

# Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier



Monday, 2 February, 2015

## **ALL VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS TO BE PROUDER, SAFER**

Under a plan to be implemented by the Andrews Labor Government, Victorian schools will be prouder and safer and teachers will get the resources they need to help every student be who they are.

A day after becoming the first Premier to lead the iconic Pride March, Premier Daniel Andrews joined Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, James Merlino, at Patterson River Secondary College in Seaford to talk about everyone's right to feel safe at school.

Under the plan, a successful program that creates safe and supportive classrooms for same-sex attracted and gender diverse students will be implemented at every Victorian Government secondary school.

The Safe Schools Coalition Victoria program was an initiative of the previous Labor Government. 120 schools have chosen to participate in the program, with over 4,000 staff trained and over 20,000 students supported.

Private and independent schools will also be encouraged to participate in the program, which is run by La Trobe University's Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria.

### **Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews**

*"Every young person has a right to be who they are and every young person has a right to feel safe in the schoolyard."*

*"The Safe Schools Coalition will use the power of education to promote diversity and greater understanding in our schools and in our communities."*

### **Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, James Merlino**

*"We're putting equality back on the agenda, and this program is about working with teachers to provide a respectful and safe environment where every young person can belong."*