



## What Schools are Doing: La Trobe Secondary College

**La Trobe Secondary College** is another school in the northern metropolitan region working in collaboration with the **SSAFE Project** on developing a whole school approach. They have shown a commitment to redeveloping areas within the school they recognise as needing improvement.

To begin the process all staff completed an audit around sexual diversity in their school to assess areas where they feel development is necessary. The outcomes have included a consensus that homophobia is an issue in the school that needs addressing. Among the areas that staff have identified as a high priority for change is a review of the bullying and harassment policy to be inclusive of homophobia. A working group has been set up which includes the school Nurse, Student Welfare Coordinator, Assistant Principal, and the Health Education Co-ordinator.

Staff has also expressed a need for professional development and as a result two key staff members are doing the **'Talking Sexual Health'** training. 'Talking Sexual Health' is a national framework for education around sexual health, which advocates a whole school approach, and addresses issues of sexual diversity.

Another significant advancement within the school is the inclusion of all students in this project. All students will soon complete a 'student audit' around how they feel the school is responding to issues of same-sex attraction, and gender non-conformity. This is particularly important as it includes students in the development of the school and its processes, along with highlighting the schools' commitment to addressing these issues.

The SSafe Project helped to facilitate sessions for all Year 9 classes to raise students' awareness around these issues and reduce homophobic sentiment, and will assist the school in development of further curriculum.

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