**Transcript**

***Roz Ward – Gay and lesbian health Victoria: youth programs***

I don’t strictly do research. I’m part of a research team but a lot of what I do is about putting research into practice. So I work in the youth programs area of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria which is about improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for young people who are same sex attracted or gender questioning. There’s a couple of key programs. There’s Safe Schools Coalition Victoria, Rainbow Network Victoria and then we have a web wise cyber safety program for young people. So I guess the hypothesis is around ways to make, reduce homophobia and make young people’s lives better, happier and all of that stuff.

So with Safe Schools Coalition one of the things that we know from the research is that a lot of homophobia takes place in schools, so really the key outcome is to reduce the levels of homophobia in schools and a lot of the work we do is quite practical with school staff, students and schools to provide resources that are based on the research that we have here and training and professional development for school staff that I do that’s based on the findings we’ve got from writing themselves in research that’s taken place here at ARCSHS.

Well we seem to already be having an impact in the last couple of days there’s been articles in MX and there’s a lot of stuff going on in the gay and lesbian community I suppose around the impact that the Safe Schools Coalition is having on the community. So far we’ve got 51 schools that have become part of Safe Schools Coalition. We’ve done training with around 2500 school staff so far so I think the evaluation for that which is kind of part of our research as well has shown that it is having an impact, that people value the work that we are doing and I think value the fact that we’re coming from this research perspective, that we’re about putting research into practice and that being a part of La Trobe really helps us to achieve what we want to achieve.