

Outright Youth Advocacy Group Promoted in Tasmanian High Schools and Colleges

Outright Youth is an advocacy group that has emerged from a bullying culture within Tasmanian Schools of minority groups, including sexual and gender diverse young people. The model explores and utilises the social capacity of young LGBTI people who have emerged from a culture of bullying to self determine their future in association with other young people. The Outright Youth model has been trialled in the south with a network of social workers in public and private schools. The model has received a very good reception with evidence that the model works and is not resource intensive as other models that have failed.

OY have six simple low resource strategies as follows;

- A GLBTI culturally aware teacher social/worker appointed in each school and in University
- Provided with an Anti Homophobic Manual e.g. 'Not Round Here'
- GLBTI Safe Space is also addressed in schools
- GLBTI Students are assisted and appointed as peer support mentors in each school
- OY are also available to speak at School Assembly and to associated organisations e.g. Parents & Friends
- The OY students run discrete social functions

Last month the Education Minister Lyn Thorpe requested Learning Services General Managers inform Schools of the Outright Youth model and the offer of the Tasmanian Council for Sexual & Gender Diverse People Inc to support Outright Youth to speak at Principals Forums.

Outright Youth are most grateful to the Minister for her action and also the gracious and supportive meetings they have had with her the as matter is critical to sexual and gender diverse students in all schools, given the connection with bullying and suicide prevention. It is also for our community a critical part of a commitment to the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategies. It is also an important part of the Tasmania Together benchmark 5.6.3 Teacher training in issues of race, gender and disability discrimination.

The Tasmanian Council for Sexual & Gender Diverse People Inc has raised basic funding and support for the Outright Youth to make the presentations to Principles in the four regions. The model will be part of a presentation and workshop at the Youth Network of Tasmania Annual Conference 17&19 April.

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