



Strategies for Social Science Research – Building Capacity

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The Importance of Social Sciences

- The social sciences are uniquely placed to contribute to all aspects of tertiary education's mission.
- Its potential to advance the world's stock of knowledge, and national development goals, is therefore immense.



Good Social Science

- The Government wishes to see greater quality across the board, and more concentration.
- Impact of research and quality of graduates depends on quality of sector.
- Good progress made, but some work to do.



More Strategic Social Science

- Greater research alignment with national goals needed.
 - Research that answers today's key questions, and identifies tomorrow's key issues
 - Two-way partnerships with users important to achievement of this goal



Evidence Base

- Strategic research can improve evidence base for policy.
- Building evidence base requires focus, Government-researcher links, strong sector, and resources.
- Government has been laying these foundations.



Achieving the Goal

- Greater focus through IKB Project
- Stronger linkages through Social Policy conference and SPEaR
- Efforts by agencies to build knowledge base, e.g. Social Report
- More resources in PBRF, Vote R,S&T and BRCSS



BRCSS

- BRCSS contributes to both social science goals:
 - Higher quality through critical mass, and links to high-performing researchers.
 - Strategic research that can support policy.
 - Also stronger sector through more opportunities for development.



Thank you