



DEECD Respect in Schools Strategy Prevention of Gender-based Violence 'Demonstration Project'

UPDATE – May 2010

Consultation sessions

- Four sessions were conducted in March 2010 in Melbourne, Sale, Benalla and Camperdown
- Around 70 people attended the sessions from schools, specialist VAW agencies, Police, DEECD and others
- Sessions included an overview of the research and what this means for practice, as well as a workshop on the elements of the whole-school model
- Feedback from the sessions has been incorporated into the whole-school model and will be utilised during the trials.

Project Advisory Group

- The Advisory Group includes VicHealth, Office of Women's Policy, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Royal Women's Hospital, Domestic Violence Resource Centre and DEECD
- The purpose of this Group is to provide strategic advice for the Demonstration Project and for the development and continuation of prevention education in schools. The Group met in early April and will meet again in July
- This Group is separate to the DEECD Respect in Schools Advisory Group, which oversees the entire DEECD Strategy.

Development of whole-school model

- CASA House is drafting a short document that outlines the framework for understanding gender-based violence and will provide schools with guidance to implement a whole-school approach to the prevention of gender-based violence
- This is a working document and is being developed in consultation with the partner schools
- The whole-school model includes guidance on creating a positive and respectful school culture and environment; updating school policies and procedures; providing a whole staff briefing and professional learning; working with local agencies and engaging the wider community; conducting evaluations; information on responding to violence that is already occurring; and curriculum guidance materials for Years 8, 9 and 10.

Development of curriculum

- CASA House and Dr Debbie Ollis are working together to develop the trial curriculum guidance materials
- The curriculum guidance materials will include:
 - Year 8 - "Gender, respect and relationships" (8 sessions)
 - Year 9 - "The power connection" (8 sessions)
 - Year 10 - "Bringing it all together: taking action against gender based violence" (5 sessions, leadership program)

Partner schools

- Three schools are confirmed and on-board: Monterey SC, Western Port SC and all three campuses of Essendon Keilor College (fourth school is still being confirmed)
- During May and June, these schools will:
 - Commence the development of a whole-school approach (e.g. policy development)
 - Participate in a whole-staff briefing (all staff)
 - Participate in professional Learning (selection of staff)
- The trial of curriculum in years 8 and 9 is scheduled to take place over Term 3. This will involve trained teachers delivering the curriculum, with support from CASA House and other local agencies.