

HTAV Advocacy Statement

HTAV will undertake advocacy	Professional associations advocate for high standards of practice within their profession, and for the establishment or maintenance of conditions within which their members can thrive and excel. HTAV advocates for History education and History teachers. This is consistent with HTAV's core purpose. • HTAV's Vision is that 'History in Victorian schools will be rigorous, engaging and appropriately valued'. • HTAV's Purpose includes to 'advocate for History education and teachers of History'. • The objects (aims) of HTAV, according to its Constitution, include 'Establishing connections between the classroom, the school, universities, cultural institutions and the wider community for the advancement of History education'. HTAV acts as a voice for History education and a champion of the work of History teachers.
on these topics	HTAV will engage in advocacy on topics directly related to History education, the place of History in schools, the expectations placed on History teachers, the esteem in which History teachers are held, and the right of History teachers to access support and high-quality, subject-based professional learning. HTAV will advocate on matters in which it has specialised knowledge and expertise, drawing on relevant evidence and the experiences of its members. The advocacy topics may vary, but they will always be directly related to History education and History teachers.
in these ways	HTAV's advocacy will take different forms, including but not limited to: - having quiet, behind-the-scenes conversations that build support and consensus - engaging with national and state Ministers and education department/authority personnel in relation to policy development and professional practice frameworks - building mutually respectful relationships with education authorities and historical/cultural organisations to facilitate an open exchange of ideas - initiating or engaging in debates and discussions within the media - publishing policy statements - writing or contributing to submissions to reviews and enquiries - participating in networks and peak bodies with aligned goals - using social media to raise awareness of issues - initiating member petitions and campaigns to demonstrate widespread support for a position.

	The specific advocacy priorities in which HTAV will engage will be determined by the HTAV Board. The President of HTAV and the Executive Officer will be spokespeople for the association, and will implement the priorities agreed by the Board and respond to other relevant advocacy opportunities that emerge. Other spokespeople with relevant knowledge or expertise in a particular area may be identified by the Board. It is vital that HTAV's advocacy messages are consistent and spokespeople are perceived to be speaking 'with one voice' if it is to be effective in its advocacy efforts. Individual HTAV members, directors and staff will hold diverse views and are free to engage in public discussions and debates. However, they may not claim to be speaking on behalf of HTAV and should not allow others to imply they are doing so or associate their comments or contributions with HTAV.
following these principles	HTAV's advocacy will be: - related to History education - professionally grounded - evidence-based - ethical - constructive - focused on positive outcomes for History teachers and their students - focused on improving historical knowledge within the Australian community.
and within these parameters	HTAV embraces the diversity of its membership and seeks to unite History teachers by focusing on their shared experiences, aspirations and challenges. HTAV will engage in political debates about what History should be taught in schools and how it should be taught, but HTAV will not endorse a particular political party or advise its members on how to vote. HTAV will not take a position in relation to contemporary political or social causes that are not related to History teaching in schools. HTAV will not advocate for teachers' working conditions except where they directly relate to teachers' capacity to deliver quality teaching and access subject-based professional learning.
HTAV will also support its members to advocate for History education	While HTAV cannot engage in advocacy at the individual school level, it will provide resources, guidance and support to History teachers who are trying to establish high standards for History education in their own contexts, and to bolster the place of History within their schools.

Endorsed by the HTAV Board: 17 June 2026

Due for review: June 2028