national conversation and benefit all Australians, and look forward to working closely with him in the coming months.

Professor Joseph Siracusa
CHASS President

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