

**STATEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ON
THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL FUNDING DECISION**

The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) endorses the view of Universities Australia in urging Minister Dan Tehan to follow expert advice, not exercise such a veto in the future and practice greater transparency in research funding grants.

CHASS notes that all major Australian Research Council (ARC) grant applications already have the 'national benefit' selection criteria in place and that a new 'national interest' test should not be limited to a narrow or short-term understanding of Australia's interests.

CHASS joins its member organisations and other sector peak bodies and associations in condemning Minister Simon Birmingham's decision to veto 11 ARC grant applications totalling over \$4 million in 2017 and 2018. CHASS is deeply disappointed that the vetoed projects were from the Humanities sector. Political interference in ARC's independence and internationally-recognised processes harms Australia's higher education and research sector. It undermines academic freedom and threatens the core of academic research. The impact of such interference on the careers and personal lives of the academics involved is profound. We stand in solidarity with our colleagues in the sector and call for the preservation of the integrity of the ARC's independent peer and expert review process.

Professor Joseph M. Siracusa

President – CHASS

On behalf of the members of the CHASS Board