



Bingham Cup Sydney 2014

Teams from more than 15 countries celebrated diversity in sport in September at Bingham Cup Sydney, the gay and inclusive rugby world cup. The tournament was played over a week in Rose Bay, where teams competed for six trophies.

The Sydney Convicts were successful in winning the Bingham Cup in front of the largest crowd to ever attend a grand final for the tournament — an estimated 6000 people came to watch the grand finals.

Andrew Purchas, Bingham Cup President, said the Sydney Convicts, which hosted the Bingham Cup, will continue their focus on ensuring that Australian sporting organisations fulfil a commitment to implement policies to eliminate homophobia and make sport welcoming for everyone regardless of their sexuality. He indicated this would involve work with the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Human Rights Commission that could lead to each sporting organisation preparing a detailed progress report.

Prior to the competition, the Bingham Cup sought the support of well-known NRL players, the “Burgess Brothers”, to urge people to take part in a new study on homophobia in sport.

“I don’t see why there should be any discrimination about colour, sexuality, your heritage or where you’re from. Sport is a great thing and it brings people from all different aspects of life together, so why should your sexuality be a problem? The only way we are going to understand the issue is if people get



The Burgess Brothers took part in a study on homophobia in sport.



The Sydney Convicts play Macquarie University at a training match for the Bingham Cup. out there and tell their story so we can help fix it,” said Sam Burgess.

The study, called “Out on the Fields,” an initiative of the organisers of Bingham Cup Sydney 2014, is the first broad-based Australian and international study on the issue of homophobia in sport. Participation is open to everyone regardless of sexuality. Those interested can visit www.outonthefields.com.

The study looks, among other things, at whether people choose not to play team sports because of fear of discrimination, as well as the prevalence of homophobia such as slurs among athletes and fans.

LGBTIQ inclusivity training — Here and Now at Twenty10

Twenty10 training packages offer a high standard of challenging and interactive adult-learning workshops to be held during November.

The core training package, Here and Now, is a one-day practical workshop for building confidence in working with young people of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities. It provides the opportunity to consider how you can best provide a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment where young people feel safe to be themselves.

Here and Now assists participants to:

- explain the differences between gender, sex and sexuality and how that relates to people's identity
- recognise common issues for young people of diverse genders, sexes and/or sexualities and how best to support them, their families and communities

- evaluate how they (and their workplace, school, service or organisation) interact with young people, and create a plan of action to maximise inclusivity and cultural sensitivity

- identify homophobic and transphobic behaviour and develop practical strategies to challenge them

- access appropriate resources, referrals and services.

Fees for the course include all materials, morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

The cost is \$130 per person with a discount for additional people from the same agency/school/service.

The next course will run on Thursday November 27 from 9am–5pm at 45 Chippen Street, Chippendale, NSW 2008. To register or for any questions, please contact Jodie Barker on Jodie@twenty10.org.au

Feedback

If you have feedback in relation to the newsletter or website, or information regarding GLBTI issues please contact Mel Smith, NSW Teachers Federation, Newcastle Regional Office on (02) 4920 9833 or via glbti@nswtf.org.au.

If you, or a colleague, is experiencing homophobia, discrimination or harassment contact your local Organiser for advice or call our Communications Room on (02) 9217 2487 or 1300 654 367.

Special Interest Group

The Gay and Lesbian Special Interest Group (SIG) is open to any interested member of Federation. It focuses on how gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) affect teachers and schools.

Meetings take place in Sydney, with the next one scheduled for **12:30pm on Saturday November 22 at Federation House, 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills**. The meeting provides members with the opportunity to discuss relevant GLBTI issues, inform Federation of specific areas of concern and provide advice to the Federation concerning policies relating to GLBTI issues. Teleconference facilities will be

available for those who are not able to be at the meeting in person. To RSVP to the meeting and gain the details for teleconferencing, please email glbti@nswtf.org.au

The SIG welcomes new members. To join the Gay and Lesbian SIG please contact Federation on (02) 9217 2100 or glbti@nswtf.org.au. Teachers can also access information on GLBTI issues by accessing Federation's website at www.nswtf.org.au/my-interests/special-interest-groups/gay-lesbian.html

Calendar entries

Listed below are significant forthcoming events that provide opportunities for you or your educational community to raise awareness of LGBTI issues or perspectives or to celebrate LGBTI people and communities:

- **Feast Festival:** November 15–30 — South Australia's pride and LGBTI community arts festival
- **Transgender Remembrance Day:** November 20 — A day to remember those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by

the transgender community

- **Midsumma Festival:** January 18 to February 8, 2015 — Melbourne's annual Pride celebration with events in the state capital and regional Victoria
- **Fair Day:** Sunday February 22 — Launch of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
- **Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival:** Friday February 20 to Sunday March 8
- **Mardi Gras Parade:** — Saturday March 7
- **Wear it Purple Day:** — August 28

Fair Day 2015

As part of the Mardi Gras Festival next year, Federation will be hosting a stall at Fair Day on Sunday February 22. Closer to the date Federation will be calling for LGBTI SIG volunteers to help with the stall. Members who would like to help should email Federation glbti@nswtf.org.au.

If you can volunteer for an hour on the day, it is a great way to meet other GLBTI teachers and community members as well as hear about current campaigns and issues being addressed by Federation.

Safe Schools Coalition NSW launch

The Safe Schools Coalition NSW was launched at NSW Parliament House on July 31. Safe Schools Coalition is a nationwide program available to all schools sectors and provides professional development for staff, and resources, advice and support for schools to help build connective and supportive spaces for students now and into the future. NSW is one of the first states to introduce the program.

The program is dedicated to supporting gender diversity, intersex and sexual diversity. It is the first national coalition of schools that brings together school staff, students and families to create safer and more inclusive learning environments for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse young people.

The aim of the program is to create effective and lasting change in schools across the country by employing a whole-of-school approach to deliver trusted and engaging training and support for staff and students.

Federation encourages schools to take up membership of the Safe Schools Coalition. Mem-

bership will demonstrate commitment to building a school that is free from homophobic and transphobic bullying and is safe and inclusive for the whole school community. Membership is free, and approval and support must be provided by the school's principal.

The Safe Schools Coalition NSW offers:

- professional development tailored to school and staff needs, experience and expertise
- consultation, guidance and support around specific issues and concerns
- printed and digital resources for school staff and students with the tools to respond to homophobia and transphobia and to actively support gender diversity, intersex and sexual diversity
- staff and student audits to help schools get a clearer picture of what is happening in the school and to track progress
- activities and events to inspire and support young people to lead change in schools.

For more information, to sign up to the program or to access new resources for young people and school staff, go to www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au.

WA guidelines for supporting sexual and gender diversity in schools

The Western Australian Equal Opportunity Commission recently released *Guidelines for supporting sexual and gender diversity in schools* developed in line with the National Safe Schools Framework.

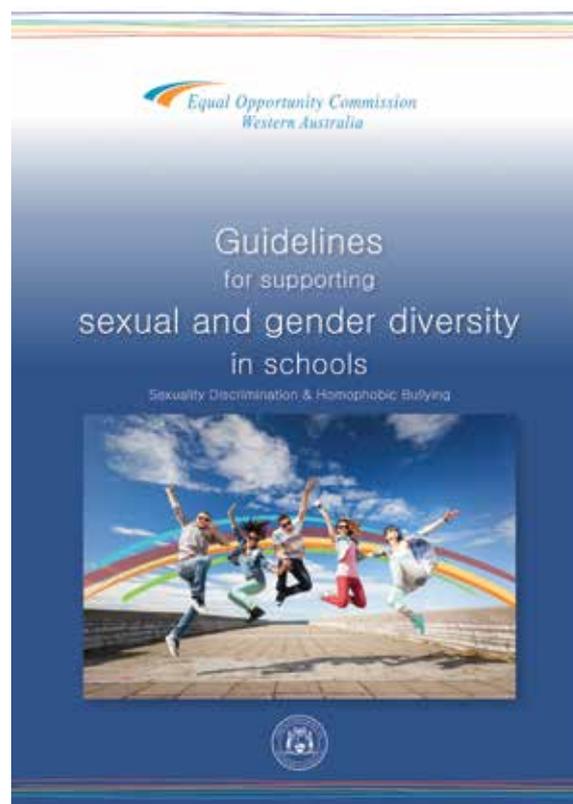
“The guidelines are here to encourage good practice and provide information and resources to schools and their communities,” the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Ms Allanah Lucas said.

The guidelines were developed with extensive consultation with public and private education sectors and related agencies in WA, together with the use of recent national research.

Research shows that same sex attracted and gender questioning students are experiencing more abuse at school than in previous years (“Writing Themselves in 3”, a report by Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria).

On the plus side, however, schools that have policies prohibiting homophobic discrimination and bullying show a significant reduction in prejudice and reduced levels of bullying across the entire school community.

“The SSTUWA is proud to have been involved in the development of the Guidelines for Supporting Sexual and Gender Diversity in Schools,” said Pat Byrne, President of the State School



Teachers Union of WA. “This is an important progression in supporting and celebrating sexuality and gender diversity within our school communities and in doing so prevent sexuality discrimination and homophobic bullying. Our schools should be a safe and affirming environment for LGBTI students, staff, parents and families.”

Cricket Australia declares the game a sport for all

Cricket Australia (CA) has joined other sporting codes around the country by agreeing to implement anti-homophobia and inclusion policies within the game. Test pacemen Mitch Johnson and Ryan Harris have supported the initiative by appearing in a related commercial.

Along with Cricket Australia, the Australian Football League, Australia Rugby Union, National Rugby League and Football Federation of Australia have committed to creating inclusive sporting cultures and the elimination of homophobia in sport.

CA Executive General Manager Media, Communications and Marketing, Ben Amarfo, said all athletes deserved to be treated equally and judged on their

performances and contribution to their sport, not their sexual orientation. Cricket was a sport for all Australians and required an environment that recognises, accepts and celebrates all of our differences.

Test spinner Nathan Lyon echoed the sentiment, saying sport should be a place where everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or otherwise, felt supported and encouraged to do their best in a sport that they love.

Cricket Australia endorses the Play By The Rules education program which, amongst other things, seeks to stamp out homophobic attitudes and behaviours within cricket clubs around the country at the grassroots level.