



DSAA
Development Studies Association of Australia

Support for the 1609 Development Studies codes in the Consultation Draft Australian & New Zealand Standard Research Classification Review 2019

The Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA) writes to fully support the proposed new 1609 Development Studies set of codes in the Consultation Draft.

We thank the ANZSRC for recognition of Development Studies as an interdisciplinary field of research and scholarship, built on a rich body of theory. We note again that the top ranked universities globally are also invariably the top-ranked universities in Development Studies, bearing testament to the excellence and importance of development as a field of research. We also note that Australia already ranks highly in Development Studies research in global terms, but the absence of a field of research code (FoR code) has reduced recognition of this internationally and the visibility of Development Studies within Australia. We are delighted that the proposed 1609 Development Studies set of codes, if adopted, will end this obscurity and enhance international recognition of Australian excellence in the field.

As with many interdisciplinary fields, Development Studies has been split across a large number of Fields of Research codes, and many outputs and grants have been misclassified as a result. Grant applications and outputs that researchers want coded as Development Studies have to date been coded across a disparate range of fields, including: 0502, 0701, 1117, 1402, 1601, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1699, 2002 and, 2203. This means that research in Development Studies has been widely reported within disciplines not preferred by researchers, and often re-coded by universities in ways they had not intended.

Development Studies is quickly organising as a vibrant field of research and scholarship within Australia. Registration of the *Development Studies Association of Australia* (DSAA) in March 2019 has led to an inaugural conference scheduled for 5-7 February 2020, in Melbourne. Almost 2 months out from the conference, *Development Studies: Research, Debates & Trajectories*, over 113 people are already registered, with over 100 papers scheduled, 7 dynamic practice workshops and several roundtable discussions. Thus far, 31 HDRs and 20 ECRs have registered for the HDR/ECR day, highlighting the vibrancy of Development Studies within Australia. These proposed codes should remove a major barrier to the further advancement of Development Studies as a field of research and scholarship in Australia, and support growth and vibrancy of the community of Development Studies researchers.

For these reasons, the DSAA strongly endorses the proposed new 1609 Development Studies set of codes in the Consultation Draft. We would also strongly support a review of the specific 6-digit codes after the first few years of reporting to ensure they are the most useful and strategically aligned they can be.

Submitted on behalf of the DSAA by

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