



The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) represents the Deans of faculties of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities in universities and higher education institutions across Australia and New Zealand.

DASSH has considerable expertise, knowledge and experience in the higher education sector, both nationally and internationally. As such DASSH believes, through its members, it is a major stakeholder in research and the infrastructure supporting it. DASSH welcomes the opportunity to provide brief input to the 2008 Review of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

The DASSH refers to the section of the Discussion Paper dealing with the comments of the Humanities Arts, and Social Sciences Expert Group on pages 21-30 of the paper.

DASSH supports the views of the Expert Group that the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (ASSH) have a role to play especially in the research priorities of Australia. The DASSH concurs with the Group's concern that the sector is not clearly recognised in the current Roadmap. There is a need to redefine what constitutes research infrastructure so that the sector can improve its own research and better contribute to research on areas that would benefit from cross-disciplinary research.

The current roadmap disadvantages ASSH research. It would appear that ASSH research does not require large infrastructure investment because its research projects are constructed within the current framework where either the infrastructure doesn't exist or there is no funding for the infrastructure that it needs.

DASSH agrees with the Expert Group's Specific Priorities and cross capability research needs. Digitization of significant ASSH activities and research is necessary for future ASSH research. The establishment of virtual collaborative work environments are just as necessary for the ASSH sector as any other research sector and would assist cross-disciplinary activity.

The DASSH endorses the suggested guiding framework.

Points raised in this submission have been put into the DASSH submissions to National Innovation System Review and the Higher Education Review panel. Similarly many points from the NCRIS Discussion Paper have been raised in the discussion papers from the other two reviews. DASSH strongly advocates for cross-review dialogue and recommendations that are based on consultation between the Reviews.

DASSH is willing to be part of a collaboration to implement any of the recommendations of the Roadmap that relate to the ASSH sector. It has a number of experts that can contribute constructively.

The DASSH welcome the opportunity for further consultation and input. Please contact:

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