

Research for Innovation: Implications for the Social Sciences?

Deborah Keighley-James

The premise that research, and the knowledge generated from research, is important for innovation is undisputed. For this reason, governments are significant investors in research as a key tool in their innovation policy agendas. The main beneficiaries of these investments have been the fields of science, technology and engineering.

Recent attention has been given to the role innovation plays in achieving social and environmental objectives. This is based on the recognition that innovation is broader than its technological and scientific inputs, and that these 'hidden' dimensions of innovation need to be supported in similar ways to the more traditional supports.

This paper outlines the main factors that have led to this re-thinking of the innovation landscape and the implications it has for social science research.

The paper also provides an overview of how the South Australian Government is responding to this challenge through its research for innovation framework, Constellation SA.