

Scope

This policy sets out guidelines for involvement of the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand (the Association) in advocacy. The Association aims to address matters in the public domain which are of concern to its members. In pursuit of this goal the Association seeks to foster productive working relationships between members, provide a forum for information exchange, and engage in coordinated action.

Objectives

The Association recognizes that its members have a diverse set of interests, philosophies, backgrounds, and beliefs. Association members have in common their commitment to:

- advocate for the scholarship of art and art history;
- promote the study of the history of art and the visual arts;
- support the visual arts and humanities more broadly;
- promote professional ethics and standards in the scholarship of art;
- address issues that may arise for members in their various workplace environments.

Accordingly, the Association's interests necessarily focus on a particular set of issues, including:

- government funding for the arts and humanities;
- freedom of expression and censorship;
- promoting and developing the disciplines of art and art history within education at all levels;
- conditions in the university, museum, gallery and other workplace environments of the Association members;
- promotion of the activities of the Association and its members.

From time to time, the Association may supplement or modify the objectives set out above to meet broadly supported interests or needs of its members. Any such changes require the approval of the Executive Committee.

The Association's Involvement

As resources permit, the Association monitors policy developments and advocacy efforts relating to the issues set out above. The Association may choose to become directly involved in:

- issues such as support for national, state or regional cultural agencies issues affecting arts policy and funding;
- developments that affect specific institutions or individuals, but have a national profile or would establish an important precedent, such as those that threaten art and arts-related institutions.

The Association may become directly involved in these issues and developments by:

- lending its name by way of endorsement and support;
- writing letters;
- contacting press, advocating to governments and their agencies;
- publishing and promoting materials online;
- develop working partnerships with related peak bodies in the cultural sector;
- motivating and coordinating grassroots action by its members;
- providing professional development opportunities, particularly for early career researchers.

The nature, timing and degree of the Association's involvement will vary depending on the matter and issue, and available resources.

In connection with any advocacy matters, individual members of the Association may not suggest that they are speaking for or on behalf of the Association unless specifically authorized to do so by the President, or the Executive Committee. The President may speak on behalf of members without seeking permission but under normal circumstances will consult with members of the Executive Committee before doing so.

To ensure that Association members understand the Association policies and involvement, are committed to the Association objectives, and have the information needed to be effective advocates, the Association will post advocacy alerts, advocacy updates, and other information for member advocacy activities (such as contacting elected officials) to the Association website.

ⁱ This policy document has been adapted from that used by The College Art Association. See <http://www.collegeart.org/about/advocacy-policy> Viewed 8/05/2017 2:39 pm.