

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Family Diversity DVD***

Associate Professor Kerry Robinson and Ms Cristyn Davies from the School of Education are conducting research that will form the foundation of a DVD about the issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and their families through a Marrickville Council Community Grants program.



'How we "do family", define families, live in families and who we live in them with are all highly contested issues' says Associate Professor Robinson.

'Families with gay and lesbian parents generally have to battle for social and local recognition, often facing discrimination from both institutional practices and the broader community. Despite the diversity of Australian families, the idea of the traditional nuclear family still dominates representations of appropriate and successful family life, alienating different families (like gay and lesbian parents), who don't fit this norm. Indeed, same sex families are not recognised as a family relationship for the national census, yet they make up a significant proportion of family types, as is the case in the Marrickville local government area. It is critical for children and adolescents' wellbeing to have their family backgrounds recognised and respected.'

This project aims to develop a DVD that prioritises a local view of issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) families within a multicultural Western Sydney context. The DVD will be designed for use by teachers in local schools, but will also have a broader relevance for service providers, community groups and educational organisations within Australia and internationally.

Focus groups will be conducted with GLBTI parents in order to understand their concerns and the issues they face in their daily lives. The data collected will be analysed for major themes and will form the basis of script development for the DVD and a resource kit about diverse non-heterosexual families for educational purposes.

The research and DVD are expected to raise awareness of GLBTI issues in schools and the wider community and provide a resource kit which will enhance policy development and service provision in the Marrickville area for children and families from non-heterosexual backgrounds.

**Project Title:** Family Diversity DVD Project

**Funding has been set at:** \$5,500

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