

Science and Innovation Study
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

21 December 2006

Further submission to the Productivity Commission Research Study on
Public Support for Science and Innovation

The Australian Academy of the Humanities thanks the Commission for its thorough report on the role, utility and effectiveness of public support for Science and Innovation. These few further remarks should be read in conjunction with our initial submission.

The Academy notes the response of the Commission to the observation made by the Academy and other organisations that the role of the humanities, creative arts and social sciences in Australia's research enterprise was nearly totally excluded from the study by virtue of a quite constrained set of terms of reference.

As the Commission notes, this exclusion pretty well precludes the present study from exploring the issues or making any observations on these disciplines: their place, their effectiveness, or returns they make to the nation for publicly funded research. Although it is regrettable that this significant portion of Australia's research activity is excluded from this study, we acknowledge that, in a commissioned study, there is not a lot the Commission can do about it.

We do think, however, that the Commission has an obligation to point out in its report that the terms of reference have excluded elements of Australia's research activity, and that this has created a gap in the study's assessment of our national research performance.

We would also hope that the Commission would recommend that this missing component of Australia's research activity be studied as a complement to the present study on science.

With best regards,

Dr John Byron
Executive Director