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WELCOME

We hope you've had a great start to the year and a chance to unwind over the holidays.

Here at SAIS we have continued to be busy throughout Term 2 with lots of training deliveries and support requests. Read on for updates and insights into what has been happening and what we have coming up in term 3.

The ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative Team extends our acknowledgment and thanks to ACT educators and school staff for the great work that has been done this term across the region.

The SAIS ACT team

SNAPSHOTS



IDAHOBIT: 17 MAY



This IDAHOBIT, SAIS delivered a bespoke presentation to key staff in the ACT Education Directorate around inclusive policy development for schools which was followed by a small morning tea.

PRIDE MONTH: JUNE

June is for platforming pride in all the colours of the rainbow. Pride Month started after the Stonewall riots in 1969, and has since grown to a celebration and acknowledgement of the LGBTIQ+ community.



This month you could consider reading an LGBTIQ+ book (Follow QR Code), learning some LGBTIQ+ history, checking out an inclusive show or movie and supporting LGBTIQ+ community groups and charities.

You can also check out the Google animation by searching "Pride Month" and clicking on the rainbow heart. Celebrate with PRIDE!



REACHING OUT : YWCA : 28 APRIL

SAIS met with the team at YWCA to discuss supporting LGBTIQ+ students on the Southside of the ACT, and to discuss the range of projects and programs each organisation is currently working on.

We also ran YWCA through some of the SAIS services and materials, extending our connections through the Healthy School's Network ACT.

BESPOKE SCHOOL-BASED PL : 9 MAY

We had the great pleasure of delivering a small bespoke training Professional Learning session for a Canberra primary school this term that presented a nice opportunity to deep dive into supporting student leadership initiatives and whole-of school inclusion.



BWF INCLUSIVE BADMINTON PROJECT : 15 MAY (ONGOING)

SAIS has had the privilege of joining an advisory group for a pilot project to look at inclusive practice in school badminton. This pilot program is taught over one school term, facilitated by Australian Capital Territory Badminton Association (ACTBA) coaches and Physical Education (PE) teachers.

The program features weekly social badminton sessions, complemented by an Australian Curriculum aligned PE Badminton unit of work of 9 lessons. We are incredibly proud to support this work.

ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative



Introductory Training OVERVIEW

DURATION: 3 hours

MODE: Face-to-face

STRUCTURE

- 30 min Introduction to the ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative
- 1 hour – Sex, Gender, Sexuality and School
- 1 hour – Inclusive Practice Module 1 in Theory and Practice
- 30 mins – Selecting Inclusive Teaching and Learning Resources

Introduction to the ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative

This module will help you connect to the wider network of schools, services and support available when undertaking inclusion work around sex, gender, and sexuality.

Sex, Gender, Sexuality and School

Unpack the diversity of sex, gender, and sexuality and how this is present in school environments. Explore how this shapes the student experience with qualitative and quantitative Australia data.

Inclusive Practice Module 1 In Theory and Practice

Use inclusive principles and practical strategies to create inclusive school environments through case studies and guided, critical conversations that will help you to meet the needs of the school community.

Selecting Inclusive Teaching and Learning Resources

Explore the needs and benefits of inclusive resources in teaching and learning environments and where and how to find them. This module a practical introduction to inclusive learning.



**REGISTER TODAY FOR OUR FREE
PUBLIC SAIS CORE TRAINING**





The SAIS Core Training you know, and love continues this year as the restructured SAIS Introductory Training featuring new and improved content. The training has been reworked to focus on more practical content, activities, and interactive learning featuring new case studies and the integration of revised SAIS resources, reflecting our commitment to feedback and quality improvement.

REGISTER FOR OUR FREE PUBLIC SAIS CORE TRAINING

Do you want to learn about how you can contribute to building safer and more inclusive schools for all students? Our free 3 hour TQI-accredited training works to unpack and examine the experiences of Australian LGBTIQ+ students, and look at how to be more inclusive.

Please contact us at saisact@shfpact.org.au if you would like to make a booking for your school/staff team.



TERM 3
5 SEPTEMBER 23
3:30PM - 6:30PM



TERM 4
28 NOVEMBER 23
3:30PM - 6:30PM

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE WITH SAIS TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA GUEST LECTURE 6 JUNE

SAIS returned to UC for the third year, delivering a guest lecture for a unit in the Bachelor of Education degree focussed on challenges in educational environments. This lecture runs separately to our workshop on inclusive sports for pre-service teachers, and instead focusses on supporting same-sex attracted, intersex, transgender and gender diverse students at school.

For the first time we presented a face-to-face lecture, featuring updated content from the virtual presentation delivered in previous years. The lecture was received well and we received great feedback and comments from students. We were pleased to be able to join the post-lecture workshop activities and discussion.

SAIS ABROAD TRAINING FOR UNIVERSITY OF FLENSBURG RESEARCHERS 26 JUNE

Early in the year SAIS was fortunate to participate in some international research into inclusive education through a project, called Gender 3.0 at School. The project has been running from 2021 and will wrap up in 2026.

The project investigates how transgender, gender diverse, and intersex students experience school, with a focus on professional education for teachers. As part of the consultation SAIS is delivering a modified training session to cover the ACT and Australian school context when?



SAIS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS 27 JUNE

SAIS is delivering a tailored training session for ACT Social Workers who work in schools around supporting same-sex attracted, transgender, gender diverse and intersex students/families in the school community.

SAIS FOR YOUTH WORKERS 3 JULY

SAIS is following up the training with social workers with a similar training session for Youth Workers who work in ACT schools. The training is also focussed on supporting same-sex attracted, transgender, gender diverse and intersex students/families in the school community. We are excited to be delivering these two sessions this term. This term SAIS ran another 3-hour public TQI-accredited training session where educators from various schools, stages and systems networked and contributed to great discussion in the room.

ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative



Extension Training

OVERVIEW

DURATION: 3 hours

MODE: Face-to-face

STRUCTURE

- 30 mins – Sex, Gender, Sexuality Recap
- 1 hour – Supporting TGD + I students at School
- 30 min – Inclusive Practice Module 2 – Supporting Student Leadership Activities
- 1 hour – Embedding Inclusion in the Curriculum

Sex, Gender, Sexuality – Recap

A quick refresher and orientation to the concepts of sex, gender and sexuality through a practical and interactive activity supported by clarifying discussion.

Supporting TGD + I students at School

Explore practical ways to support TGD+I students at school and address specific barriers through case studies drawn from real-world examples and key resources

Inclusive Practice Module 2 Supporting Student Leadership Activities

Navigate ways to signpost inclusion, support student voice and foster an inclusive school community through student leadership supported by revised SAIS Resources.

Embedding Inclusion in the Curriculum

An introduction to inclusion in the curriculum with customisable content tailored to Early Years, Primary, Secondary and College contexts mapped to the Australian Curriculum



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CANBERRA NEWS

MEDICAL RIGHTS OF INTERSEX CANBERRANS

Following its introduction to the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday March 22nd, legislation to protect the medical rights of intersex Canberrans was passed with cross-party support on Thursday June 8th 2023. This historic moment has marked the ACT as the first Australian jurisdiction to implement such protections and legislative measures, putting us at the forefront of intersex human rights in Australia!

This achievement reflects many years of tireless community advocacy and commitment from the ACT Government. SAIS would like to particularly acknowledge the work of Intersex Human Rights Australia, Intersex Peer Support Australia, A Gender Agenda and Equality Australia in this process. The Bill protects the bodily autonomy, informed consent, and medical rights of minors (and adults under guardianship) in medical contexts by regulating the decision-making processes for medical interventions designed to alter, affect, or otherwise impact the sex characteristics of an individual with an intersex variation.

Sex characteristics include chromosomes, genitals, gonads, hormones, and other reproductive anatomy, alongside the secondary characteristics that emerge from puberty such as breast development, hair patterns/growth and changes in body shape and vocal pitch.

Intersex variations are a range of naturally occurring, innate, congenital differences in a person's sex characteristics that fall outside of typically understood social and medical norms for female and male bodies. People with an intersex variation may have sex characteristics that are considered both typically male and typically female or neither male nor female (sometimes termed "ambiguous").

SAIS celebrates the passing of this Bill and awaits the next steps towards implementation as it comes into full effect next year.

READ MORE ABOUT THE PASSING OF THE BILL



ABC News: ACT passes Australian-first legislation banning irreversible medical procedures for young intersex children. The bill stops deferrable treatments on intersex people's sex characteristics until they are old enough to consent.



Australian Human Rights Commission: Commission welcomes passage of new legislation protecting the rights of people in the Australian Capital Territory who have variations in sex characteristics (VSC) has been welcomed by the Commission.



Intersex Human Rights Australia: With cross-party support, the ACT Assembly has passed legislation introduced by Andrew Barr in March to protect the human rights of people with innate variations of sex characteristics in medical settings.



Equality Australia: Intersex advocates and LGBTIQ+ groups have welcomed Australia's first laws to protect intersex people from medical procedures modifying their sex characteristics without their consent, calling the ACT legislation a landmark moment for the nation.

THE NEW BILL BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES THE ISSUES WITH LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND REGULATIONS AS PART OF A BROADER SUITE OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO CREATE ROBUST PROTECTIONS. SAIS WELCOMES THE BILL.

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE SAIS WEBSITE **SAISACT.INFO** FOLLOW THE QR CODE.





LGBTQIA+ SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES



Last year SHFPACT ran a grant project, Rainbow Representation, to identify and supply books that positively address, reflect and include stories, characters and themes related to diverse family structures, rainbow families, people who are same-sex attracted, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse and intersex.

The collection also featured non-fiction texts about LGBTQIA+ history and historical figures, celebrities and role models, as well as texts that specifically address diversity and inclusion. Intersectionality was a key consideration with intentional focus placed on texts that portray a range diversity from writers with lived experience.

These texts have been captured in recommended resource lists that catalogue titles recommended by community members, schools, and those identified by SHFPACT and Hares and Hyenas. Lists are available at shfpact.org.au

SAVE THE DATE! BULLYING NO WAY! 17 AUGUST



The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence aims at supporting Australian school communities with evidence-informed resources and activities for a proactive approach to bullying prevention and education.

DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE CALENDAR



Struggling to remember all of the important LGBTQIA+ days of significance and all of the important inclusion, diversity, human rights and anti-bullying markers? Sick and tired of forgetting or missing out? There is a lot to remember, and the year is absolutely jam-packed with opportunities to acknowledge, affirm, support and celebrate diversity in our schools, or to run a particular activity or lesson in the classroom. SAIS has put all your need-to-know dates in one place, now available for a free download on our website saisact.info

SAVE THE DATE! WEAR IT PURPLE 17 AUGUST



Wear it Purple Day is an annual LGBTQIA+ awareness day especially for young people, based in Australia. Supporters wear purple to celebrate diversity and young people from the LGBTQIA+ community. Wear it Purple, a student run, not-for-profit organisation, providing presentations and workshops.

SAVE THE DATE! BI VISIBILITY DAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Bisexual Awareness Week, also known as #BiWeek, is an annual celebration week held in September, from September 16 through the 23rd. It is an extension of Celebrate Bisexuality Day, held annually on September 23. The celebration promotes cultural acceptance of the bisexual community and creates a platform for advocating bisexual rights.

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Would you like your school's event or student's work featured in our Newsletter? Please contact us at saisact@shfpact.org.au if you have photos of an event your school has run or examples of students' art, short pieces of creative writing or other projects that you and your students wish to have featured. Please ensure that you have written consent from students prior to submitting their work, and that all student submissions are anonymous.

SAIS PROJECT OFFICER 02 6247 3077 • [GABRIEL FILPI](mailto:GABRIEL FILPI@shfpact.org.au) [GABRIEL FILPI](mailto:GABRIEL FILPI@shfpact.org.au)