

Howard attacked over history plan

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PRIME Minister John Howard's plan for Australian history to be a mandatory subject in schools shows he is out of touch, the NSW government says.

Prime Minister John Howard will today launch the federal government's guide to Australian history under which it will be compulsory for all Year Nine and 10 school students to learn Australian history.

But NSW Education Minister John Della Bosca said Australian history had already been compulsory for all Year Nine and 10 students in the state since 1999.

"John Howard is at least eight years behind the times," Mr Della Bosca said today.

"John Howard has lost any ability to work cooperatively.

"He makes these tired threats to cut funding, but he's essentially copying the rigorous NSW curriculum and trying to impose it across the country."

Mr Della Bosca said Australian history was a stand-alone course in NSW, taught as a narrative.

The curriculum included colonisation and Aboriginal history in Years seven and eight, while Year nine and 10 students covered a variety of topics including Australia to 1914, Australia's involvement in World War I, World War II and Vietnam, and Australia's social and cultural history in the post-war period.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22567273-13881,00.html>