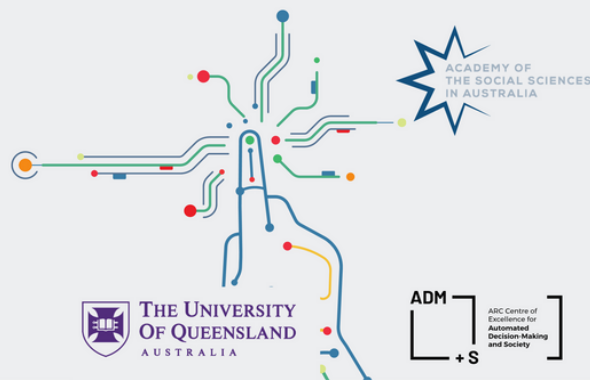


# Decadal Plan for Social Science Research Infrastructure 2023-32



## Submission # 13

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## Response

### How can collaboration between researchers, industry, communities, and government be further strengthened to unlock the full potential of social technologies?

ACU is committed to the flourishing of people and communities. As a mission-oriented university, ACU sees the value of cross-sector partnerships as an impactful path to solving intractable workforce challenges primarily facing the nursing, allied health and teaching professions in the care economy. For example, ACU developed the Aged Care Workforce Alliance (ACWA), an industry-led national training consortium focused on lifelong learning, which co-designed a digital skills and mobility passport to improve the recruitment and retention of skilled care workers. Given that longitudinal ageing studies are identified as the "next frontier" for social science research in the discussion paper, ACU would welcome greater industry-led and government-supported social

technologies to unlock this potential to study ageing across cohorts, including ageing workforces, and the digital transitions affecting the participation of older workers. However, funding processes currently limit this value chain approach as they only fund large scale endeavours through CRC, for example, but there is little funding at the smaller scale for impact. ACU's national, multi-campus profile also makes us attractive to industry and community partners but presents an obstacle for government funding that is not set up for institutions that are multi-site and with regional offerings. This means that capabilities from different geographic areas cannot be leveraged fully to each other's benefit. Such capabilities as social media analytics, e-research infrastructure, mental-health capabilities, physical and digital health spaces, including the use of augmented reality in rehabilitation innovation, and the interface of social-science and wellbeing to physical domains like exercise and nutrition, require greater national social science infrastructural investment to achieve durable solutions in Australia's future care economy.