



For over three decades, both respect and funding for the humanities have declined. A research grant culture has disincentivised teaching. Governments and universities have promoted competitive investment in vocationally specific and market-related courses. Meanwhile the academic humanities have themselves been in retreat, fragmenting into interest groups defined more by political attitudes than by deeper cultural inheritances.

Humanities for Life is a permanent forum intended to recognise and reinvigorate the profound contribution made by the humanities to our society. The forum seeks to raise the profile and widen the constituency of the humanities, addressing the need for enduring traditions of thought and creative achievement. We argue for the unique benefits of an education in the humanities in equipping young people with breadth of vision, depth of values, and resourcefulness of language.

The strategic aims of Humanities for Life translate into four fields of action:

1 raising awareness of the formative value of the humanities	2 reviving the broader cultural custodianship function of the humanities within universities	3 fostering mutual understanding and productive collaboration between the humanities, business, and policy makers	4 restoring the professional primacy of the mutually beneficial connection between scholarship and teaching
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PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- conferences, public lectures, and journalism
- workplace internships and scholarships for humanities students
- dialogues with students, parents, and teachers at secondary schools
 - an annual Australian Youth Humanities Forum
- partnerships with the creative and performing arts, galleries, libraries, and museums
 - cross-pollination of successful courses and programs
- advocacy of policy and funding to encourage high quality humanities teaching.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

Over millennia, the humanities have reflected on and developed the terms of human being and flourishing. This forum concentrates on disciplines such as literature, language, history, philosophy, and the study of fine arts and music, which transmit these evaluative traditions across generations and peoples. The function of the 'living humanities', which comprehends science, religion, and politics, is to educate the whole person, inside and outside schools and universities, for a life of personal fulfilment and civic engagement.