

## Hon Susan Close MP

Minister for Education and Child Development

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

### **State Government to fully fund Safe Schools anti bullying initiative**

A new Safe Schools anti bullying initiative will be made available from July to assist public secondary schools in tackling the unacceptably high rates of bullying and suicide among LGBTI students.

The refreshed initiative will be delivered by SHine SA and replaces the Federal Government program which expires at the end of June.

The focus is on providing training to teaching staff and school leaders to help them respond to and understand the issues faced by LGBTI students and create safe and supportive environments for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse people.

Individual schools have the choice to opt in to the initiative and consent will be a central component, with principals required to consult with the school community and seek governing council endorsement prior to adopting the initiative. Parent consent will be sought for individual student participation in presentations or activities related to the initiative.

The funding agreement between the State Government and SHine SA is currently being finalised. The agreement may also involve a name change to the initiative and new state based support materials, subject to intellectual property arrangements.

### **Quotes attributable to Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close**

LGBTI students suffer an unacceptably high rate of bullying and suicide and it is important that we have a dedicated program in place to ensure these young people are supported.

Research shows that 80% of the transphobic and homophobic verbal and physical abuse that these young people suffer occurs at school.

The Safe Schools anti bullying initiative allows schools to seek out training for teachers and principals to help them respond to specific issues and provides guidance on how to create safe and supportive environments for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students.

Parental consent is at the heart of the initiative and principals will consult with the school community and seek governing council endorsement prior to its adoption.