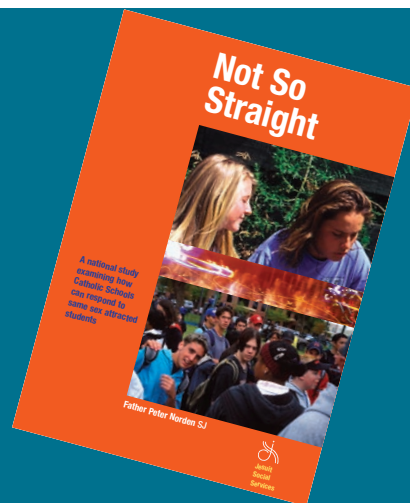


# Introducing two recent studies dealing with:

Same sex  
attracted  
students



Students  
using illicit  
substances



## Keeping them connected:

a national study  
examining how Catholic  
Schools can best  
respond to incidents  
of illicit drug use



## Not So Straight:

A national study  
examining how  
Catholic schools can  
best respond to the  
needs of same sex  
attracted students.



This study by Fr Peter Norden, SJ, provides important information for Australian secondary schools wishing to develop a firm but more caring and pragmatic response to the problem of students illicit drug use. A review of current practices in Catholic secondary schools around Australia suggests that the 'zero tolerance' approach favoured by some schools is largely ineffective and only serves to alienate students and drive the problem underground.

*Keeping them connected* recommends a number of policy guidelines aimed at reducing illicit drug usage and keeping young people within the school system.

*Fr Peter Norden is the Associate Director of Jesuit Social Services, with a Master's Degree in Social Work, and is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Science and Planning at R.M.I.T. University. He has a Master's Degree in Social Work. Peter is a National Board member of the Australian Council of Social Services, the peak Council of the community welfare sector in Australia and the national voice for the needs of people affected by poverty and inequality. Peter was formerly the Policy Director of Catholic Social Services and Chaplain of Victoria's Pentridge Prison.*

This recently released report is a sequel to our earlier study of how Catholic secondary schools respond to incidents of illicit drug use.

After thirty years experience of working with young people who are at risk of self-harm and suicide and who have resorted to the use of illicit drugs as a form of self-medication, Jesuit Social Services has identified groups of young Australians who are most susceptible to such behaviour.

From our extensive program experience and from the findings of international research on youth suicide, it is clear that same sex attracted young people are over-represented in those who self-harm.

Catholic schools are committed to providing a safe learning environment and have a commitment to dealing with their students with respect and understanding.

This report is a resource for all School Principals and those responsible for pastoral care to help them identify how best to ensure a safe learning environment for their students, where homophobic behaviour and bullying because of perceived sexual orientation is not tolerated.

*Not So Straight* includes casestudies of good practice and recommendations that impact on pastoral care, staff development, curriculum and the shaping of school culture to ensure that all students are respected in secondary schools.



**Jesuit  
Social  
Services**

*Standing in solidarity  
with those in need  
Expressing a faith that  
promotes justice*

by

Father Peter Norden, S.J.

**The Ignatius Centre**

FOR SOCIAL POLICY & RESEARCH

**H**ow can Australian secondary schools best manage the impact of illicit drug use by students?

What is the mandate of schools in Australia, and how best can helping professionals intervene without causing major trauma in the lives of young people and their families? These questions are addressed in the Jesuit research document, *Keeping Them Connected*.



**H**OW can those in leadership positions within secondary schools around the country learn from those schools that have attempted to deal with the presence and the needs of same sex attracted students. This research report, completed by an experienced social researcher, identifies strategies that have been found to work, based on a christian value base. How can schools shape an inclusive school culture that does not tolerate bullying and intimidation because of perceived sexual attraction. *Not So Straight* is a thoughtful and insightful report on strategies for teachers, counsellors and school administrators.



**T**HE two reports introduced in this pamphlet have much to contribute to those in responsible positions in secondary education in all States and Territories of Australia. They have been produced as a result of widespread consultation with teachers, counsellors, school administrators and students. They are essential resource material for School Principals, counsellors and those involved in secondary school administration.

Copies of the reports may be obtained by completing the attached Order Form and returning to Jesuit Social Services.



The Ignatius Centre is the research and policy arm of Jesuit Social Services. Our studies are informed and guided by the practical works of our programs and services. We invite you to visit our website to see the list of our current programs and services and learn more about the work we do.

For further information about the reports presented in this pamphlet, please contact the Ignatius Centre at the address below.



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## ORDER FORM

**Upon completion and payment, this form becomes a "Tax Invoice/Receipt" for GST. Please photocopy and maintain for your records.**

**Cost includes GST, postage and packaging**

Please send me: ☐ ..... copy/copies of Not So Straight at \$20 per copy  
☐ ..... copy/copies of Keeping Them Connected at \$15 per copy  
☐ ..... copy/copies of both reports at the reduced price of \$30 per package

Payment details: ☐ Cheque for \$..... is enclosed, or please debit my credit card

☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card No:                 Expiry:   /

Name of Cardholder: ..... Signature of Cardholder: .....

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Address: .....

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Fax or post completed form to Jesuit Social Services (see reverse)