

**HTAA Statement – National Curriculum &
Teacher Pre-service Training
February 2010**



Early 2010 will see the release of draft national curriculum documents and we now appear to be on schedule for the implementation of new national history courses from the start of 2011.

While the History Teachers' Association of Australia (HTAA) has been an enthusiastic supporter of the initiative to develop a national curriculum in history, we have expressed concern about the capacity of current pre-service training programs to prepare history teachers capable of successfully implementing new national courses.

We note that our concern was shared by Professor Stuart Macintyre in the original History Framing Paper:

...successful implementation will require attention to teacher preparation: we need teachers who have undertaken a rich major in history as part of their first degree (and it is to be hoped that an increasing proportion will have also undertaken honours and postgraduate research) as well as attention to history in their teacher training. (122)

Professor Barry McGaw, Chair of ACARA, has spoken in similar terms.

We have written to Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard on two occasions to convey our view that teacher preparation will be one of the most critical factors affecting the successful implementation of national curriculum courses in history. We also released a statement highlighting our concerns at the beginning of 2009. The lack of response has been disappointing.

We now feel that there is an urgent need for everyone with an interest or involvement in teacher preparation to begin to address this issue. Specifically, what we would like to see is a commitment from all education ministers, universities, state curriculum authorities and teacher employment bodies to a minimum standard, it being that:

- A secondary history teacher will have completed at least one history major in their first degree AND a one year history method program (which may have been undertaken in conjunction with another discipline method).
- A primary teacher will have a firm foundation in the content to be dealt with in the primary section of any national syllabus AND an understanding of the discipline of history and history pedagogy appropriate to the primary setting.

On behalf of the HTAA Executive



Paul Kiem
President



Louise Secker
Vice-President

HTAA represents the history teachers' associations of the Australian Capital Territory (ACTHTA), New South Wales (HTANSW), Queensland (QHTA), South Australia (HTASA), Tasmania (THTA), Victoria (HTAV) and Western Australia (HTAWA).