UWS Open Forum



Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM

Director of Equity and Diversity
Invites you and your colleagues to the Open Forum:

Homophobic Bullying: that's so gay is not ok!

with special guest speakers

Mr Daniel Witthaus

Gay Rights Advocate and Education Activist

Prof Rhonda Craven

Director, Centre for Positive Psychology & Education

Ms Jayde Ellis

School & Education Coordinator for Wear It Purple



7 November 2012

UWS Parramatta South Campus, Building EA.G.19
Refreshments at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start

Register your attendance at Equity and Diversity Open Forums or phone +61 2 9678 7378



Mr Daniel Witthaus

Daniel Witthaus is a gay rights advocate & education activist with an extraordinary mission to eliminate homophobia in Australia. In 2010, Daniel embarked on a 38 week journey all around rural Australia, taking his anti-homophobia training, called Beyond That's So Gay', to schools, organizations and individuals. Over the year, Daniel collected everyday stories from LGBTQI Australians. The project was formed out of concern for the extreme isolation often experienced by young LGBTQIs living in rural Australia, as well as the discrimination, violence, and a lack of support they face. The project broke down the isolation of services and organisations which currently work with young rural LGBTQI Australian people, allowing them to share skills and knowledge and built capacity of local services to respond to local needs, including the sharing of recognised resources.

In addition to his LGBTQI work Daniel has also worked with: Kids Help Line; VicHealth Health Promotion Foundation; Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission; No To Violence Victoria. Through these efforts and a range of published journal articles and chapters, Daniel's work has attracted international attention. In 2005 Daniel was nominated, & short-listed for the Reebok International Human Rights Award. In 2006 Daniel became a founding world board member for the Dutch-government funded human rights initiative, the Global Alliance for LGBTQI Education. This work has seen him work across four continents. Daniel also sits on the editorial board for the international Journal of LGBTQI Youth. In February 2010, Hawker Brownlow Education launched Daniel's first book, Beyond 'That's So Gay': Challenging homophobia in Australian schools.

Professor Rhonda Craven is the Director of the Centre for Positive Psychology and Education (CPPE) which is ranked 7th in the world in educational psychology, and 1st in Australia. Her research interests include: the structure, measurement, development, and enhancement of self-concept, the impact of enhancing self-concept on desirable educational outcomes and well-being, the effective teaching of Aboriginal Studies & Aboriginal students, maximising life potential in diverse settings, and interventions that make a real difference in educational settings in regard to early intervention, literacy, bullying, youth obesity, educational disadvantage, special education, & appropriate education for gifted and talented students. For example, CPPE has developed the highly successful Beyond Bullying program that has been empirically demonstrated to reduce bullying & increase pro-social behaviours.

Professor Craven is an expert in the use of statistical analyses and quantitative research methodology. Her research has resulted in extensive publications in books & prestigious academic journals of international repute. She is the editor of the best selling text Teaching Aboriginal Studies published by Allen & Unwin, Australia; & a co-editor for two research monograph series: International Advances in Self Research and International Advances in Education and Social Justice, both published by Information Age Publishing, USA.

Professor Craven has received the UWS Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Research Training & Supervision, Betty Watts Award, Australian Association for Research in Education, Meritorious Service to Public Education, Awarded by the New South Wales Government and a Life Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Studies Association.



Prof Rhonda Craven



Ms Jayde Ellis

Wear it Purple has a simple message: "You have the right to be proud of who you are." Wear it Purple is a student run, not-for-profit organisation whose primary purpose is supporting young people who identify as sexuality and gender diverse (rainbow). Wear it Purple seeks to raise awareness about the issues faced by these young people and the need to eradicate bullying based on sexuality and gender diversity, aiming to create a world that is safe for all young people. Wear It Purple provides an opportunity for young people to feel a sense of community, of solidarity and of pride, empowering both rainbow young people and their straight allies to stand up together against discrimination. Wear it Purple began in Sydney in 2010 when reports of a number of suicides occurred at the hand of bullying based on sexuality and/or gender diversity. A few young Australians gathered together and decided that one life lost was one too many, and that something had to be done. Wear it Purple calls on people to wear purple on 'Wear it Purple Day' to show their support & respect of at risk young people, and to stand up against sexuality & gender bullying. Wear It Purple is partnered with the NSW Police Force, working in collaboration to create a safer world for our young people. The campaign has now expanded overseas and is now observed in the US, New Zealand, Canada and Europe.

Jayde is the School & Education Coordinator for Wear it Purple. Jayde joined Wear it Purple while studying PDHPE teaching, recognising that a crucial part of teaching health means allowing all students to explore who they are. Jayde works alongside schools to help foster environments that don't have presupposed expectations and allow all students the opportunity to discover more about themselves. Jayde also works alongside high schoolers who want to make change in their school.

Access and Parking

- **Transport Access Guide** contains public transport options, parking information and a transport map to Parramatta campus. Download the <u>Transport Access Guide</u>.
- Catch **train** to Parramatta Station, serviced by the Western, Cumberland and Blue Mountains lines, for frequent bus services to campus. Alternatively alight at Rydalmere Station which is a 10 minute walk to campus. See <u>Cityrail interactive train timetables</u>.
- Bus Catch Sydney Buses M52, 520, 521, 523, 524 or 525 from Stand A2 at Parramatta Station. For timetables, maps and fares see Sydney Buses. For additional campus shuttle visit the uwsconnect Shuttle Bus webpage.
- Bike The best bike access is via the pathway running along the Parramatta River on the campus side.
- **Walk** Parramatta South campus is located a 5 minute walk from the Victoria Road bus stop.
- **Drive** Entrance to the campus is via Victoria Road. All vehicles parked on a UWS campus must display a valid UWS parking permit. To avoid being issued a parking fine visitors must purchase a 'Pay and Display' permit available for purchase at any of the parking permit machines located in the parking areas of each UWS campus.

