



From the CHASS Executive Director

It's a great pleasure for me to write my first message as Executive Director. I would like to thank CHASS members for their kind wishes of good luck.

The CHASS constitution describes our objectives as representing and promoting the sector, providing a forum for discussion, and building up the innovative capacity of Australia. All worthy goals; achieving them will require partnerships with other educational and advocacy organisations, foundations, government and businesses.

Finding partners, raising funds and influencing policy are easiest when we have clear concrete objectives. Thus, we need to articulate a compelling vision of what we wish to achieve.

I am not the font of all wisdom, and members will have their own ideas of appropriate goals, but here are a few that you may wish to consider.

We all want public policy to reflect the best social science research. To make this concrete, we could campaign for the appointment of a Chief Social Scientist to parallel the position of Chief Scientist. Only a Chief Social Scientist, expert in research methods and with strong links to the community of social scientists, would be able to provide the high-level advice necessary for sound policy development. The UK has agreed to appoint a chief social scientist, and Australia could have one too.

Similarly, the status of some of the arts and humanities could be enhanced by greater national recognition. It's an old debate, and a fractious one, but we could campaign for a Poet Laureate.

Perhaps we also need a Prime Minister's Committee on the Arts and Humanities similar to the one that advises the American President on educational and social issues.

If you would like to work on any of these ideas, please let me know. If you don't like them, let me know that as well. Most importantly, if you have other ideas for concrete aims, let me hear them. CHASS needs a portfolio of ideas to recruit partners and donors.

In addition to representing and promoting the sector, the CHASS constitution also charges us with providing a forum for discussion. This is the purpose behind the CHASS forum, which will take place in Parliament House Canberra on 20 June. The forum focuses on civility and will include a former Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, ABC Chair and distinguished participants from all parts of society. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our sector, and it is vital that we have a good turnout. Please make every effort to attend and participate. Your presence will ensure that the CHASS voice is heard. I will look forward to meeting you at the Forum.

Steven Schwartz



CHASS National Forum 2013 'Civility in Australia'



Civility in Australia
expanding the boundaries
'being open to learn, to teach, to hear and to change'¹



There is a growing realisation that our inability to deal with a broad range of problems is largely attributable to the destructive ways in which the issues are being addressed. This raises a crucial and increasingly controversial question – what exactly do we mean by “civility”?²

CHASS is pleased to announce its annual National Forum to investigate this topic at **Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday 20 June 2013.**

The CHASS National Forum 2013 aims to bring together representatives from the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) sectors. It will provide an opportunity for researchers, parliamentarians, policy makers and practitioners to interact with one another around the issue of civility, and debate the broader implications for Australian society and beyond.

Eminent speakers from across the country will address the following topics:

- The Borders of Civility
- Civility and Democracy
- Civility and the Arts
- Soft Power and Public Diplomacy

Confirmed speakers include:

- Dr Tom Calma AO, National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking
- Professor Rosalind Croucher, Australian Law Reform Commission
- Roslyn Dundas, Australian Dance Council - Ausdance
- Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA
- Tony Grybowski, Australia Council for the Arts
- The Hon John Howard OM AC
- The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Donald McDonald AC, Former Chairman of the ABC
- Andrew Tink, Author, Historian and Former NSW Politician
- Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, Australian Human Rights Commission

For the provisional program and complete list of speakers, [click here](#).

Early bird registration fee - \$155 (closing Friday 7 June)*
Limited special discounted fee for seniors and students - \$120
Limited seating - [click here](#) to register!

*Normal registration fee (June 8 onwards) - \$185

[Click here](#) for sponsorship opportunities

For more information, contact the CHASS Secretariat on (02) 6201 5996 / 62012740 / membership@chass.org.au

CHASS National Forum 2013 is supported by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

¹[Institute for Civility in Government](#) Co-Founders, Cassandra Dahnke and Tomas Spath
²Burgess and Burgess, [1997 Conflict Resolution Consortium](#)

Highlights from the 2013-14 Commonwealth Budget

The recent budget included many initiatives relevant to the HASS sector. We have prepared the following summary:

Boosting productivity through innovation, education, skills and research

\$1 billion investment in boosting Australian innovation, productivity and competitiveness under A Plan for Australian Jobs.

\$135 million for 150 four-year Future Fellowships to attract and retain the best Australian and international mid-career researchers in areas of crucial national importance.

\$97 million from 2014 to 2017 for additional Commonwealth-supported places for sub-bachelor and postgraduate places.

\$68.8 million over four years to establish an Alternative Pathways Program to deliver more flexible pathways for 4000 Australians completing apprenticeships in a trade or technical qualification in high demand industries facing skills shortages.

Australia in the Asian Century

The Government is continuing to invest in a range of initiatives that broaden and deepen Australia's relationships with Asia, as outlined in the White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century.

Preparing students for success

The Government is committed to increasing Asia-relevant skills in the workforce by better preparing students for success in the Asian Century.

Investment of \$97 million over five years to boost sub-bachelor and post-graduate places in Australian universities means more students can access Commonwealth-supported places including to study an Asian language.

The Government is offering up to 12,000 Asian Century Awards over five years for Australians to study in the region, and students from regional countries to undertake study in Australia.

Boosting business links

The Government is providing \$7.8 million over five years in grants for Australian business organisations to improve links with Asia. This will support Australian business to broaden their reach into emerging business centres.

Stronger relationship with China

The Government is continuing to deepen Australia's relationship with China through a number of initiatives:

- a) Australia Week in China, which will showcase the best Australia has to offer in tourism and trade;
- b) Direct trading between the Australian dollar and the Chinese renminbi, making it cheaper for Australian businesses to buy and sell into the Chinese market;
- c) Establishing the Australia-China Leaders' Dialogue to give renewed strategic direction to Australia's relationship with China.

Sustaining investment in higher education

75 per cent increase in funding for university places

Commonwealth funding for university places has increased by 75 per cent between 2007 and 2013, from \$3.5 billion to \$6.1 billion.

Around an additional 149,000 places are available in 2013 compared to 2007 levels - 35 per cent increase.

The Government is expanding this investment by providing an additional \$97 million from 2014 to 2017 for additional Commonwealth supported places for sub-bachelor and postgraduate courses.

\$51 billion university funding over five years

Investment in higher education funding is expected to be a total of \$51 billion over five years from 2012-13. Given the substantial growth in funding, the Government will introduce a 2 per cent and 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend only in 2014 and 2015 respectively. This will provide savings of \$903 million over four years and help fund the National Plan for School Improvement.

Even taking this modest saving into account, funding to universities is still growing in real terms over time.

65 per cent increase in student assistance

More students attending university are able to access student income support. Reforms to Youth Allowance payment rates and eligibility criteria mean expenditure on tertiary student assistance grew by 65 per cent between 2007-08 and 2012-13.

From 1 January 2014, the Government will offer Student Start-up Scholarships as income contingent loans to new full time higher education students, providing \$1.2 billion of savings. The Government has ensured that students continue to have access to the same level of financial assistance while studying and will only repay any loans once their HELP debt is repaid.

Strengthening research and skills acquisition

Government reforms and investment in vocational education and training (VET), workforce development and research is seeing more Australians than ever building life changing skills and capabilities, and ensuring that we have the pipeline of skilled people to meet our workforce needs.

Research Funding

In this Budget, the Government is providing \$135.3 million for 150 four year Future Fellowships to attract and retain the best Australian and international mid career researchers in areas of crucial national importance.

Since 2007, the Government has funded \$1.3 billion in national collaborative research infrastructure.

To ensure continued access to this vital infrastructure, the Government is providing \$186 million for operating costs.

The Government is focused on ensuring that Australia maintains an environment that supports world-class research while improving the sustainability of research funding.

Skills Reform

Building on record investment in VET and workforce development, which includes establishing the National Partnership on Skills Reform and the National Workforce Development Fund, the Government is introducing new initiatives to ensure the system meets industry needs.

New pathways to apprenticeships

An Alternative Pathways Program will be established with funding of \$68.8 million over four years, to deliver more flexible pathways for 4,000 Australians completing a trade or technical qualification in high demand industries facing skills shortages. The Government will progress this through the National Panel for Economic Reform.

Skills Connect Fund

\$45.0 million will be provided in 2013-14 to establish the Skills Connect Fund, which will streamline government assistance and provide greater flexibility for Australian businesses in accessing workforce development funding, on a co contribution basis.

A creative Australia

Creative Australia is the Government's \$235 million vision to create jobs and encourage a new generation of artists and creative businesses. The Government is also continuing its support for the National Broadcasters.

The National Cultural Policy

Creative Australia will encourage artists and creative business, promote the importance of Indigenous cultures, connect the arts to Australian life and guide funding and support for the enrichment of all Australians.

Building A Creative Community

\$75.3 million will be provided to a reformed Australia Council to better reflect the modern performing arts industry.

The Government will also strengthen Australia's cultural infrastructure by providing \$40 million through the Regional Development Australia Fund, which is expected to leverage a further \$100 million in partnership funding.

A further \$8.6 million will encourage private sector support for the Arts.

The Government will strengthen elite training for theatre, dance and music students with \$30.2 million for Major Performing Arts companies and training institutions.

Indigenous culture, languages, and visual arts will be supported with \$25.2 million for the revival of Australian Indigenous languages, professional development and support for Indigenous arts centres.

The creativity of Australia's youth will be harnessed with \$21.1 million vocational training, traineeships, start-up business grants, and representation at community cultural events.

The local screen industry will be strengthened with \$41.6 million to attract major international film production including Walt Disney's 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea: Captain Nemo.

National Broadcasters

This Budget delivers a further three years of base funding to ABC and SBS to ensure their unique and high quality programming services. The ABC and SBS make a significant contribution to shaping Australian culture and society.

It also provides \$129 million to enable the ABC to strengthen its high quality news and current affairs programing with a particular focus on events outside major cities, and enable the SBS to invest in local content.

(source: [2013-14 Commonwealth Budget](#))

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