

97/281 (S.255)



NEW SOUTH WALES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF SCHOOL  
EDUCATION

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOL EDUCATION  
DG 97.4465

**MEMORANDUM TO PRINCIPALS OF  
CENTRAL AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**HOMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS**

There is no place in government schools for any form of discrimination or harassment against students or staff.

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act (1997) makes it unlawful to discriminate against or harass a person on the grounds of race, sex, marital status, disability, homosexuality or age. Its provisions apply to the delivery of public education and to the establishment of a discrimination free workplace.

Each school must implement the *Procedures for Resolving Complaints about Discrimination Against Students* and must appoint a discrimination contact officer. The name of the discrimination contact officer must be promoted within the school community as this officer is available to assist students or parents in addressing their concerns about discrimination or harassment.

Secondary schools must address homophobia within their student welfare structures and through the curriculum in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education or other key learning areas. The NSW Police Service has gay and lesbian liaison officers who are able to assist in conducting anti-violence initiatives. Resources provided by the Department to assist schools include:

- *Resources for Teaching Against Violence* (Revised)
- *Mates*, a video and teaching materials about HIV/AIDS related discrimination
- *Out in the Bush*, a video for teachers and community members
- *HIV/AIDS Education Years 7-10 Teaching Materials* which contain nine lessons in which homophobia is addressed.

Because of the importance of this matter it is necessary for us to collect information relating to it. For this reason you can expect to be approached for information by staff from the District Office.

For further information contact Gary Crawford, Senior Education Officer, Student Welfare Directorate, on telephone (02) 9561 8876.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Boston'.

Ken Boston  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

20 October 1997