



Education and Training

File Ref: 2011/00621

Minister for Education and Training

PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS HOMOPHOBIA

Recommendation:

AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

*La Trobe Uni study attached,
Recommendations worth discussing*

Andrew Barr
Andrew Barr MLA

Director: Mark Collis

14/2/2011

Phone: 57029

Critical Date

Nil

Purpose

To provide you with information on programs in ACT public schools that address homophobia.

Background

The NSW Minister for Education and Training announced on 21 January 2011 a pilot program aimed at addressing homophobia in schools.

You have requested a brief about programs and activities in ACT public schools.

Issues

A specific homophobia case study has been incorporated into Anti Sexual Harassment Contact Officer (ASHCO) training. ASHCO training is provided twice per semester and each school is expected to have one male and one female ASHCO. These officers are required to attend ASHCO training.

The Curriculum P-10 includes content to develop an understanding of human rights and takes a stand against discrimination of any sort including homophobic behaviour. Explicit content is taught to students about integrity and regard for others, relationships and sexual preferences.

A training package in whole of school processes for the prevention of homophobia is being prepared for implementation in semester 1 for school counsellors, pastoral care coordinators and behaviour support partners.

An anti-homophobia conference (1/2 day) will be conducted in May 2011 to coincide with the International Day of Anti Homophobia (IDAHO). A high profile keynote speaker and facilitator will lead this conference for key school personnel, parents and students.

The conference will be part of a rotation of themes of bully and harassment prevention topics that will be identified and an awareness raising event implemented. Building from the cyber bullying summit in March, it is planned that the anti-homophobia conference will continue this general theme.

A cross department steering group has been established to develop the training package and the conference.

Bully prevention guidelines are currently in draft and awaiting final consultation. This draft will include whole of school approaches to bully prevention and specifically address homophobia, they will also provide schools with links to appropriate resources.

The NSW pilot program will be monitored with a view to adapting programs established as a consequence of their trial.

Consultation with Finance and Corporate Support and Funding Implications


Nil

Consultation

Nil

Media

The conference in May could present opportunities for media coverage.


Jayne Johnston
Executive Director
School Improvement
6 February 2011



Education and Training

File Ref: 2011/01754

Minister for Education and Training

**ANTI-HOMOPHOBIA CONFERENCE – TUESDAY 17 MAY 2011,
HEDLEY BEARE CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Recommendations:

That you:

- 1. sign the attached letters to the Catholic Education Office and Association of Independent Schools

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AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

- 2. agree to the proposed format and program and indicate any other preferences you may have.

AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Andrew Barr
Andrew Barr MLA

Director: Jan Day

19/14/11

Phone: 57029

Critical Date

Tuesday 17 May 2011.

Purpose

To brief you on the organisation of the Anti-Homophobia Conference.

Background

You have requested the Department organise an Anti-Homophobia Conference.

The conference has been organised for Tuesday 17 May 2011, coinciding with IDAHO day. It will be held at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, commencing at 8.45 am and concluding at 3.45 pm. You will open the conference and if your time permits, will present the closing address. The closing is set down from 3.30-3.45 pm.

Teachers and students from ACT Public schools are invited. Attached are letters for your signature inviting observers from the Catholic and Independent school systems.

Issues

Program

Attached is the proposed program. Ms Lynne Hillier is the keynote speaker. Ms Hillier is from Latrobe University and will present on the *Writing Themselves in 3* research findings.

Mr Daniel Witthaus is the facilitator and keynote speaker. Mr Witthaus has undertaken extensive work with schools in Victoria providing practical strategies and frameworks for understanding sexual identity, coming out and challenging a variety of homophobic behaviours.

Ms Affrica Taylor from the University of Canberra will chair a panel presentation in the afternoon.

The final session will be a Declaration of Action with participants developing an understanding of what can be done to generate action in schools.

Invitations to ACT public schools.

Invitations will go out to public schools via a Principals' Alert on ~~Monday~~ ^{FRIDAY} 15 April 2011. High schools are invited to send key staff members and colleges are invited to send key staff members and student leaders. Any other interested staff members and students are encouraged to attend.

Consultation with Finance and Corporate Support and Funding Implications


Costs can be covered from within existing Division budget.

Consultation

Nil.

Media

The media will be invited to attend. Draft media releases will be provided with the protocol brief.


Jayne Johnston
Executive Director
School Improvement
9 April 2011



Education and Training

Minister for Education and Training

STAMP OUT HOMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Venue Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Stirling

Host individual or organisation Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Support Branch, ACT Department of Education and Training

Host's phone number Dr Mark Collis 62057029 (work).

Day and date Tuesday 17 May 2011.

Time 8.45 am

Time commitment You will open the conference at 9 am. You have indicated you will attend for as much of the day as your other commitments allow:

Parking arrangements A parking space will be reserved at the front of the building.

Minister's role Your role is to open and close the conference.

Speech You are preparing your speeches to open and close the conference.

Greeting arrangements Dr Mark Collis, Director, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Support will meet you on arrival at the Hedley Bear Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Media Media will be invited. A media release is attached.

Attachments A. Background information
B. Program
C. Guest List. An updated guest list will be provided closer to the day.
D. Media Alert
E. Media Statement



Jayne Johnston
Executive Director
School Improvement
9 May 2011

ATTACHMENT A

BACKGROUND

You requested the Department to organise a conference on homophobia in schools. The conference has been organised to coincide with International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO).

The program has been structured with a focus on information sharing, gaining knowledge and culminating in a declaration of action.

Those attending will participate in a workshop session about what can be done by individuals to generate action back in their schools.

The Question and Answer Panel will be a key feature with panel members introducing themselves and taking questions that will have been prepared and submitted in advance by the audience.

The final session will be a summation of the day, followed by your closing address.

A Stamp Out Homophobia in Schools Conference
Tuesday 17 May 2011
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning

Program

Time	Presenter	Conference Agenda
8:15am – 8:45am	Registration	
8:45am – 9:00am	Mrs Agnes Shea Ms Jayne Johnston	Welcome to Country Introduction and welcome
9:00am – 9:15am	Mr Andrew Barr MLA Minister for Education and Training	Conference Opening
9:15am – 10:00am	Session 1 Dr Lynne Hillier ✱	Address. <i>Writing Themselves in 3</i> . The third national study on the sexual health and wellbeing of same sex attracted and gender questioning young people
10:00am – 10:45am	Session 2 Mr Daniel Witthaus ✱	Setting the scene
10:45am – 11:10am	Morning Tea	
11:10am – 12:45pm	Session 3 Mr Daniel Witthaus	Workshop Model. What can you do to generate action back in schools?
12:45pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	Display of resources and information
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Session 4 Dr Affrica Taylor and panel. ✱	Question and Answer session.
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Final Session Dr Mark Collis	Summation of the day.
3.30pm – 3.45pm	Closing Minister Barr	Closing Comments

ATTACHMENT C

GUEST LIST

All ACT public high schools and colleges have been invited to send teachers and students.

The Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools have also been invited to send participants.

Guest speakers

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mr Daniel Witthaus | Author, gay rights advocate and education activist |
| Dr Lynne Hillier | Associate Professor, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University |
| Dr Affrica Taylor | Senior Lecturer on the Socio-Cultural Politics of Education, University of Canberra |

Representatives from community organisations will participate on a question and answer panel in the afternoon.

Departmental staff

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Dr Mark Collis | Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Support (Master of Ceremonies) |
|----------------|--|



Andrew Barr MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR PLANNING
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION
MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

MEDIA ALERT

xxx/09

xx Month Year

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS
AND CHIEFS OF STAFF

STAMP OUT HOMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr MLA, will tomorrow open the ACT's first conference to address issues around homophobia in schools. 'Stamp Out Homophobia in Schools' coincides with the *International Day Against Homophobia*.

Presenters include:

- Daniel Witthaus who worked extensively in Victorian schools to develop practical strategies and frameworks for understanding sexual identity, coming out and challenging a variety of homophobic behaviours in young people.
- Dr Lynne Hillier from La Trobe University who will present on the findings of the report *Writing Themselves in 3* which confirmed that schools were identified as an environment where same-sex attracted young people could experience abuse.
- Dr Affrica Taylor, University of Canberra, will chair a panel discussion.

Participants will include secondary school principals, sexual harassment contact officers, school and student leaders from colleges, counsellors, pastoral care coordinators, youth support workers and staff and students.

Media opportunity:

Interviews with Minister Barr and speakers available

Time:	8.15 am-4pm
Date:	Tuesday 17 May 2011
Venue:	Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

Media Contact: Paul Kindermann 6205 1690 Mobile 0403 600 955 paul.kindermann@act.gov.au

ACT Government

Phone (02) 6205 0011 Fax (02) 6205 0157



Confronting homophobia in schools

Today I took part in an important conference on addressing homophobia in schools.

'Let's Stamp out Homophobia in Schools' coincided with the International Day Against Homophobia and was open to senior students and staff from ACT public, independent and Catholic secondary schools.

Schools have a vital leadership role in responding to a range of issues relating to student wellbeing, and in ensuring that school environments are safe and welcoming for all students. In particular, I note the key role that student leaders in secondary schools have in countering all forms of discrimination and bullying.

One of the triggers for initiating this conference was the 2010 La Trobe University report *Writing Themselves in 3 (WTI3)*.

It confirms that schools are the most common place for same sex attracted students to experience abuse – and we need to respond to these findings.

The report was based on a survey of more than 3000 young same sex attracted Australians, (including 80 from the ACT) about their sexual health and wellbeing.

A key finding was that young people continue to face high levels of verbal and physical abuse, particularly in schools.

At today's conference, we were privileged to hear from Dr Lynne Hillier from La Trobe University about the report in more detail.

Like any form of bullying, harassment or discrimination, homophobia has an enormous and negative impact on a young person's life.

There are strong links between homophobic abuse and feeling unsafe, drug use, self harm and suicide attempts.

One of the most important tools in combating homophobia is equipping teachers and students with information and skills to respond to, and prevent, homophobia.

And that was the main focus of today's conference.

It was great to hear from Daniel Witthause who has worked extensively in Victorian schools to develop practical approaches to understanding sexual identity and strategies to help schools to challenge homophobic behaviours in young people.

Dr Affrica Taylor, senior lecturer in education from the University of Canberra was an expert chair for our panel discussions.

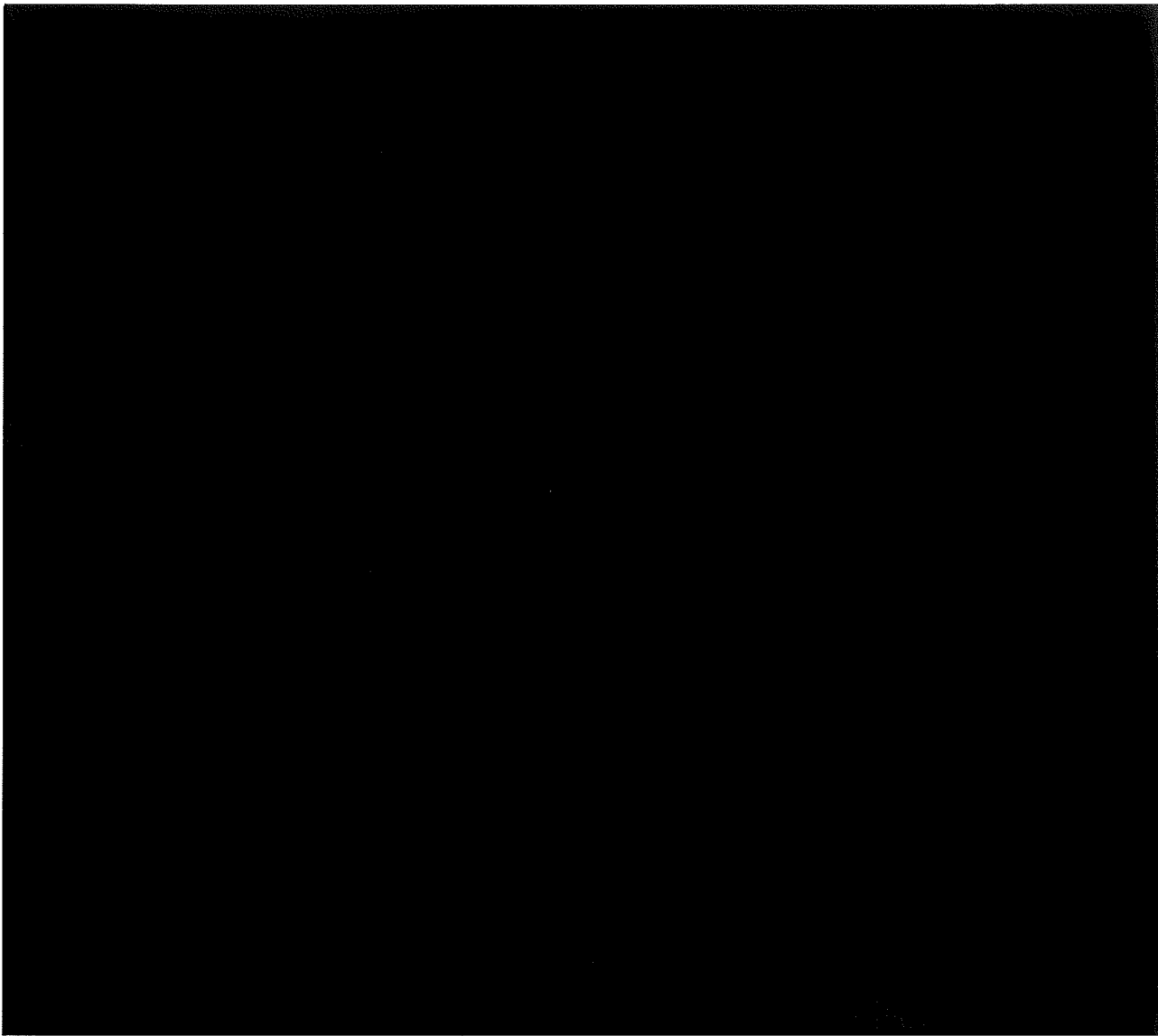
I was impressed to see a room full of teachers and young people from schools who were genuinely interested in finding out how they could take a role in changing attitudes around homophobia.

I trust that today has given everyone a greater understanding about the issues that same-sex attracted students face, and more importantly, strategies to create a supportive and inclusive environment in our schools.

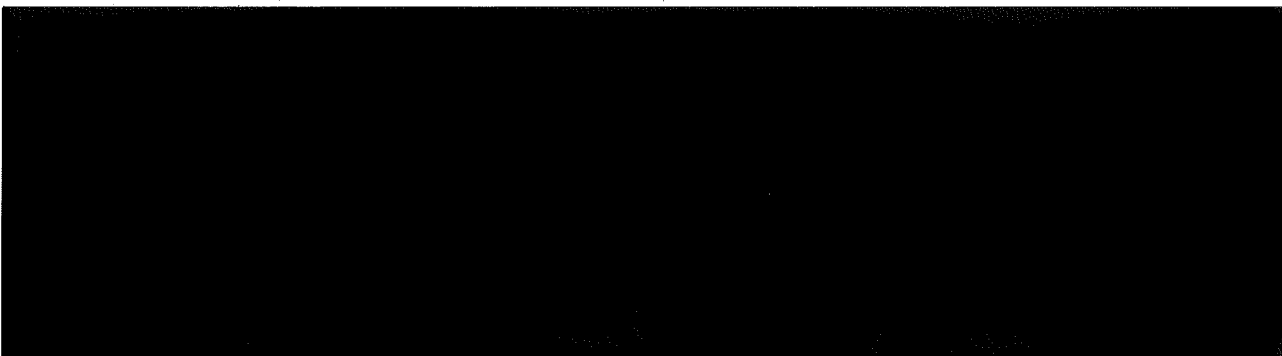
MINISTER'S WEEKLY BRIEF

4

Thursday 7 July 2011



ACHIEVEMENTS AND KEY EVENTS



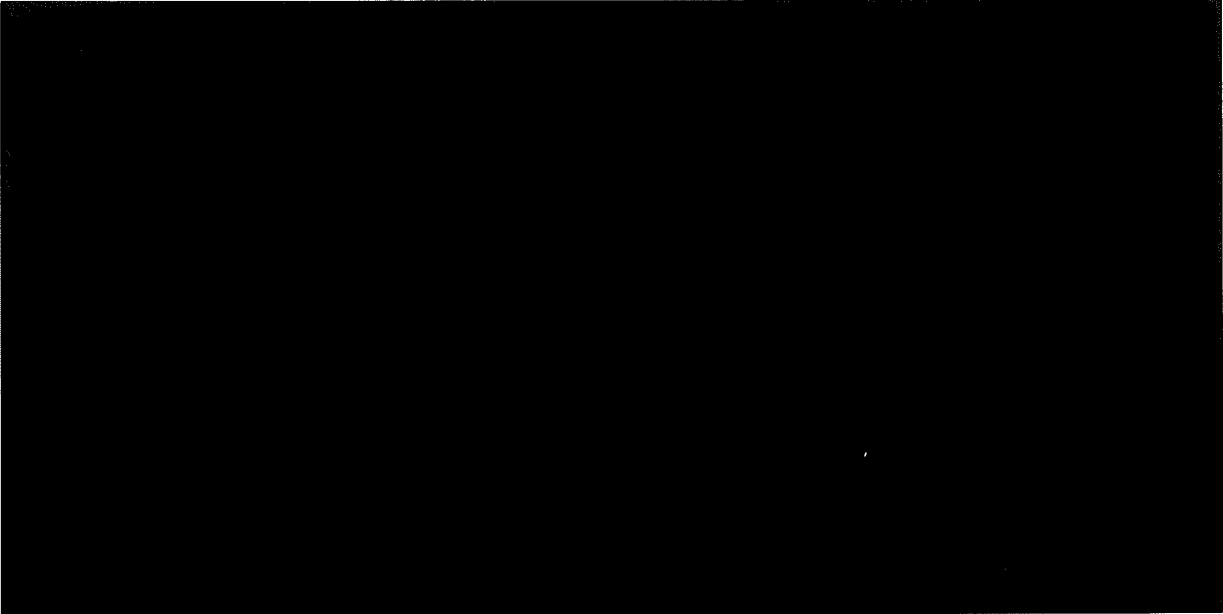
Stamp out Homophobia Conference

Follow up contact with participants has been completed. Several key actions have been incorporated into school functions such as staff presentations and student presentations to school assemblies. The questions provided by conference participants have been forwarded to Mr Daniel Witthaus for publication on his blog. The Conference Steering Group met on Friday 1 July to discuss future actions.

MINISTER'S WEEKLY BRIEF

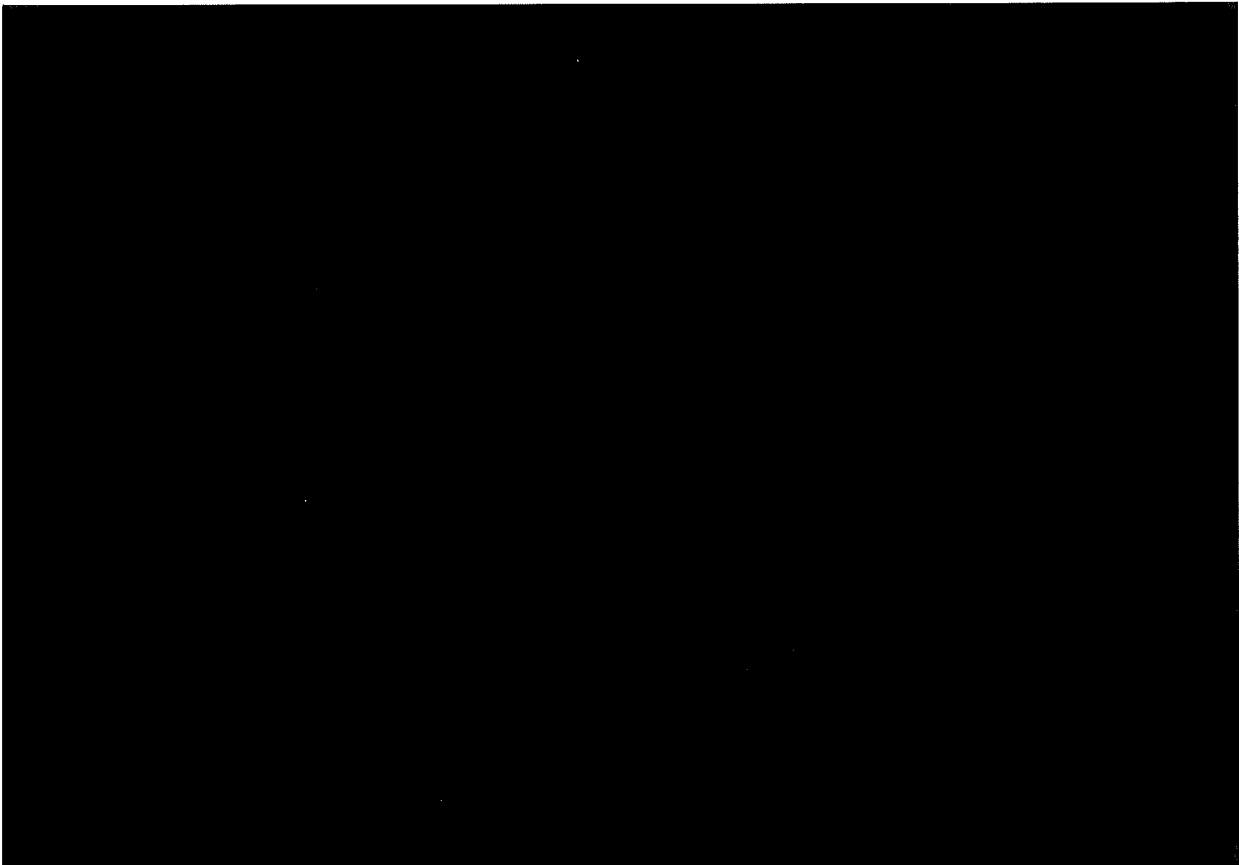
Thursday 14 July 2011

CURRENT ISSUES



Gender diversity and homophobia prevention with Dr Affrica Taylor

All school counsellors and pastoral care workers undertook training in gender diversity and homophobia prevention with Dr Affrica Taylor from the University of Canberra on Monday 4 July 2011.



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ACT
Government
Education and Training



BRIEF

Ref: 2011/1754

SUBJECT: ANTI-HOMOPHOBIA VIDEO

To: Minister for Education and Training

From: Executive Director, Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement

Director: Steve Gniel
Branch: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Engagement.

Recommendation

That you note the information contained in this brief

Dr Chris Bourke MLA *CRB* 28/2/12
NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Action Officer: David Bromhead
Branch: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Engagement.
Extension: 57170

Critical date and reason. Nil

Purpose

To inform you of the progress toward the production of an anti-homophobia video for ACT public secondary schools.

Background

In August 2011, the previous Minister for Education and Training requested that an anti-homophobia video for use in ACT public schools be developed. The video would be similar to the *Stand Out!* YouTube video released by the Victorian Safe Schools Coalition. *The Stand Out!* video can be found on the following URL:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPXQ9nphhtg>

The Directorate is reviewing the ACT Safe Schools suite of policies in response to the National Safe Schools Framework. As part of this policy review a range of guidelines will be developed to support schools in responding to issues such as racism, homophobia and cyber safety. The production of an anti-homophobia video will be a resource in the countering sexual harassment guidelines.

Issues

The Student Wellbeing and Behaviour Support Section of the Directorate will invite all ACT colleges to submit an expression of interest in producing a video on homophobia. The terms of reference for the video production will include:

- Student voice
- Explanation of homophobia
- Impact of homophobia
- Support available for young people
- What schools can do to reduce bullying and homophobia.

This decision to involve colleges in the production of the video, rather than an external production company, has required the timeframe for completion to be extended from March 2012. It is now anticipated the video will be completed by the end of Semester 1, 2012.

Consultation


Nil.

Financial

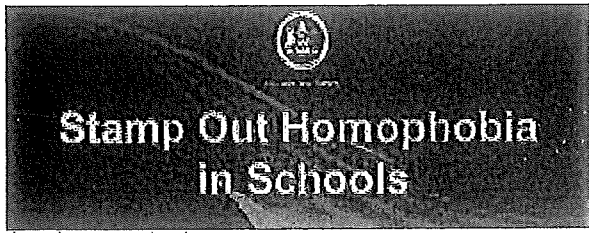
The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Student Engagement Branch will provide \$5 000 to the successful college to support the production of the video. Costs will be covered from within the existing resources of the Branch.

Media

Nil.


✓ Jayne Johnston
Executive Director
Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement

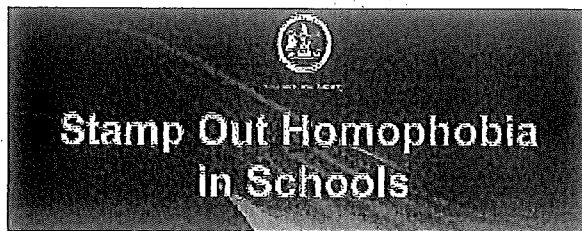
23 February 2012



A Conference on Challenging Homophobia in Schools
Tuesday 17 May 2011

ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT CAN WE DO TO GENERATE ACTION BACK IN SCHOOLS?	HOW, WHEN, WHERE, WHO?
Two weeks from today	
Two months from today	
Six months from today	



**A Conference on Challenging Homophobia in Schools
Tuesday 17 May 2011**

ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

What challenges or obstacles are we likely to face?		What can we do to avoid or manage those challenges?
Time		
Resources		
Support		
What resources and support will we need to complete our action plan?		
The first step we will take in completing our action plan is.....		



ACT
Government
Education and Training

To: Finance – Blue Team

From: Jim Watterston

Phone: ext 59156

Subject: One-off payment for establishment of Stromlo High and Cluster Schools
Diversity United: Safer, Supportive Schools Program and Resources

Would you kindly arrange for the electronic payment of \$2850.00 (Outside Scope) to Stromlo High School. Please see details below for Oracle flexfield and payment description.

Bank Account Details:

A/c No.: [REDACTED]

BSB: [REDACTED]

Account Name: Stromlo High School Management Account

Oracle Flexfield:

[REDACTED] - \$2850.00 (ex GST)

Payment Description:

One-off payment to establish the Diversity United: Safer, Supportive Schools program for Stromlo High School and cluster schools, which is an outcome of the Stamping Out Homophobia conference held by the Education and Training Directorate on 17 May 2011. The funding will contribute to the purchase and development of resources and support students and staff to conduct professional development across the cluster schools.

Yours sincerely

Jim Watterston
Director-General
June 2011