

MEDIA RELEASE: NAPU CONDEMNS MINISTERIAL VETO OF 11 AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANTS

The National Alliance for Public Universities condemns the decision of Simon Birmingham to veto the conferral of 11 Australian Research Council grants in 2017 and 2018, calls for the Minister to be removed from cabinet and demands that the funding of the vetoed projects be reinstated. The blackballing of projects that had been subjected to strenuous peer review, done by fiat and without any justification, amounts to state censorship. NAPU also calls for all political parties immediately to legislate to remove the education minister's right of veto over research grants and to enshrine in Australian law the 'Haldane principle': namely, that decisions concerning the allocation of research funding be completely shielded from political interferences and be entrusted to researchers themselves.

Background: the National Alliance for Public Universities has over 1,500 members from every public university in the country. All members are [signatories](#) to our [charter](#). The first principle of our charter states: "1. Universities provide both public and private benefits. To fulfil these, they must function independently of market forces and political interference."

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