

Summary of Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects for Funding to Commence in 2009

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

LS0900001 Prof D Altman; Prof JA Camilleri; Prof RW Eckersley; Prof MR Prior; Prof HC Charlesworth; Dr EA Reid

Approved Project Title **Reconceptualizing human security: its uses and limitations for developing Australian foreign policy?**

2009: \$ 120,000

Project Summary

The clear potential benefit of this research is for both Australia's international development assistance, and for development of foreign policy. The project will allow reflection on the changing nature of security threats, and Australia's most effective responses, and will foster dialogue between academics, non-government organisations and government. The issues of human security which the project addresses emphasise non-traditional threats to security, and will assist in future policy responses in these areas. Some of these threats, such as large-scale movements of people and epidemic diseases, are specifically mentioned in the Australian Research Council criteria.

Further, the project will explore the possible advantages for Australia in joining the Human Security Network, which would allow considerably greater interaction with research centres in member countries.

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The Australian Academy of the Humanities

LS0900003 Prof CIE Donaldson; Prof M Lake; Prof S Garton

Approved Project Title **The humanities in Australian life since 1968**

2009: \$ 105,000

Project Summary

This project will produce a sound, evidence-based foundation for understanding the humanities. This will provide a vital means to overcome the tendency to rely upon passion and conviction rather than open-minded and grounded analysis in discussions about their role.

This evidence base is crucial if we are to harness the widespread and sophisticated humanities knowledge and skills base in our community, as we must, in order to solve our most difficult problems and to pursue our most exciting opportunities.

The knowledge achieved will assist leaders and the public alike to understand more accurately the role of the humanities in Australia.

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Australian Academy of Science

LS0900004 Prof MY Simmons

Approved Project Title **Investing in the future of physics**

2009: \$ 120,000

Project Summary

Physics endeavours to understand the underlying laws governing our universe, so that we can better interact with, and harness our environment. Such an understanding has allowed us to develop important concepts such as television, electricity, the World Wide Web, radio, satellites, radar, magnetic resonance imaging, X-rays, lasers, transistors and many others. However, physics remains a fast moving discipline with new areas in physics continually emerging. It is essential that as a nation we understand the role of physics to our economy, where our strengths in research are, what opportunities lie ahead and how we can best capitalise on our investments to keep Australian physics internationally competitive.

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Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering

LS0900005 Dr J Burgess

Approved Project Title **Analysis of strategies to accelerate the deployment of low emissions technologies for electric power generation in response to climate change**

2009: \$ 120,000

Project Summary

While much emphasis is currently being given to an emissions trading scheme (ETS) to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), an ETS is necessary but not sufficient for new technology deployment. New low-emission technologies for electricity generation must be deployed on a massive scale to achieve the required reductions in GHG and this has major implications for research and development and demonstration. Much technology is already known, but it awaits large-scale commercial implementation before the costs come down to allow wide-spread utilisation, even with a price on carbon. This project will identify those technologies where large-scale investment is justified and the associated mechanisms and policies required to accelerate the introduction of new technologies at major scale.