

**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

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**TO:** The Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Leader of the Opposition

**FROM:** Jennifer Strauss  
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**DATE:** September 6, 2013

**NO OF PAGES (including this one):** ONE

**MESSAGE: Re Opposition Research Policies**

*Since my attempts to send this message by email have been endlessly frustrated by the site's refusal to accept a correctly typed security code, I am obliged to send the message below by Fax:*

Dear Mr Abbott: Like other researchers around Australia, I am appalled by your plans to interfere with ("re-prioritise") the independence of the major research funding bodies of Australian Universities, the ARC and the NHMRC.

Personally, as a recipient of two ARC grants, I am deeply insulted for myself and many colleagues by your characterisation of ARC humanities applications as becoming "increasingly ridiculous." You should note however that the scientific community is also in strong opposition to the narrowly utilitarian view of knowledge embodied in this policy. See the media release from *Science & Technology* ([www.sta.org.au](http://www.sta.org.au))

Politicians have had their fingers burnt on this one before – you need to revisit the history of previous attempts and reconsider before it is too late to save a healthy Australian research culture,

Sincerely Yours,

Dr Jennifer Strauss AM

President, Graduate Women Victoria  
Board Member, International President of University Women