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WELCOME

The ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative Team has had a vibrant and exciting start to the year with a range of activities and events, training deliveries and other engagements.

This newsletter addresses all of the above, with updates and insights into what has been going on in Term 1 and what's coming up in Term 2.

The ACT SAIS Team extends our acknowledgment and thanks to ACT educators and school staff for the great work that has been happening in schools this term across the region. We hope you have had a safe, restful and enjoyable school holidays and we look forward to reconnecting and working with you in Term 2!

The SAIS ACT team

SNAPSHOTS



SYDNEY WORLD PRIDE HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION | 2 MARCH 2023

At the start of the year the ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative Project Officer attended the Sydney World Pride Human Rights Conference. As part of the conference, we were able to participate in a round-table discussion with others working in inclusive education, educators and parents of LGBTIQ+ students. The topic was Building Inclusive Educational Institutions and the discussion was facilitated by the Australian Education Union; Educational Institute of Scotland; German Education and Sciences Union.



FRESHOUT 11 MARCH 2023

SAIS had a presence at FreshOut at Glebe Park, Canberra's largest LGBTIQ+ event for the whole community. SAIS shared a stall with our host-organisation Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT. It was great to see a range of community members, families, students, and educators throughout the day!

RESEARCH INTERVIEW | 17 FEBRUARY 2023



Early in the year we had an excellent opportunity to participate in some international research into inclusive education. The project, called **Gender 3.0 at School** has been running from 2021 and will wrap up in 2026 and comes out of the University of Flensburg, Germany.

The project investigates how transgender, gender diverse, and intersex students experience school, with a focus on professional education for teachers. While this research is focussed on Germany, it is informed by the Australian context with other consultations happening in Melbourne and Sydney.

HEALTHY SCHOOL'S NETWORK ACT MEETING 4 APRIL 2023



Recently SAIS presented to a meeting of educators and stakeholders in the Healthy School's Network ACT about the Initiative and the work that we do. Our TQI training dates, events and newsletters are also shared through the Network.

You can read more about the Healthy Schools Network ACT or join at healthyschoolsact.com.au

SCHOOLS AND TRAINING



This term SAIS supported two schools with face-to-face meetings and attended one student leadership group meeting at a college. We ran two TQI-accredited training sessions, reaching over 20 educators, including our Term 1 public delivery session.

In addition to our TQI-accredited Introductory Training, SAIS delivered two bespoke sessions focussed on inclusion in sports for pre-service Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) educators at the University of Canberra (UC). SAIS is proud to have been partnering with UC to deliver these sessions since 2018! For more details about SAIS Training follow the QR code or visit saisact.info

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**



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.



TERM 2
13 JUNE 23
3:30PM - 6:30PM



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



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

PLEASE CONTACT US AT SAISACT@SHFPACT.ORG.AU
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR
YOUR SCHOOL/STAFF TEAM.

CANBERRA NEWS INTERSEX PROTECTION BILL Tabled IN THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Announced at Sydney World Pride on March 1st, an Australian first occurred in Canberra later that month. In an emotional speech on Wednesday March 22nd, Andrew Barr, the Chief Minister of the ACT introduced legislation into the Legislative Assembly to protect the medical rights of intersex Canberrans making the ACT the first Australian jurisdiction to legalise such important protections.

This piece of work reflects many years of hard work, tireless advocacy and many other parallel and overlapping pieces of work coming together to get us to this point. SAIS would like to particularly acknowledge the work of Equality Australia, Intersex Human Rights Australia, Intersex Peer Support Australia, and A Gender Agenda in this process.

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In an emotional speech on Wednesday March 22nd, Andrew Barr, the Chief Minister of the ACT introduced legislation into the Legislative Assembly to protect the medical rights of intersex Canberrans making the ACT the first Australian jurisdiction to legalise such important protections.

The Bill aims to protect the bodily autonomy, informed consent, and medical rights of minors (and adults under guardianship) in medical contexts. The Bill relates specifically to decision-making 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").

Both in historical and contemporary contexts, when people have observable physical differences, it is the ongoing practice to often medicalise the difference and respond to an intersex variation through proposed and performed medical interventions such as surgeries and hormonal treatments. These are designed to 'normalise', 'correct' or 'fix' the difference, even when there is no medical reason to do so, resulting in many infants and children undergoing unnecessary medical procedures before they are able to choose, consent or agree to them.

This can have serious lifelong physical, mental and emotional impacts, and was declared to be a human rights violation by the United Nations.

The Bill, introduced in Canberra, addresses these issues with legal protections and regulations as part of a broader suite of actions designed to create robust protections. SAIS welcomes the Bill, and is hopeful that it will be supported and come into effect later this year.



MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE SAIS WEBSITE
SAISACT.INFO AT FOLLOW THE QR CODE.



YOUTH&I Issue 3 centres on this theme of 'connection'. We live in societies that are still so far from understanding what it means to have a variation in sex characteristics, let alone accept and celebrate our variations. In this isolation and uncertainty, what does it mean for us to live with and love our bodies and ourselves?

How do we even begin to find and connect with other people when we are often disconnected from the language to even know other people like us exist, and when we are often told (explicitly or implicitly) never to talk about our own experiences? In Issue 3, we explore what finding and making connection means for us—both (dis)connection with ourselves, and finding connection with families, friends and an intersex community.

Connection with ourselves is something many of us strive for to make sense of who we are and what has happened to us. For some of us, this is ongoing work that can seem out of reach.

On most days, my body and I live side by side – Aude Nasr.”

YOUTH&I – ISSUE 3

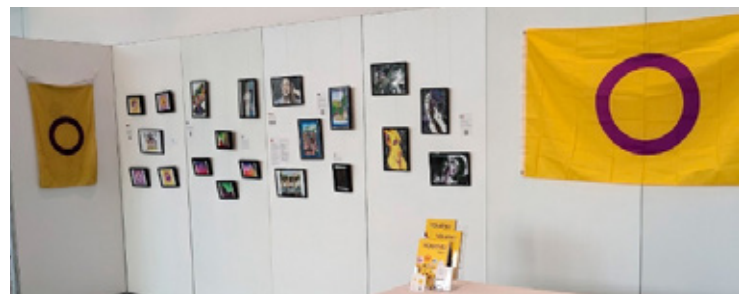
YOUTH&I is a youth anthology that shares the stories and experiences of young intersex people from around the world. The theme for Issue 3 is Connection. Issue 3 was launched on the 19th of December 2022 and recently became available in print earlier this year.

FROM THE FOREWORD

“YOUTH&I is a project by and for young intersex people. It is a publication of stories, poems and artwork reflecting on moments in our lives.

Intersex people—people born with variations in sex characteristics—are often made to feel different. When our physical differences become known, we often feel like we can't talk about it or are told not to talk about it. Our bodies are seen as too different, too unusual—so, for some of us, we are made into someone else's idea of 'normal', with surgical or hormonal interventions that can make us feel alien to ourselves. During this process, we are often not told that there are other people just like us.

And yet, there are many intersex people and many intersex communities. Afterall, despite our commonality, there is no one kind of intersex person. Our bodies are all so different and our experiences with families, doctors and the communities we live in are diverse. Nevertheless, we often face similar challenges in learning about our bodies, what options we have ahead of us, and connecting with other intersex people and with ourselves.

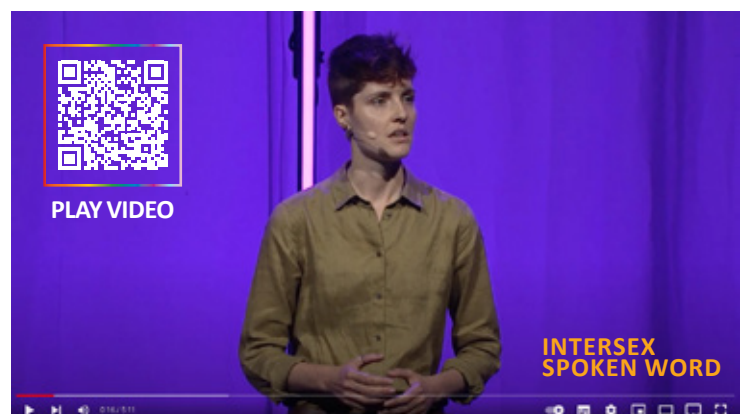


YOUTH&I WORLDPRIDE EXHIBITION SPACE

YOUTH&I Hosted an exhibition space at Sydney World Pride, bringing together artworks from a range of intersex artists and creatives around the globe. The exhibition table grew over the three days of the conference collecting pamphlets, resources and other intersex materials, becoming a feature of the event!

INTERSEX SPOKEN WORD - STEPH LUM

Performance at Sydney WorldPride human rights conference - 2 March 2023. Through poetry, Steph explains what it means to be intersex and shares some of the common experiences and challenges faced by intersex people. Follow the QR code below to watch the performance.





NEW LGBTIQ+ 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 LGBTIQ+ 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! IDAHOBIT DAY | 17 MAY



International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) is an internationally recognised day countering discrimination and raising awareness around the violence and oppression faced by LGBTIQ+ communities

worldwide. You can learn more about how to get involved at minus18.org.au

DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE CALENDAR



Struggling to remember all of the important LGBTIQ+ 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! PRIDE MONTH | JUNE



Pride Month is a month, typically June, dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, intersex, asexual and transgender pride. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread worldwide. Modern day Pride Month both honors the movement for LGBTIQ+ rights and celebrates queer culture worldwide.

SAVE THE DATE! WEAR IT PURPLE LAST FRIDAY IN AUGUST



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

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.

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