

Gender issues focus of Australasian girls' schools conference

Gender identity and gender equality will be the focus of the 'Real Girls, Real Women' Alliance of Girls Schools Australasia (AGSA) Biennial Educators Conference from 22-24 May in Brisbane.

Alliance Executive Officer Loren Bridge said educators would be lifting the curtain on the real issues girls' schools are grappling with.

'Raising girls' confidence, promoting intellectual risk-taking and providing opportunities to build resilience and leadership skills is a focus of the conference. We are well aware of the debilitating effects that high anxiety levels among girls often create,' said Loren.

'We are celebrating what is 'real' about girls and acknowledging the burden and the expectation of cultural pressures that bombard them.'

There has been an explosion of public interest in transgender issues. Barely a day goes by without media stories on the subject and schools are also facing these issues.

'Gender dysphoria cannot be ignored and this conference is a unique opportunity for leaders in girls' education from across Australia and New Zealand to discuss how best to support their students, help them to be their best selves and contribute their full potential,' said Loren.

Guest speakers include former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick AO, international specialists from the US National Coalition of Girls' Schools Transgender Taskforce, Dr Stephen Stathis, Medical Director of Queensland's child and youth mental health services and Georgina Dent, Editor of Mamamia.

More than 200 representatives from girls' schools from Australia and New Zealand will convene to participate in workshops, discuss emerging issues and hear from internationally renowned speakers.

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INTERVIEWS and PHOTOS AVAILABLE WITH:

- Elizabeth Broderick AO
- Dr Stephen Stathis
- Mariandl Hufford - Director of the Center for the Advancement of Girls at the Agnes Irwin School in Philadelphia
- Megan Murphy - Director, National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS).
 - Both Mariandl and Megan were key members of the NCGS Transgender Taskforce

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Real Girls. Real Women.
22-24 May 2016
Rydges Hotel, South
Brisbane

Media Release

23 May 2016

ALLIANCE OF
GIRLS SCHOOLS
AUSTRALASIA

About the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia:

The Alliance is a not for profit organisation which advocates for and supports the distinctive work of girls' schools in their provision of unparalleled opportunities for girls. It represents all school sectors – independent, Catholic and state, and has over 140 members throughout Australasia. www.agsa.org.au

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