

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History Review

Terms of reference

Preamble

In 2011, the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History celebrated its 50th year of existence. In 2014, although the labour movement faces many of the same challenges, our society negotiates a radically different world from that of its founders. It is timely, therefore, for the society to conduct a review of its aims and activities in order to guarantee the long-term viability of labour history in Australia. The five-person committee (Nikola Balnave, Nick Dyrenfurth, Julie Kimber, Frank Bongiorno and Peter Love) will oversee a review of the ASSLH with a view to presenting an interim report to the 2015 National Labour History Conference. The committee will accept written submissions from branches and individuals, as well as seeking input from local and international experts. Submissions should be sent to nick.dyrenfurth@monash.edu by 1 December 2014. The final report, along with a series of recommendations, will be submitted to the November 2015 Annual General Meeting.

The review will explore the following questions:

1. How relevant are the current stated aims (<http://asslh.org.au/federal/about/>) of the ASSLH to its future as an organisation and are any changes needed?
2. Is the organisation's current name appropriate to its goals as an organisation?
3. Is a more rigorous and better coordinated approach to social media required?
4. How can the ASSLH cooperate with like-minded organisations (unions, think-tanks, museums, political parties, progressive organisations such as the Sydney Alliance and the Fabians, progressive faith groups and bookshops) in achieving its goals?
5. How can the society make better use of its international affiliations and forge new and more meaningful relationships with overseas organisations?
6. How often should the ASSLH run its national conference? Should it always be run as a separate conference, or could the ASSLH run its conference as part of the Australian Historical Association's annual conference?
7. What is the role of the ASSLH's branches, are they properly resourced, and how should the relationship between the branches and the national organisation work?
8. What steps should the ASSLH take to ensure succession planning and attracting young scholars and activists to the Society?
9. How can the ASSLH promote the teaching and research of labour history in schools and universities, as well as its profile in the public culture generally?
10. What is *Labour History*'s purpose and who is its audience? How 'international' should *Labour History* be? What is the best 'business model' for its future?