

From the Executive Director's Desk

As everyone knows by now, the federal government has decided to move part of its arts funding out of the Australia Council and other programs and into the Ministry for the Arts. These funds will be used to support a National Program for Excellence in the Arts. According to the draft guidelines, the new program will deliver a wide range of quality arts and cultural experiences that grow arts audiences, throughout Australia and internationally. The program also aims to strengthen Australia's reputation as a sophisticated and artistic nation with a confident, outward-focused arts sector. The government's goals include encouraging greater private sector support and partnership funding for the arts and collaborations to develop arts and culture initiatives including in specific regions or priority areas.

There has been considerable controversy about this move and its effect on arts funding. The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee has launched an inquiry into the budgetary effects to which CHASS has made a submission. (Submissions may be viewed [here](#))

The government proposes to use its new program for endowment incentives, international and cultural diplomacy and strategic initiatives.

Endowment incentives are for long-term projects. Funding will be conditional on organisations also accessing funds from other sources. The International and Cultural Diplomacy funds will support arts and cultural organisations to expand audiences for Australian artistic and creative works through international tours, exhibitions, partnerships and exchanges. It will also support Australian arts organisations to bring internationally significant art and artists to Australia. Strategic Initiatives funding will assist arts and cultural organisations to respond to new opportunities, challenges and issues. It will support projects enabling regional and remote audiences to have new opportunities for access to a wide range of art forms. In each program, funding can extend for up to four years.

Although the range of suitable projects is broad, there are exclusions. These include business start-up costs, private tutoring, individual projects, competitions, awards, film and TV, interactive games and natural heritage projects.

Applications will be accepted all year round. Independent assessors will evaluate projects, but there will also be departmental and ministerial input. In making decisions, quality and access will count but so will value for money. CHASS is aware that there are many competing and justifiable calls for public funds. In making allocations, it is understandable that the government seeks to ensure that it is receiving value for money. However, this is not always easy to measure.

Democratic societies require informed citizens capable of weighing arguments and making informed

value cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Our national identity and social cohesion require a general understanding of our shared culture and history as well as familiarity with the traditions and beliefs of our increasingly diverse population. Preserving, questioning and expanding our cultural heritage are the main purposes of the arts, although these intangibles may not appear in our national accounts.

The government has asked for feedback on the draft guidelines. CHASS will be making a submission. Providing feedback is an opportunity to make your voice heard. Should funding decisions involve public servants? Will the regional areas benefit? How about arts education? Let us know what you think.

Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, FASSA



2015 CHASS National Forum *Inspiring a Creative Australia*, 15 and 16 October, Melbourne

Early bird registrations are now open - book before 31 August and save!

[Click here to view the latest program](#)

Speakers include Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb AC, Tony Grybowski (Australia Council for the Arts), The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson (Australian War Memorial), Dr Lisa O'Brien (The Smith Family Foundation), Claire Spencer (Arts Centre Melbourne), poet Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM, and Sally Warhaft (The Wheeler Centre).

The 2015 CHASS Australia Prizes will be announced over lunch on the 15th. Please join us as we celebrate the achievements of authors, artists, practitioners, leaders and students in the humanities, arts and social sciences in Australia with our lunch keynote speaker, Deborah Joy Cheetham AO.

[Click here to view the list of confirmed speakers](#)

[Click here to register via Eventbrite](#)

[Book your early bird ticket now!](#) |

Renew your annual CHASS membership

Membership renewal invoices have been sent to all current members via email. If your organisation's staff or contact details have changed, please let us know.

Membership subscriptions can be paid via EFT, cheque or credit card (Visa and MasterCard only, merchant fees apply).

CHASS members have access to various services such as the daily media monitoring update, event listings on our website and newsletter, profiling opportunities in our newsletter, and social media promotion. This year, members will also be able to take advantage of [additional discounts to attend the 2015 CHASS National Forum](#), which will take place in Melbourne on 15 and 16 October.

So be sure to renew your membership and continue to remain part of an essential network for communication and collaboration across the diverse disciplines and institutions operating in the HASS sector.

[Why be a CHASS member?](#) |

Sector and Member Events

[ANZCA 2015: Rethinking Communication, Space and Identity](#) 8 – 10 July, Queenstown, Aotearoa New Zealand

Free public seminar: [Normality, Nationalism and Historiography - What has been wrong with the Germans?](#) Macquarie University, 30 July, Sydney

Applications close 1 August: [2016 Fulbright Scholarships for Australians](#) Australian-American Fulbright Commission

Applications close 3 August: [Ausdance Peggy van Praagh Choreographic Fellowship](#)

[2015 NTEU Bluestocking Week](#) 10 – 14 August

[Energies in the Arts Conference](#) MCA & UNSW Art & Design, 13 – 15 August, Sydney

[ATOM 2015 State Conference: New Perspectives](#) 14 – 15 August, Melbourne

Earlybird registrations closing 28 August: [Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand Conference 2015](#) Flinders University, 30 November – 3 December, Adelaide

Exhibition: [The Descendants Project](#), till 30 August, UNSW Canberra

[Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools 2015 Conference](#) University of South Australia, 24 – 25 September

Exhibition: [We all Stand on Sacred Ground](#) AIATSIS, till 25 September, Parliament House, Canberra

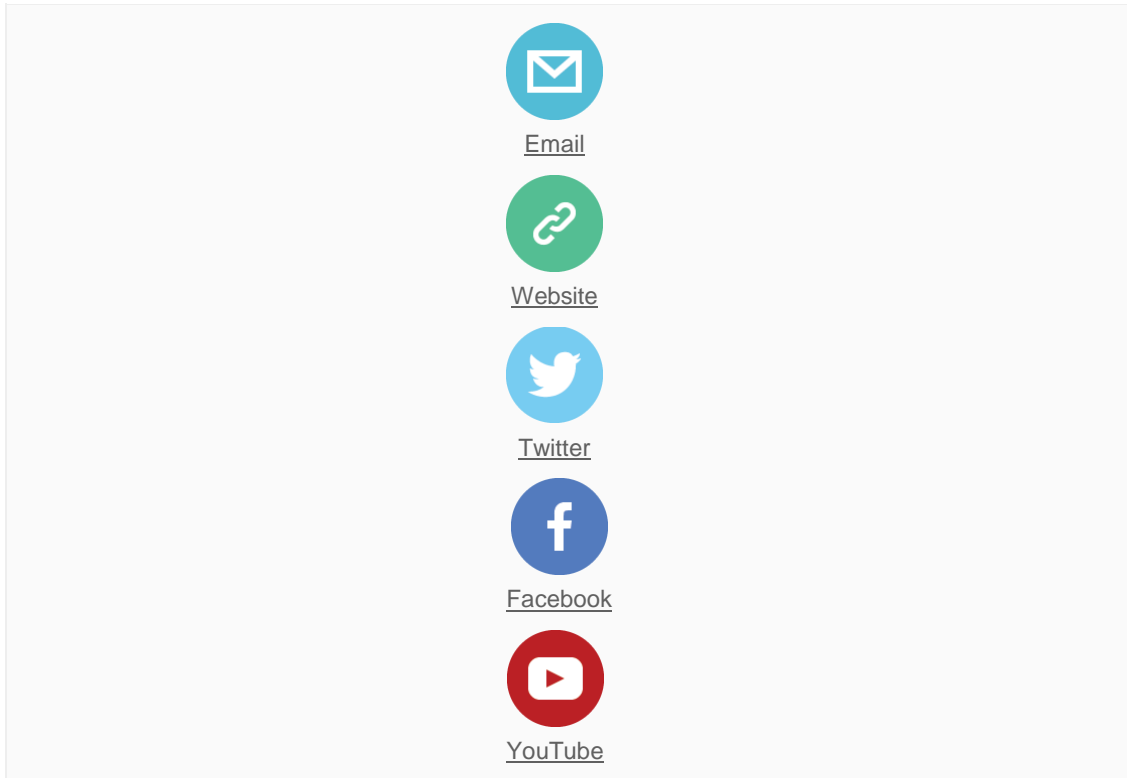
Submission of abstracts closing 31 August: [Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference](#) 29 September – 1 October, Adelaide

[Festival of Architecture and Design 2015 Life on the Edge](#), 8 – 13 October, Adelaide

Submissions of abstracts closing 30 September: [Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science Conference](#) November 4 – 6, University of Melbourne

[2015 NACTMUS Annual Conference](#) 22 – 23 November, Brisbane

Note: While we take due care to list correct information about events listed here, all listings are subject to change and we advise that you reconfirm details before making bookings. Please like our Facebook page for more updates on available grants and sector events.



Copyright © 2015 CHASS, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 12226, Franklin St Post Shop, A'Beckett Street, VIC 8006

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

