**Residential Safety Patrol Video**

**Narrator:** La Trobe University has introduced a Residential Safety Patrol scheme manned by students to help them gain confidence and leadership experience but also help students living on campus feel safer.

**Dr Carl Gibson:** I’m Dr Carl Gibson, the Director of Risk Management at La Trobe University and I’d just like to take the opportunity to tell you about a few of the exciting things that have been happening in safety, so far this year in 2011. We’ve changed the focus for safety from a very strong focus on worker occupational health and safety to provide an even stronger focus on student safety. And one of the really exciting things that has happened as a part of that change in focus is the establishment of a new thing for the University called the Residential Safety Patrol. I think this is probably one of the only universities in Australia that has such a Residential Safety Patrol established. And it’s a unique opportunity for students to get involved in safety and to take responsibility for safety within their own areas the places that they live and study.

**Narrator:** The pilot program was first established in Semester 1 this year in the college precinct at the Melbourne campus. It was so successful that it was then expanded to the Bendigo campus for the start of Semester 2.

**Dr Carl Gibson:** The patrols themselves consist of anywhere between 15 – 25 student volunteers that work a series of shifts at times when there are probably higher risks of safety to residential students, such as when there are large functions going on, either within the student residences, or in student bars, or offsite.

**Narrator:** Thomas is currently in his second year studying a double degree in Law and Accounting. As well as being a Residential Assistant Coordinator for Glenn College, he is also a safety patrol.

**Thomas:** Usually safety patrol are on for bar nights, so it’ll be your Tuesday nights and Thursday nights. They involve walking around the campus, maybe over to the sporting clubs, up to Eagle Bar, walking perhaps intoxicated residents back, looking out for hazards and really keeping a general look out for their fellow residences from the colleges.

**Narrator:** With a large number of students living on campus, risk hazards increase out of hours. The safety patrol is on hand to support during these times.

**Dr Carl Gibson:** The safety patrol also provides real on the ground support during the night to students that may be at higher risk, particularly those that are coming back from functions that may require a safety patrol to get them back to their rooms in a more safe and secure manner than just walking on their own, at night, in the dark, in areas that may be unfamiliar to them.

**Narrator:** The Residential Safety Patrol gives a voice to residential students so that they can raise issues about their own safety and the safety of their peers and colleagues.

**Thomas:**I think it’s good to involve existing residents of the colleges in the leadership process and in the safety process. I think it’s preferable that just having more supervisors and more security, to actually give students part of that process or insight into that process is a good thing I think, it gives a greater understanding of how things work around the University.

**Narrator:** The Residential Safety Patrol are a diverse group of students from the student population at La Trobe. Rosanne is studying Medicinal Chemistry at the Melbourne campus.

**Rosanne:** Safety patrol for me is really enjoyable because you get to meet a lot of people from other colleges, student leaders like yourself and you’re all there for the same goal – to keep the place safer, make it a better, happier place for everybody.

**Narrator:** The Residential Safety Patrol are part of a communal effort across the University to ensure the safety of students at La Trobe residences.

**Rosanne:** One of the best things for me about being a female member of the safety patrol is I’m there to offer support and assistance, to those students, females especially, that don’t really feel comfortable speaking to the security guards around campus or just any person in particular, but I’m there as a point of reference to help them out if they need anything – on a bar night, or something like that, just to give them a bit of security walking back and around the college.

**Narrator:** The student volunteers committed to the patrol are given the opportunity to gain leadership experience and confidence in their roles.

**Thomas:** I like to do it because I have a genuine care about the residents on site, especially with my position here at Glenn College as well, I think it’s a good thing that fellow students look out for their fellow residents when they might not be as aware of their surroundings as they would be normally.