

## Exploring the links between Values Education and Historical Inquiry

David Boon, the Tasmanian Project Officer for the Commonwealth History Project, has prepared professional learning processes to assist teachers make connections between the national values education initiative and the History Project.

*Study of our history is an essential part of preparing young Australians to be informed and active citizens in a modern democracy and globalising world. When young people study the past, they engage with competing ideas about how people live, and about how societies can be organised. They engage with powerful values and beliefs. They come to understand how people have struggled to bring about worthwhile change and to maintain valued continuities.*

*Australian history provides rich examples of these processes—from Indigenous beginnings, through the histories of settlement, development, immigration and international engagement. Through studying the past, students can envisage possible and preferred futures, and can consider ways to bring about those futures.*

Taken from: [Teaching and learning history in Australia's schools: a statement from the National Centre for History Education](#)

The professional learning process is centred on a set of guiding questions that outline a number of ways that values can be incorporated in historical inquiry and the ways historical inquiry can inform values education. The following set of questions is by no means exclusive and the questions are designed as prompts to educators. Each question potentially prompts a whole series of related questions when applied to a particular historical or values focus. The questions that arise can then be framed in the context of the inquiry and with an understanding of the students involved.

- How are values implied in historical source material?
- How do contemporary values influence the way we interpret history and historical source materials?
- How do values of the past impact on the present and the future?
- What are the origins of contemporary values?
- How do values change or remain constant over time?

A feature of the professional learning is a focus on how these questions can assist in refining inquiries exemplified in learning sequences published on the Tasmanian Department of Education's *Learning Teaching and Assessment Guide* <http://www.ltag.education.tas.gov.au/>.