



## **What Schools Are Doing: St Joseph's College in Geelong**

**St Joseph's College in Geelong** have been dedicated to addressing homophobia in their school since 1998 when the school formed a homophobia taskforce towards the end of that school year. A group of staff, with the assistance of a local Youth Worker, met on a number of occasions to discuss what could be done to overcome homophobia within the culture of the College. School policies have since been reviewed and resources shared on the topic.

During 1999 St Joseph's was involved in the pilot program for Pride & Prejudice. Student evaluations were excellent and provided the developer of the resource with the belief that further development was worthwhile. Eight of their staff will be in-serviced over a two-day period so that they can deliver the programs, and all Year 9 students will be involved in 2003.

The college Principal has addressed the students at school assemblies about homophobia, and has briefed parents through a newsletter. Homophobia is also a unit covered by all Year 12 students in Year 12 Religious Education. This active focus in addressing homophobia by St Joseph's College Geelong has led to a significant change in school culture, whereby all students are more tolerant of differences including students who are same sex attracted.

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