



ACADEMY OF  
THE SOCIAL SCIENCES  
IN AUSTRALIA

# Australia's Soft Power Assets

The response of the Academy of the Social Sciences in  
Australia to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Soft  
Power Review

*28th September 2018*

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### 1. Executive Summary

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This submission affirms the importance of soft power, and recognises education and research are important instruments for this power. In addition, it stresses that comparative advantage for deployment of soft power should be sought and should be enhanced.

Social science education and research are examples of this potential. At present they are under-utilised. Specific recommendations to better utilise the potential of the social sciences are provided for adoption by this Review. The specific recommendations proposed are the following:

1. *Consider complementary use of income-contingent loans to fund business research and development.*
2. *Deploy the Education Investment Fund to build public health supportive social science research infrastructure.*

3. *Improve and Correct Impact and Engagement metrics to reflect good social science practice.*
4. *Create an Indo-Pacific Regional Academic Collaboration Fund.*
5. *Invest in a Fund promoting the development of international collaboration programs.*
6. *Create a funded social science research program to analyse the possible comparative advantages implicit within Australia's education and research institutions.*
7. *Expand and rebalance Australia's research funding arrangements to also support social science methods on an informed and complementary basis.*
8. *Develop an explicit soft power strategy for advancement of Australian tertiary education best practice in institutional and systems operation.*

## 2. What Is Soft Power?

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Public policy analysis commonly distinguishes government use of its command and control capacity from its ability to seek to alter behaviour via incentives and 'moral suasion'. The latter in particular refers to the power to persuade through ideas and example. Power in this second sense is what is meant by the term 'soft power'.

This is the sense of soft power implicit within the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper, as well as this current Review's terms of reference, which see soft power as:

The ability to influence the behaviour and thinking of others through the power of attraction and ideas. Soft power assets can include a nation's education institutions, its aid program, its tourism assets and economic strength as well as other elements of national identity such as lifestyle and culture.<sup>i</sup>

When soft power is understood in this broad way, the idea of soft power assets as involving a nation's capacities across cultural, economic, and political spheres is made clear. The development of soft power assets therefore encourages the enhancement of the foundations of cultural, economic, and political forms of interaction.

Central to deploying such soft power is the notion of comparative advantage, and understanding Australia's soft power assets involves understanding those practices and institutions in which Australia has a comparative advantage, and those in which it does not.

In a separate recent report supported by ASSA, it is further added that 'comparative advantage can also be created for the future. This must encapsulate both strengths that could be enhanced, and weaknesses that should be mitigated'<sup>1</sup>. It is proposed that such an ability to prioritise sources of soft power and to improve it, should be central to the findings of this Review.

### 3. Australia Has Significant Soft Power Assets in the Social Sciences

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When the notion of soft power is properly conceptualised in this way, certain conclusions fall out almost immediately. One of these is that Australia has major soft power assets in education and research. Their value lies in their intrinsic merit, as well as their influence. This is especially true of the social sciences.

Australian education and research practices are one of Australia's main exports and a central comparative advantage. They therefore comprise a soft power asset in the broader sense linked explicitly with the nation's capabilities across political, legal, economic, and cultural dimensions.

Australia is a country with a relative absence of war and conflict in its territory, both historically and at present. It is more stable than most and lacks civil disorder, with incidence of crime and violence, and fear of each, being low. It is also a relatively healthy country, and overall standards of living and wellbeing are high.

As the ASSA project report on *Australia's Comparative Advantage* put it:

In recent decades Australia has experienced one of the longer periods of sustained employment and income growth of any advanced country. Its basic institutions have been stable and issues of social equity and environmental sustainability have been of growing importance in national political discourse.

Australia has an abundance of natural resources, a high quality of living and some of the best cities in the world. Australia is strong in basic research and human development. Its education and skills are well regarded. Its systems of

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<sup>1</sup> SAF01 p. 16

government, law and culture have provided a strong foundation over decades for growth, development and a fair society

Traditional sectors like mining and agriculture provide much promise and will remain areas of strength. Australia has a well-skilled and effective workforce which can be best further leveraged by linking into global production networks. Australia has a strong and respected research capability, [and] a strong federal structure and rule of law which has delivered lasting prosperity and quality of life.

Institutions in the areas of law, markets and culture are also significant for underpinning advance and have been strong in contributing to this. And inclusive and cohesive society has allowed people to develop their productive potential.<sup>ii</sup>

Naturally, Australia also has weaknesses which are well to investigate, the better to mitigate their negative effects—for intrinsic as well as functional reasons.

Nonetheless, these strengths must be understood to grasp why Australian social sciences in particular are advanced, and how Australia can capitalise on and develop its soft power assets. Without the strengths and favourable conditions outlined above, Australia would not be the fertile ground in which the social sciences flourish.

At the same time, social science research does not only reflect these favourable socio-economic conditions. It is also in part responsible for sustaining and maintaining them. That is to say, social science research is a significant cause of Australia's prosperity. High standards of living in Australia owe much to social science research, and its application in policy. It is imperative Australia projects this power to the world.

Social sciences contribute to the high standard of life in Australia by adding to economic, social, and cultural life in the familiar ways, as well as to environmental sustainability. The underpinnings of advantages in population, health, education, welfare, infrastructure, cities, and regions are all conditioned by social science-informed policies. So are international relations and the legal system. These contributions can be direct, but also indirect or even osmotic.

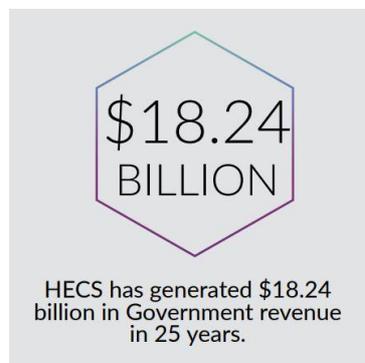
But even if less easily measured contributions are excluded, social sciences still perform well and show themselves to be financially very cost-effective. ASSA has documented a wide array of such contributions in its report *Social Sciences Shape the Nation*.

The following two examples illustrate by way of simple case illustration the ways in which social science contributions pay their way—the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), and Australia’s universal health insurance system (Medicare):

### Case: The Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS)<sup>iii</sup>

In 1989, an income-contingent loan program for higher education was introduced: The Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). This program resulted in more equitable enrolment outcomes for students across different socioeconomic backgrounds, and an overall increase of enrolments by around 70%.

These effects produce substantial financial payoff<sup>iv</sup>: so far HECS has generated some \$18.24 billion in government revenue through repayments<sup>v</sup>. It presently recoups around \$2 billion directly each year<sup>vi</sup>, in addition to what it recoups through greater tax on more skilled, more productive, and better paid labour. Moreover, it generates an additional stream of income for the government, and saves it from fully funding higher education. HECS is cheap to run, since loan repayments are collected through the tax system: administration costs come in at barely 4% of overall revenue.



Further social science research is required to maximise the benefits of HECS policy for students and government—and indeed to appraise the possibility of further applications of the income-contingent loan model which underpins HECS.

Research on the possibility of applying this loan model to other public policy issues is being undertaken in earnest<sup>vii</sup>. Areas of inquiry include: paid parental leave, legal aid, business innovation, unemployment support, aged care provisions, health care, drought relief, Indigenous business investment, housing loans for the disadvantaged, residential solar energy devices, payment of white collar criminal fines, and drought relief—the latter of which Professor Bruce Chapman argues is highly likely to be more equitable than a grants system financed by taxpayers<sup>viii</sup>. In fact the application of research into income-contingent loans to the field of research and development investment is a topic of current research—it should be considered in Reviews precisely like this one.

## Case: Australia's Universal Health Insurance System (Medicare)<sup>ix</sup>

Of 51 developed nations, Australia's health system ranks sixth<sup>x</sup>. Australia ranks first in the OECD's metric designed to track longevity, wellbeing, and overall satisfaction in life, the Better Life Index<sup>xi</sup>.



### 20-25% RETURN

Medicare has paid around \$235 billion to Australians for medical services. Investment in medical interventions is repaid at rates of 20-25%.

Apart from enhancing life quality, universal health care creates social opportunities and promotes sustained economic growth. Medicare has paid around \$235 billion to Australians to access a range of health care services since its inception<sup>xii</sup>. This return on this investment has been strong: public health interventions repay their investment at rates of return of 20-25%<sup>xiii</sup>.

Policy innovation will ensure Medicare continues to provide healthcare universally and cost-effectively. Professor Stephen Duckett argues the greatest threat to Australia's public health system is 'the power of vested interests which stifle policy innovation in health'<sup>xiv</sup>. Against these interests, 'the long-term solution to Medicare sustainability lies not in higher co-payments but in cost-effective prevention and in a better designed primary care system'. This points to social science research—which underpins implementable knowledge of prevention and primary care system improvement—as necessary for improving Medicare.

Duckett notes Australia lacks clear and precise knowledge of what is achieved by healthcare spending, therefore of where it could be optimised<sup>xv</sup>. Research is necessary to:

- Develop and implement better performance reporting, particularly around equity and outcomes that include patient perspectives
- Develop new approaches to reducing the health risks from poor lifestyle choices
- Design payment methods that move the focus from volume to greater efficiency
- Build better co-ordination with social care that can reduce downstream health care costs
- Encourage community debate about what Australia wants from its health care system, including expectations for end of life care and dying.

Medical sciences cannot achieve informed policies to address these needs alone—they require complementary work by the social sciences<sup>xvi</sup>. Investment in social science research is financially wise, and greater investment in public health would pay for itself many times over<sup>xvii</sup>.

These cases illustrate how social science research can save billions in public wealth and create

billions more through increased productivity, as well as conveying immense intrinsic value for individuals and society. Investment in the research and learning associated with these benefits is inexpensive in the light of this significant financial gain.

These are only two of many possible examples. Australia is an exemplar for its social science-informed policy in many areas. The recent commendation of Australian immigration policy management in the recent British-EU debates and in US Electoral contests illustrates the point further. So does its innovative ways in matters from restorative justice to water management. Australia has a comparative advantage in the social sciences shaping its policy settings.

#### **4. How Can Australia Enhance Its Social Science Soft Power Assets?**

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Again, as the ASSA *Australia's Comparative Advantage* report indicates:

All sectors of the Australian economy, society and environment can substantially benefit from a firm foundation of excellence in the nation's intellectual and skill capital complemented by a culture of knowledge transfer. For an advanced industrial economy such as Australia facing structural transition and a range of national and global challenges ... in the long-run, knowledge ideas and their application are the real key to creation of sustainable comparative advantage.

While Australia has been considered an innovative nation in many ways, reform is needed to ensure that the national capacity for utilising that innovation is increased. In order to remain a competitive and prosperous nation, the understanding of innovation needs to be broadened from a focus on research and development to one that encompasses both non-scientific innovations as well as the application of appropriate new research.

While Australia has a workforce whose skills are widely and internationally respected, it must be able to operate in an environment of global integration of trade and fragmentation of production. Furthermore there are some concerns that the Australian education system may not be fully imparting the skills required for a competitive knowledge economy. A multi-dimensional approach is needed where STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills are built strongly, but are properly complemented by capability in areas such as humanities and social sciences (HASS) in order to understand the culture and societies in which

Australia seeks to operate or engage.

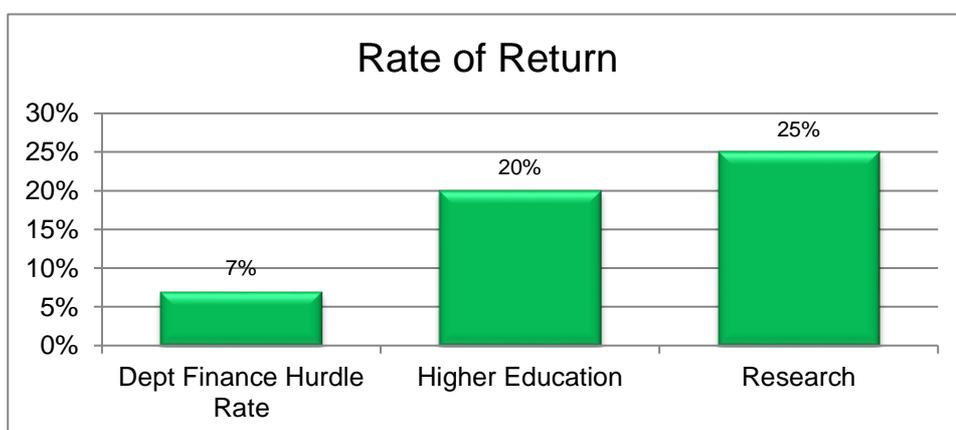
Ideas and the sharing of information is also an area this report finds is underdeveloped. In surveys undertaken for the [*Securing Australia's Future 1*] project, the cooperation between industry and universities has been found to be inadequate. There are also fewer institutions or think tanks to enable the fostering and exchange of ideas outside of government than in other similar nations such as the US, UK or Northern Europe.<sup>xviii</sup>

One of Australia's comparative advantages and a major soft power asset is its education and research system, including its ability to coordinate and operate harmoniously with those systems in other countries through open, transparent, and mutually beneficial interaction. This advantage can be developed yet further. This submission therefore now highlights for the Review three ways in which these soft power assets can be enhanced:

### Enhancement Group A: Increase social science research funding

Australian investment in research and development is below OECD averages. Sweden, Japan, Switzerland, US, Germany, and Singapore have relatively high levels of research investment, ranging between 2% and 4% of GDP. In Australia, investment is under 1.5% of GDP. Australia should seek to redress this underinvestment and better approximate OECD best practice. If it did, major benefits would follow<sup>xix</sup>.

A Universities Australia report, *Economic Modelling and Improved Funding and Reform Arrangements for Universities*, found the real return on research is around 25%<sup>xx</sup>. The government's hurdle rate of return is 7%<sup>xxi</sup>. The significance of this is easy to see: Australia is underinvesting in research:



Changes to i) funding shares for social sciences research, and ii) university research metrics, must take place to address this issue:

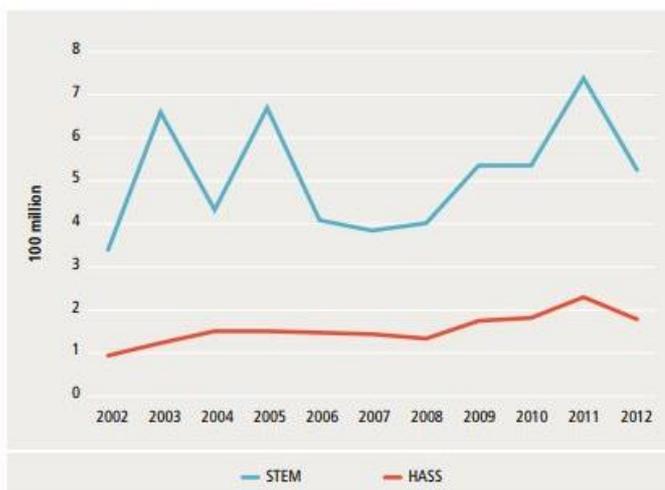
### i. Transcend Small Funding Shares for Social Science Research<sup>xxii</sup>

In 2012, humanities and social science (HASS) research received 16% of Australia's research income. Yet it produced 34% of university research, and contributed 44% of the total Units of Evaluation—research judged by the ARC as worthy of research funding<sup>xxiii</sup>. 62 disciplines are recording growth rates above average in Australia, and more than half of these are HASS disciplines<sup>xxiv</sup>.

HASS investment from business and universities is comparatively low. There has been minimal government or individual university investment in HASS research

infrastructure. HASS does not have the same immediate access to government-funded research initiatives as STEM. The current industry tax concessions for research and development expenditure also explicitly exclude research in HASS, which restricts opportunities to engage in collaborative and industry-based research<sup>xxv</sup>.

**Total Funding ARC National Competitive Grants Programme, STEM and HASS, by year, 2002-12**



Source: ARC National Competitive Grants Programme Dataset, Research Funding Trend Data, [http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable\\_data.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/general/searchable_data.htm)  
Note: Data is adjusted to 2012 equivalent dollars.

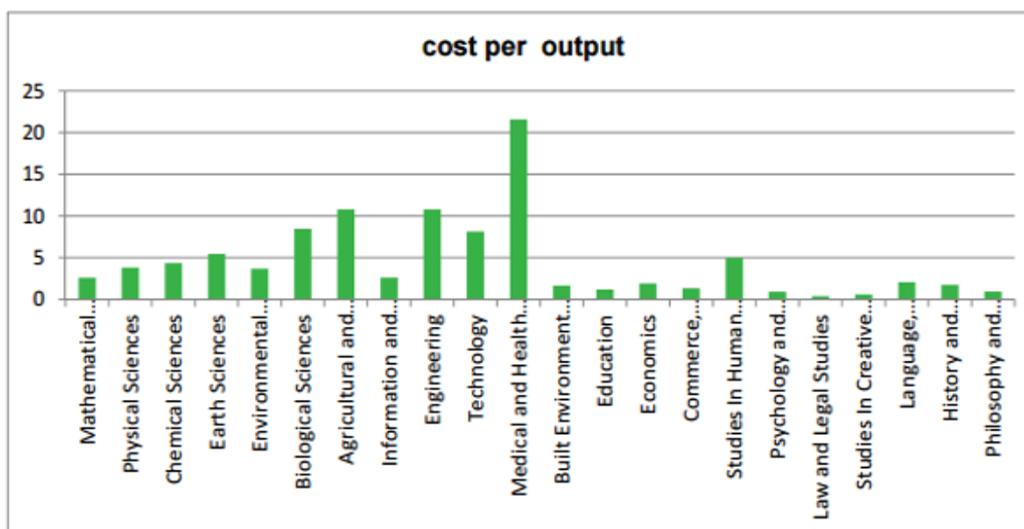
### ii. Address Deficiencies in University Research Metrics

Public research funding is distributed in the light of perceived research impact and engagement, which is measured through various metrics. Most of these metrics exhibit systematic tendencies to underestimate the value of research from the social sciences.

The commonly used 'cost-per-cited-reference' metric puts journals which publish issues containing relatively many articles per year at an advantage over those which do not. These journals tend to be in STEM disciplines<sup>xxvi</sup>. The social sciences relies more heavily on books or book chapters than do STEM disciplines. While indexing services like *Web of Science* and *Scopus* reliably measure citations of journal articles, they measure books and book chapters unreliably<sup>xxvii</sup>. Researchers who co-author articles are at a further an advantage: being co-author of a paper, which is the orthodoxy in STEM, tends to be weighted as heavily as being sole author of a paper, which is the orthodoxy in the social sciences.

All in all, research metrics exaggerate the impact of STEM research<sup>xxviii</sup>, while underestimating the impact of social science research. As York University puts it: ‘At the very least, disciplinary particularities do not allow for cross-disciplinary comparisons of impact’<sup>xxix</sup>. This is consistent with the best contemporary social science research into the efficacy of these metrics: research demonstrates certain disciplines are inherently less likely to publish at the same quantum as others. This yields a comparative disadvantage which necessitates a corrective mechanism—for example, interdisciplinary ‘exchange rates’<sup>xxx</sup>. Yet precisely these unadjusted cross-disciplinary comparisons of impact are used to justify funding social science research at lower rates than STEM research.

Despite these obstructions, social science research performs well. Social science fields cost less for each publication and citation than most other areas of university research in Australia:



Social sciences are also the leading fields of Australian comparative advantage in research, representing over half of the top ten global disciplinary rankings achieved by Australian universities<sup>xxxi</sup>:

Faculty	Subject	Highest Rank	Institution
Life Sciences & Medicine	Pharmacy & Pharmacology	4	Monash University
Social Sciences	Anthropology	7	Australian National University
Social Sciences	Education	7	University of Melbourne
Arts & Humanities	Archaeology	8	Australian National University
Social Sciences	Law	8	University of Melbourne
Social Sciences	Politics and International Studies	8	Australian National University
Social Sciences	Development Studies	8	Australian National University
Life Sciences & Medicine	Veterinary Sciences	9	University of Sydney
Engineering and Technology	Mineral & Mining Engineering	10	University of Queensland

In the light of this analysis, the first three recommendations this submission makes are the following:

**RECOMMENDATION ONE: Consider complementary use of income-contingent loans to fund business research and development.**

The first recommendation is that income-contingent loans be implemented to fund research and development conducted by start-ups working with partner universities. This scheme has the advantage of guaranteeing revenue flow back to the Australian Government through loan repayments—on top of revenue generated by general economic benefit of research and development. This scheme is similar to how the highly successful HECS system investigated earlier works. This scheme could impose a heavy social science quota, which would address the anti-social science bias mentioned above. More information can be found in an article Prof Glenn Withers and Prof Bruce Chapman published on the same, at:

<https://www.assa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Chapman-Withers-Research-and-Development-Tax-Incentive-Review-submission.pdf> <sup>xxxii</sup>

**RECOMMENDATION TWO: Deploy the Education Investment Fund to build public health supportive social science research infrastructure.**

The second recommendation is for the deployment of the Education Investment Fund, as well as new endowment funding, to social science research infrastructure. This would redress the absence of genuine commitment to the development of this infrastructure in other funding areas. The allocation of this funding to social science research and infrastructure would provide for social needs. It could thus be used with good rationale, as allocation of this funding for research retains the budgeting principle of using endowments for investment rather than recurrent purposes. Targeting funding to high priority social and health research—backed by investment in a new national data archive—would be consistent with the best intent of those suggesting diversion of funds to areas such as NDIS: currently NDIS has budget allocated in excess of outlays being made, and it will benefit substantially from health social science research.

**RECOMMENDATION THREE: Improve and Correct Impact and Engagement metrics to reflect good social science practice**

The third recommendation is for the correction of problems with research impact and engagement metrics and their application in research funding distribution. Impact and engagement metrics should only be used if they meet the following criteria:

- They recognise books and book chapters
- They weight co-authorship of journal articles on a proportional basis
- They weight articles in journals which publish at a higher rate proportionally
- They make cross-disciplinary comparisons of impact only after correcting comparative disadvantages inherent within these comparisons, through interdisciplinary ‘exchange rates’ or something similar

All in all, increasing Australia’s research investment would pay dividends, and could be done while exercising financial restraint—these measures could be implemented at minimal cost, yet would significantly improve the funding situation of the social sciences.

## **Enhancement Group B: Invest in innovative programs to enhance international linkages**

This submission draws the attention of the Review to specific initiatives for enhancing international social science linkages. Innovative international programs can contribute to the development of social science soft power assets.

Australian universities are home to a range of academics who have had exposure to academics from around the world, and have formed significant international networks. Many of these have developed competency in the languages of the various regions in which they specialize. Often they have a familiarity with different history, tradition, culture, and political development of these regions. In many cases, these have been sustained for decades at a time.

This submission echoes a point made by Professor James Fox, who notes that only this September, the following two events took place at ANU:

- i. The Department of Pacific Affairs held its ‘State of the Pacific 2018’ conference. This three day conference was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the keynote address was delivered by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary. Many Pacific Islander students and academics attended the conference.
- ii. ANU held its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Indonesia Update. This is the longest running academic regional conference in Australia, and it is attended by Indonesian ministers, government officials, academics, and journalists. This Update produces internationally recognised publications.

ANU holds Updates for other countries in the region, including China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste, which all produce similarly significant publications—for instance, last year’s China Update volume was downloaded more than 16,000 times.

These are two examples from many events sustained by long-held and nurtured international relationships. The strength and continued cultivation of these relationships enables these events and publications to take place. These relationships therefore represent a meaningful and underappreciated soft power asset.

The fourth and fifth recommendations this submission therefore makes are the following:

**RECOMMENDATION FOUR: Create an Indo-Pacific Regional Academic Collaboration Fund.**

The fourth recommendation is for the creation of an Indo-Pacific Regional Academic Collaboration Fund for research engagement would support deeper regional cooperation and exchange (as recommended by Professor James Fox in his submission to this Review).

The Fund could be used to progress the next stage in the development of the Australian academic relationship with Indonesia. Support in the development of this relationship is especially important following the Colombo Plan, which aims to enhance regional cooperation. Among other things, it could be used to target the best foreign graduates from Australian universities for return visits, deepening their collaboration with Australian academics.

The Fund develop programs to enhance academic relationships like the ANU Updates with China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

**RECOMMENDATION FIVE: Invest in a fund promoting the development of international collaboration programs.**

The fifth recommendation is for investment in a fund promoting the development of collaboration programs analogous to the Indo-Pacific Regional Academic Collaboration Fund endorsed in recommendation four. The programs to enhance academic relationships would not be limited to the Indo-Pacific region, reaching to academic institutes yet further from home.

## Enhancement Group C: Turn research attention to development of education and research institutions

Australia's social science soft power assets can be developed through the investment options this submission has already outlined. But there is another aspect of Australia's social science soft power which is seldom investigated or developed: that of Australia's education and research institutions themselves.

Education and research practices are a source of Australia's soft power assets. The education and research institutions which facilitate these practices are primarily the enabling conditions for these practices. But there is another dimension to Australian education and research institutions which constitute a potential soft power asset. The way education and research institutions themselves are structured constitutes a comparative advantage.

Education and research institutions are structured in different ways internationally. In cases where they are similarly structured in different countries, relationships between these countries are more easily sustained and maintained—when different parts of the world structure higher education similarly, flows of students between both is more efficient.

This is significant because parallel structuring of institutions in different countries increases the capacity of each institution through an enhanced ability to form international relationships. At the same time it creates a path dependency: once countries' education and research institutions are structured similarly—hence both enjoy the increased capacity created by the similarity—the cost of changing institutional arrangements is high.

There are different institutional arrangements which could be enhanced in order to realise the potential gains of similarity in institutional structure. At present, there has been little in the way of either research to properly understand the nature and extent of this problem, or effort at system development to enhance this of Australia's soft power assets.

The sixth and seventh recommendations this submission makes are the following:

**RECOMMENDATION SIX: Create a funded social science research program to analyse the possible comparative advantages implicit within Australia's education and research institutions.**

The sixth recommendation is for the creation of a funded social science research program with the object of more thoroughly and systematically comprehending, the better to capitalise on, any soft power assets implicit within Australia's education and research institutions.

This could be embedded in a wider review of research funding processes that see the larger share of Commonwealth grants and research funding going to STEM disciplines rather than HASS disciplines. The STEM funding is well justified and pays a worthy rate of return on investment and in positioning Australian science. But it needs to allow for additional funding for HASS to build comparative advantage, and for this reason various systemic and unconscious biases in research funding and grant processes should be researched and guide new administration. This will then support both STEM and HASS work on a properly founded basis. But to do so must not cause division but enhancement, which means a principle of 'no disadvantage' must apply firmly and rigorously for any such exercise if Australia is to be able to present a united and coherent and leading international role in research.

**RECOMMENDATION SEVEN: Expand and rebalance Australia's research funding arrangements to also support social science methods on an informed and complementary basis.**

The seventh recommendation is for the enhancement of Australia's education and research institutions through recognition of the power of Australian education systems and institutions, as well as individual researchers, universities, and colleges. The social sciences embrace disciplines that examine human institutions closely and how well they operate and how they can be improved. If Australia's tertiary education and research systems are examined closely it is seen that the arrangements underpinning the operation of the many excellent individual universities and colleges are themselves a source of great comparative advantage. Moreover, were they to be emulated through soft power influence in nations we wish to work with, their role would be much enhanced.

This refers to systems such as regulatory systems, including the Australian Qualifications Framework, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority, the Australian Standards and Quality Assurance Agency. It also refers to sector entities developed in Australia ranging from International Development Program Education (IDP) through Unimutual and AARNET, to university and college associations such as Universities Australia, TAFE Directors Australia, and the Australian Council for Private Education and Training. There is also the model of the Australian Learned Academies and their integration under the Australian Council of Learned Academies.

Alongside these institutions and systems stands Australian best practice developments in tertiary

education, such as competency-based assessment, recognition of prior learning, work-integrated learning, and income-contingent loans. There is even commercial innovation such as that through companies like Navitas, Study Group, and Unilodge. The more Australia can help other nations in developing their own institutions and practices in these types of activities and arrangements, the more will Australian soft power flourish in the most beneficial way. We will work closely and productively with these nations.

A clear strategy for promotion of Australian tertiary education best practices, learning, and system institutions could represent a huge advance in productive and mutually beneficial deployment of soft power. Accordingly, the eighth and final recommendation is:

**RECOMMENDATION EIGHT: Develop an explicit soft power strategy for advancement of Australian tertiary education best practice in institutional and systems operation.**

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

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It is important for Australia to develop its comparative advantage by enhancing its soft power assets. Education and research, especially in the social sciences, are significant soft power assets for Australia, and they should be developed. This submission argues for eight recommendations which would enhance Australia's social science soft power assets in the way indicated. These are:

1. *Consider complementary use of income-contingent loans to fund business research and development.*
2. *Deploy the Education Investment Fund to build public health supportive social science research infrastructure.*
3. *Improve and Correct Impact and Engagement metrics to reflect good social science practice.*
4. *Create an Indo-Pacific Regional Academic Collaboration Fund.*
5. *Invest in a Fund promoting the development of international collaboration programs.*
6. *Create a funded social science research program to analyse the possible comparative advantages implicit within Australia's education and research institutions.*

7. *Expand and rebalance Australia's research funding arrangements to also support social science methods on an informed and complementary basis.*
8. *Develop an explicit soft power strategy for advancement of Australian tertiary education best practice in institutional and systems operation.*

ASSA is available to provide detail on any of these recommendations as the Review requires.

ASSA also refers the Review to three *Securing Australia's Future* reports produced by the Australian Council of Learned Academies

1. SAF03: Smart Engagement with Asia: Leveraging Language, Research and Culture:

<https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF03/SAF03%20SMART%20ENGAGEMENT%20WITH%20ASIA%20-%20FINAL%20lo%20res.pdf>

2. SAF09: Translating Research for Economic and Social Benefit—Country Comparisons:

<https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF09/SAF09%20Full%20report.pdf>

3. SAF11: Australia's Diaspora Advantage: Realising the Potential for Building Transnational Business Networks with Asia

<https://acola.org.au/wp/PDF/SAF11/SAF11%20full%20report.pdf>

ASSA is available at any time to further discuss this submission.

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