



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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