



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

Meetings take place in Sydney, with the next one scheduled for 12:30pm on Saturday, September 13 at Federation House, 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills. The meeting provides members with the opportunity to discuss GLBTI issues, inform Federation of specific areas of concern and pro-

vide advice to 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 and obtain teleconferencing details, email gltbi@nswtf.org.au

The SIG welcomes new members. To join, contact Federation on (02) 9217 2100 or gltbi@nswtf.org.au. Teachers can also access information on GLBTI issues at www.nswtf.org.au/my-interests/special-interest-groups/gay-lesbian.html

Safe Schools Coalition Australia launch

On June 13, the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) launched the Safe Schools Coalition Australia at its National Symposium in Melbourne.

This national coalition is dedicated to making schools safer and more inclusive for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse young people. It seeks to create change to ensure that every student has access to a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Membership of the coalition is open to schools in NSW. Membership is free but indicates a commitment to building a school that is free from homophobic and transphobic bullying and is safe and inclusive for all students and staff. In exchange, Safe Schools Coalition Australia, through service providers in NSW, provides expert training, resources and advice to schools to help build connective and supportive spaces for students.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia builds on the highly successful Safe Schools Coalition Victoria model funded by the Victorian govern-

ment that was the first to build confidence and capacity among principals and teachers in order to address bullying over sexuality or gender identify.

The program is based on the vision of the nationally-endorsed National Safe Schools Framework that aims to build safe school communities where diversity is valued, the risk from all types of harm is minimised and all members of the community feel respected, included and supported.

New resources for young people and for school staff can be found on the Safe Schools Coalition Australia website at www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au/resources.

New intersex resources

Three new resources have been produced by Organisation Intersex International Australia (OII) and ACON to explain intersex to LGBT

people, the broader community, service providers and parents of intersex children.

The resources are aimed to address a lack



of awareness of intersex-related matters. They provide general information on intersex issues, empower services to provide appropriate and sensitive care to intersex clients, and provide information and referrals to help parents of intersex children.

“We are delighted to welcome these beautiful and timely resources to introduce intersex to people who are unfamiliar with intersex issues and help build a deeper understanding for people who know the basics,” OII Australia President Morgan Carpenter said.

The resources include:

- *Intersex for Allies*: introducing intersex issues

to a broad audience

- *Making Your Service Intersex Friendly*: a



guide to help services build intersex-inclusive practice

- *Your Beautiful Child: A Guide For Parents*: a new resource to reassure and help new and potential parents welcome the birth of a child with atypical physical sex characteristics.

The resources are available online from OII Australia at www.oii.org.au and in print from ACON.

Gender Is Not Uniform

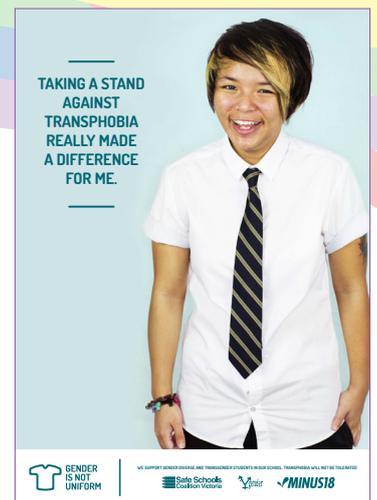
The guide *Gender is Not Uniform* is part of a campaign aimed at supporting gender diversity in schools through having inclusive uniforms and challenging transphobia. Safe Schools Coalition Victoria has produced a model school uniform policy as a simple step to make schools more inclusive.

This resource aims to provide further information and ideas about how schools can better support gender-diverse and transgender students.

Gender-diverse and/or transgender students often find school difficult places to express their gender identities. They often suffer from high levels of bullying, negative attitudes and discriminatory school policies and their ability to express their gender identity is restricted.

Taking active steps to make schools safer and more inclusive to transgender and/or gender diverse students will not only help

those students feel better and engage more, it will help all students feel more comfortable at school. There will also be students who have family members or friends, as well as teachers who are transgender and/or gender-diverse who will feel more included within the school community as a result of these actions.



Gender Is Not Uniform resources can be located at <http://safeschoolscoalitionvictoria.org.au/ginul/>.

Wear It Purple

All schools and educational settings must be places in which all young people — including same-sex attracted and gender questioning (or “rainbow”) young people — feel safe. Wear It Purple is a student-led initiative that aims to create change by promoting this idea and the message: “*You have the right to be proud of who you are.*”

On Wear It Purple Day every year, many schools and thousands of students wear purple

to show support for a school environment in which every student can feel safe, supported and free to be proud of who they are. In 2014, Wear It Purple Day will be Friday, August 29.

Every school involved in the day engages in relevant activity specific to their school, and Wear It Purple encourages the day to be driven by students. The Australian-founded and Sydney-run organisation works closely with many

NSW schools and provides a number of services to empower young people in their schools.

Wear it Purple seeks to make participation in the campaign as simple and attainable as possible for all schools, so they offer a broad range of support and resources nationally for Wear it Purple Days. These include:

- presentations and workshops
- wristbands
- promotion materials (posters and information resources)

The Freedom Stories

The Freedom Stories are a collaboration between Inspire Foundation's ReachOut.com and ACON. They are a powerful new series of short films that have storytellers share their own experiences in coming to terms with their sexuality and/or gender, and what they know now. These stories present a picture of diversity, strength and resilience, and are aimed at supporting GLBTI people with similar experiences.

"Whilst ReachOut.com is a mainstream service, we know it's very important for us to help generate stories specifically for LGBTI young people given they are at least four times as likely to attempt suicide as people outside these communities," said ReachOut.com CEO Jono Nicholas.

GLORIAS

The GLORIAS are an annual event that shines the light on Gay and Lesbian Outrageous, Ridiculous and Ignorant comments about GLBTI citizens and awarding a GLORIA to the most offensive comments.

There are seven categories of GLORIAS from sport, to politics and this year for the first time, a "Good GLORIA", won by the anti-homophobia in sport initiative *You Can Play*.

This year, Tony Abbott won the Golden GLORIA for his comments regarding marriage equality with his statement, "I'm not saying our culture, our traditions are perfect but we have to respect them ... I'm not someone who wants to see radical change based in the fashion of the moment."

Other GLORIA winners include Anthony Mundine for his comment about *Redfern Now*:

- merchandise.

Wear it Purple Day is also about community engagement, public promotion and support. Getting the message out as far and wide as possible is crucial to showing support to rainbow young people everywhere.

To host a Wear It Purple Day event in your school, TAFE or other educational setting, and to access resources available, register with Wear It Purple at <http://wearitpurple.org/>

The release of *The Freedom Stories* was timed to coincide with the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) and focuses on the experiences of GLBTI young people and the importance of reaching out to them in tough times.

With the addition of *The Freedom Stories* there are now more than 120 videos made by young people on ReachOut.com and on the ReachOut.com YouTube Channel, highlighting the commitment of the service to using new technologies to help improve young people's mental health.

The Freedom Stories can be accessed on the ACON website: www.acon.org.au/thefreedomstories.



"Watching Redfern Now & they promoting homosexuality! (Like it's ok in our culture) that ain't in our culture & our ancestors would have there head for it! Like my dad told me GOD made ADAM & EVE not Adam & Steve," he wrote.

To view other winners or nominate comments for the 2015 GLORIAS visit www.theglorias.com.au

You Can Play

Offensive comments in sport have been brought to the fore by the media repeatedly over the last year. As a result campaigns such as *No to racism, No to homophobia* and *You Can Play* have been promoted by sports codes and their players to encourage a more inclusive and supportive playing environment for their participants.

High-profile sports stars including Lauren Jackson, David Pocock, Allesandro Del Piero, Libby Trickett, Paul Gallen and Mitchell Johnson feature in the *You Can Play* campaign. This is an anti-homophobia in sport initiative that can be found online at <http://youcanplay.com.au/>. The campaign is a national Anti-Homophobia in Sport Initiative brought to you by *Play by the Rules*, a national program that promotes safe, fair and inclusive sport.

In 2013 *Play by the Rules* made a commitment to tackle homophobia in sport through an extensive media campaign. This was in response to a growing number of athletes coming out and speaking out about their experiences as a gay or lesbian athlete in Australia. While it is good to see more athletes and people in sport willing to discuss homophobia,

the general feeling is still that many gay and lesbian athletes prefer to keep quiet through fear of prejudice and unfair discrimination.

The stories of athletes such as Jason Ball in AFL exemplify how important it is that people in sport understand the impact of homophobia on gay and lesbian athletes.

Speaking publically after reports of homophobic language in the NRL, Lauren Jackson was reported in the *Brisbane Times* to have said, "There's no room for racism or homophobia in sport at all ...It's great sports clubs and codes are finally saying 'No, it's not going to happen here, it's not allowed'."

David Pocock, who has said he won't marry his partner until marriage equality has been achieved in Australia, has also used the *You Can Play* campaign to urge people to consider the language they use. "In many cases, it's not overt homophobia, it's the language people use, the casual putdowns that are homophobic in nature," he said. "When we challenge this language, then we'll see people be a bit more comfortable in their own skin."

Professional Development Training Twenty10 — "Here and Now"

Here And Now is a one-day practical workshop from Twenty10's core training package, for building confidence in working with young people of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities wherever they are. It offers participants the opportunity to consider how they can best provide a safe and welcoming environment where young people feel safe to be themselves. The course introduces participants to the latest research and thinking around sexual and gender identity and

makes some helpful suggestions around what people can do when working with young people of diverse genders, sexes and/or sexualities.

Twenty10 can also specifically design a training package that is unique to your school and modelled to address your needs and challenges, budget and time-frame.

For more information and dates, visit the Twenty10 website: <http://twenty10.org.au/education>

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 at (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 alternatively call our Communications Room on (02) 9217 2487 or 1300 654 367.