



*Australian Council of  
Professional Historians  
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## **NATIONAL STANDARD FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF HISTORICAL RESEARCHERS IN AUSTRALIA**

### **PREAMBLE**

Under national criteria endorsed by the **Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA)**, a Professional Historians Association (PHA) may, if it chooses to do so, offer accreditation in the category known as **Historical Researcher**. Applicants seeking that accreditation are required to be resident in the same state or territory as the PHA.

Most applicants seeking accreditation will have undertaken the predominant part of their tertiary training in the discipline of history. The National Standard reflects this situation by basing the accreditation of historical researchers on tertiary qualifications *in* the discipline of history. In doing so, it recognises that not all such qualifications will result from study undertaken in history departments, faculties, schools and programs. In assessing an application for accreditation, a PHA will therefore focus on the study completed by the applicant rather than the nature of his/her university enrolment.

Applicants who have not completed tertiary study in either history or an allied discipline will have produced a body of work that demonstrates highly developed skills in the area of historical research.

In applying for accreditation, each applicant must provide tangible evidence of tertiary qualifications and/or professional experience in which the accepted scholarly conventions have been used to research and document the past and/or other aspects relevant to the field of history. The PHA to which the application is made will determine its acceptability.

The qualifications and/or professional experience required for accreditation are identified below. The term 'recognised' is used to indicate that the qualification must be nationally consistent or internationally comparable with one of the qualifications listed in the Australian Qualifications Framework (<http://www.aqf.edu.au>).

### **An Historical Researcher**

as well as adhering to the objectives of his/her Association, will:

- (i) hold a recognised Bachelor degree *in* the discipline of history **and/or** a recognised Graduate or Postgraduate Diploma completed predominantly by coursework *in* the discipline of history;

**or**

- (ii) in the absence of a relevant tertiary qualification, have the equivalent of **three years'** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble) undertaking historical research;

**and/or**

- (iii) hold **current** membership of a Professional Historians Association to which he/she was admitted, at the Accredited Historical Researcher level, prior to 6 December 2002.

The above criteria constitute a revised version of criteria endorsed by the Member Associations of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations on 6 December 2002. Both the *National Standard for the Accreditation of Historical Researchers in Australia* and the By-law that governs its use are subject to periodical review by ACPHA. A separate National Standard covers the accreditation of Professional Historians in Australia.

*Issued by Dr Cathie Clement, ACPHA Accreditation Secretary*

*25 August 2006*