

Safe Schools Coalition Australia

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) is the only national, independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to all young Australians. Our vision is to ensure that all young people between 13 to 26 have a strong sense of purpose and meaning, are confident and connected, and are optimistic about their future. The goal is to build a committed and vibrant community of young people shaping society, both locally and globally.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia is a ground-breaking new program funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and delivered by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), which aims to make schools safer and more inclusive for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students.

In Victoria, Safe Schools Coalition Victoria is also funded by the Victorian Government. By taking a proactive approach to reducing homophobia and transphobia, with resources, secondary consultation and professional development and training, the national coalition will help create learning environments where every student can learn, every teacher can teach and every family can belong.

Safe Schools Coalition started in Victoria in 2010. The National Safe Schools Symposium is where we start to take the program right across the country.

About the National Safe Schools Symposium

What are we doing there?

The National Safe Schools Symposium will be the platform to launch the new Safe Schools Coalition Australia program. Bringing together principals, teachers, school staff and young people together with community and government partners – we will use our collective courage, imagination and will to create change in Australian classrooms and beyond.

Through the National Safe Schools Symposium, we'll generate new ideas to promote inclusivity and safety while challenging homophobia and transphobia in schools. We'll share current research, showcase best practice and bring people together to network and create an active and collaborative national community to tackle homophobia and transphobia in schools.

There will be seminars, workshops, group discussions and performances that will challenge the way we think and pave the way for change in Australian schools.

Who's coming?

Attendees may include young people; teachers, principals, school councils and other educators; academics and researchers; service delivery providers; youth, education and health peak bodies; other not-for-profit and philanthropic organisations who work with same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse young people; and relevant politicians and government policy makers at federal, state and local levels. People from rural and regional areas are especially encouraged to participate.

Are there age limits?

Young attendees must be 12 years or older, or be enrolled in secondary school or equivalent (eg. VCE or HSE certificate at TAFE). **All young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult** – preferably a staff member from their school or from a health or community organisation. Young people under 18 who cannot be supported to attend by their school or a health or community organisation could attend with their parent, guardian or other adult.

What will the program include?

Held in Melbourne on 13 June 2014, the Symposium will include;

- Conference style structured program
- Speakers from around Australia
- Plenary sessions presenting the latest research and projects around Australia
- Custom designed workshops, on generating new ideas on ways to promote inclusivity and safety, to challenge homophobia and transphobia in schools
- The official launch Safe Schools Coalition Australia

When and where?

Venue: NAB Conference Rooms, 700 Bourke, Bourke St, Melbourne, Victoria

Date/Time: 9:30am – 5:00pm, Friday 13 June 2014

Parent/Guardian: Consent & Supervision

Young people under the age of 18 as at 13 June 2014 are able to attend the event with their school or community group. Consent and event/travel supervision at the event is the responsibility of the school or community group. Feel free to contact FYA for further information.

Accessibility & Catering

This event is catered for, however should you have any medical conditions or allergies you would like us to be aware of, please outline this when completing the application form, provided to approved applicants.

If your child requires any special assistance or you have any queries regarding catering please don't hesitate to contact our events team for more information.

Young people who wish to attend but cannot afford travel costs should apply for a scholarship. Please email safeschools@fya.org.au for scholarship information.

Key FYA contacts

Staff member contact details for the event day will be provided via email, prior to the event.

For enquiries prior to **13 June**, please contact a member of the Symposium team on (03) 9670 5436 or safeschools@fya.org.au