



REC'D 7/5/08
cc. WILLY ROGERS ✓
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SENATOR THE HON KIM CARR

**MINISTER FOR INNOVATION, INDUSTRY,
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

Professor Sue Willis
President, ACDE
Dean, Faculty of Education
Monash University VIC 3800

5 - MAY 2008

Dear Professor Willis

Thank you for your letter of 10 March 2008 concerning the revision of the Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) codes, and funding of education research.

The development of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) was undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Statistics NZ in co-operation with major academic and research organisations and users of research information in Australia and New Zealand. This consultative process sought to ensure that the ANZSRC is widely accepted and used as the national standard classification in Australia and in New Zealand, not only in the compilation of R&D statistics but also in the study of research in these countries generally. The development of ANZSRC commenced late 2006 and was completed early 2008.

In the development of the classification many academic and research professionals, government departments, research organisations, professional associations and peak industry bodies were consulted. Mr Tim Sealey from Universities Australia represented the Higher Education Sector.

While RFCD classification includes individual specialised fields of national interest, it generally reflects the overall structure of disciplinary fields. R&D activity is classified according to the field of research undertaken. In this respect, it is the nature of the R&D itself which is being examined, rather than the activity of the performing unit or the purpose of the R&D.

I note that the areas of expertise you mentioned have been reviewed and were published on the ABS website on 31 March 2008. You may wish to contact the ABS on 1300 135 070 to articulate your concerns directly to the ABS.

With regards to the funding of education research, On 22 January 2008, I announced a wide ranging review of Australia's national innovation system to be conducted by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler. The establishment of the review recognises the vital role innovation plays in boosting productivity and international competitiveness and the expert panel will identify gaps and weaknesses in the innovation system and develop proposals to address them.

- 1 The expert panel is to consult nationally and provide a Green Paper to government detailing policy options by 31 July 2008. The Green Paper will be released for public comment and used as the basis for the development of a Government White Paper. Further information on the review is available at: <http://www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Pages/home.aspx>.

Thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Carr', written over a horizontal line.

Kim Carr