



## What Schools Are Doing: Mowbray College

**Mowbray College** has been doing several things to address the issues of homophobia in their school environment. The **Bouverie Family Therapy Centre** has been working with the school on the **Breaking Through Project**. Last year a theatre-based project was run with the year 10s and 11s as a gateway into addressing homophobia and difference. This project is an adaptation of the Theatre of the Oppressed model and included students, parents and community members. The student involved in the project produced a resource booklet, **'Making a Difference'** as well as a web site. Two staff have been trained in the theatre format, and continue to use it with other year levels.

All staff completed the **Safety in our Schools** training with the **Australian Research Centre in Sex Health & Society**, focused around strategies to address homophobia. The school is currently reviewing their harassment policies to address harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexuality. Alongside local community organisations and schools, Mowbray is an active member of the reference group for the local social support service for young people who are same sex attracted or transgender.

Towards the end of 2002 Mowbray's Student Health Committee organised a special assembly for years 9, 10 and 11 to attend, at which the project worker from the previously mentioned SSAT youth support service to address the students about the local social and support service. Wider issues of homophobia and discrimination were also discussed. The Community Health Nurse also spoke helping to frame the discussion in a wider context of sexuality. The students from the Health Committee then distributed fliers and publicity to all students about these services. These students have also organised publicity for **MSSAY** to be featured in the schools weekly newsletter that goes home with all students. This demonstrates that students at Mowbray are interested and committed to addressing these issues.

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*For more information on the Breaking Through project contact Kerry Proctor at the Bouverie Centre: 9376 9844*