REFRESHING THE NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES 2012 - SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

1. Does the proposed wording of the new *Enhancing Society, Culture and Communities* NRP and its associated priority goals provide an opportunity for researchers within the humanities, arts and social sciences to contribute to Australia's research priorities?	
Your response: The NRP does provide an opportunity for many researchers but it does not directly provide opportunities for those who research the underpinning human behaviours that lead to, or prevent, the desired changes.	Rationale: In all of the goals listed under this NRP human behaviour is either central to achieving the outcome or it is the outcome. It is therefore critical to explicitly include the investigation of the human behaviour and the factors that influence it in the descriptors so that researchers with appropriate expertise may readily justify their contribution to meeting the NRP.
2. Do you consider that those suggested adequately cover the areas of national priority of particular importance to the HASS disciplines? Please provide specific example of any alternate goals and the context to explain your comments or suggestions.	
Your response:	Rationale:
3. Do the descriptions underneath the draft NRP and each priority goals adequately explain their purposes? Please provide specific example of any alternate text and the context to explain your comments or suggestions.	
Your response: The NRP does provide an opportunity for many researchers but it does not directly provide opportunities for those who research the processes that lead to the desired changes. This information, coming from the behavioural sciences will be critical to achieving change Opportunities for these researchers can be accommodated quite easily by altering: From: **Fostering a creative and imaginative Australia** Creating a vibrant Australia through art, sport, cultural industries, social innovation, and digital and other technologies. To: **Fostering a creative and imaginative Australia** Creating a vibrant Australia through art, sport, cultural industries, social innovation, digital and other technologies and investigating the behavioural factors that lead to creativity, implementation and active participation.	Rationale: Additional wording has been added in those cases which fail to mention the investigation of critical underlying behaviours required to achieve the goals.

Culture, heritage and identity

Understanding Australia's identity, culture, heritage and histories.

From:
Social inclusion, diversity and equity

Fostering tolerance, diversity, multiculturalism and social engagement

To:

Fostering tolerance, diversity, multiculturalism and social engagement and investigating the cognitive and social processes that impact on these goals.

Quality of life

Maximising the wellbeing of Australians by understanding the factors conducive to its growth, including supportive social and working environments and liveable human settlements.

From:
Knowledge and society

Effecting change through the transformative power of education, lifelong learning and community development, and increasing the skills needed for innovation, leadership, and making connections between people and organisations.

To:

Knowledge and society

Effecting change through the transformative power of education, lifelong learning and community development, increasing the skills needed for innovation, leadership, and making connections between people and organisations and by understanding the processes that lead to these changes.

Effective institutional governance

Developing a stronger civil society through active democracy, institutional effectiveness and enhanced management of public resources

Indigenous Australia

Fostering understanding, improving wellbeing and celebrating the knowledge and creativity of indigenous Australians.

4. Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of *An Environmentally Sustainable Australia* NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.	
Your response: In order to explicitly include the critical element of human behaviour change required to achieve the stated outcomes reword: ## AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA *Transforming the way we utilise our land, water, mineral and energy resources through a better understanding of human and environmental systems and the use of new technologies.* To ## AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA *Transforming the way we utilise our land, water, mineral and energy resources through a better understanding of human behaviour and environmental systems, the use of new technologies and the manner in which their adoption may be encouraged.*	Rationale: In all of the areas listed under this NRP the modification of human behaviour is central to achieving the outcome, and indeed has been a major impediment in areas such as management of the Murray-Darling water resource, but the investigation of current human behaviours and how they may be modified is not explicitly included in the descriptors. The current wording therefore has the potential to exclude important contributions from many psychologists who are currently researching how more sustainable behaviours may be encouraged.
5. Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of the *Promoting and Maintaining Good Health* NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.	
Your response: This NRP should make explicit reference to mental health being relevant to all of the priority goals. Currently it is only listed under Ageing well, ageing productively and Preventative health care but is just as relevant to all of the other goals. This could be achieved by rewording the header text from: ## PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING GOOD HEALTH *Promoting good health and well being for all Australians.* To: ## PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING GOOD HEALTH *Promoting good physical and mental health and well*	Rationale: Mental Health has often been overlooked in discussions relating to Health and this is now widely regarded as a serious omission. We believe that mental health should be explicitly recognised under this NRP so as to provide active encouragement of mental health research as part of the broader objective.

being for all Australians.	

6.	Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of the *Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries* NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.

Your response:	Rationale:
Alter from: **Smart information use** Improved data management services for existing and new business applications and creative applications for digital technologies To: **Smart information use** Improved data presentation and management services for existing and new business applications and creative applications for digital technologies From: **Promoting an innovation culture and economy** Optimising Australia's creative and technological capability by understanding the factors conducive to realising innovation and commercialisation. This includes promoting the impact of innovation on social, economic and environmental wellbeing. To: **Promoting an innovation culture and economy** Optimising Australia's creative and technological capability by understanding the factors conducive to realising innovation and commercialisation. This includes promoting the impact of innovation on human performance, social, economic and environmental wellbeing.	In many cases the effective use of information requires matching the presentation of that information to human cognitive processes. For that reason we suggest rewording of two goals to explicitly recognize the value of research on the manner in which humans understand and make decisions based on available data.

7.	Are there any amendments which should be considered to the existing language of the *Safeguarding Australia* NRP and/or its associated priority goals to refresh its relevance to contemporary Australia? Please comment on the proposed amendments provided above, provide specific examples of any new proposed amendments and provide the context to explain your comments and suggestions.

Your response:	Rationale:
Reword this goal From:	Human decision making, vigilance and assessment of risk are important elements of effective response to many of the listed goals

Extreme events Improving our ability to manage extreme economic, environmental or social events through preparedness and planning, recovery structures and processes, risk analysis, response technologies and protocols. . To: **Extreme events** Improving our ability to manage extreme economic, environmental or social events through understanding human decision making under stress, preparedness and planning, recovery structures and processes, risk analysis and human assessment of risk, response technologies and protocols. .	and it would be desirable to explicitly indicate the relevance of that work to this broad area. In most instances a case can already be made for relevance but the new goal of extreme events could be reworded as suggested.

8. Are there any further amendments or refinements which should be considered to the NRPs and/or their associated priority goals in order to reduce repetition or duplication?	
Your response:	Rationale: