



Media Centre for Senator the Hon Kim Carr Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

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Media Release

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HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES – SHAPING AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE

Australia’s strong research performance in the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS) plays an important role in our nation’s development and helps to drive innovation across the economy.

Speaking at the annual HASS on the Hill event in Canberra, Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr said HASS disciplines had scored well in the recent Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) results.

“The Australian Government is committed to supporting the best quality research in our universities, regardless of the field,” Senator Carr said.

“Too often in the past, the excellent work of our researchers in the humanities and social sciences has been overlooked.

“But research in these areas has real and direct benefits for the Australian community. For example, I recently announced two new Cooperative Research Centres – the CRC for Young People, Technology and Wellbeing and the CRC for Mental Health – that will draw heavily on the expertise of researchers in the social sciences.

“The ERA showed that many disciplines within the humanities, creative arts and social sciences are performing highly. We are performing particularly well across the country in historical studies, and some of our centres and departments in fields as diverse as politics, law, performing arts, cultural studies and philosophy are among the world’s best.”

Senator Carr also highlighted the important role of the humanities, social sciences and creative arts in informing public policy.

“The Gillard Labor Government has set ambitious goals for a richer, fairer and greener Australia, and we will deliver them. Our decisions must be based on innovative policy advice of the highest calibre, supported by robust evidence,” Senator Carr said.

“The humanities, social sciences and creative arts have a vital role in providing such advice, and in helping to produce the high-quality graduates Australia needs to meet the challenges of the future.”

For more information on the government’s support for innovation and research visit www.innovation.gov.au/

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