Key outcomes of the project

- **Creation of a definition of Arts programs**
  - An outcome of the BA Scoping Project is a clearer definition of Arts Programs. This definition has been used throughout the project data analysis process to ensure consistency. As the project progressed, it became apparent that there is a lack of a DASSH BA Scoping Project, August 2008 common, shared understanding of what is meant by the term “Arts”. The reference to “Arts” is frequently ill-defined and often limited to the DEST/DEEWR definition of Society and Culture. This reliance is problematic as the DEST/DEEWR definition encompasses programs that include Law, Social Work and Police Studies. There is also confusion between Liberal Arts and Creative or Visual Arts. There is also evidence that the DEST/DEEWR definition has changed over time.

- **Identification of the key features of an Arts program**
  - The project maps and identifies the features that make the Bachelor of Arts distinct from other programs within the broader Arts definition. A clearer understanding of these features is a step towards the articulation of the value of the Bachelor of Arts award programs.

- **Development of models to describe curriculum currently in use**
  - A series of models that describe the curriculum structures and educational philosophies as they are currently used in Arts programs has been postulated. These are not mutually exclusive but do give a typology.

- **The development of an Arts programs database**
  - A crucial outcome of this project is a collection of centrally located accessible data that can be used across the sector for benchmarking and as a resource for future development. This can be used by institutions for quality assurance processes such as preparing for AUQA audits and institutional curriculum reviews. It takes the form of a database of program profiles, case studies, data sets and highlight or summary reports. All are available via the DASSH website [http://www.dassh.edu.au](http://www.dassh.edu.au).

- **Testing of a national communication strategy across Arts programs**
  - The project facilitated a series of round table meetings as part of the engagement strategy. These meetings offered an opportunity for people engaged in the coordination of BA programs to meet with each other. Regional discussions afforded the opportunity to address the kinds of issues that particularly affect the sector in particular regions. They also offered an opportunity to disseminate findings across the sector.

- **Development of a methodology for further studies**
  - A series of further investigative projects are suggested in order to examine areas identified through this project as requiring further investigation and to examine the long term impact of the BA. A recommended approach is offered that proposes that areas identified by the sector will be led and researched by institutions working collaboratively, be conducted sector-wise and facilitated through DASSH.

Key Challenges

- **The biggest challenge of the usefulness of a scoping project is maintaining the database.** The challenges this project faces are not really about disseminating any change, but about providing baseline information.
- **Our experience of analysing the DEST/DEEWR collections and the GCA collections shows that interrogating the data for comparison and benchmarking purposes at the program level is particularly challenging.**