

25 June 2009

Q&A Victoria 2009 – Emerging Young Leaders Program

Applications for Q&A Victoria 2009 – Emerging Young Leaders Program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (GLBTIQ) young people are now open until 1 July 2009.

The program is an integral component of *Mind the Gap*, a comprehensive three-year community engagement initiative focusing on the primary prevention of HIV and STIs in GLBTIQ people under 25 and their social networks.

Q&A Victoria aims to create resilient, effective and visible young leaders working to benefit GLBTIQ and wider communities.

Family Planning Victoria's Senior Policy Officer, Michael West, said Q&A Victoria would create a learning and experiential environment for participants to develop leadership skills while raising broader community awareness of the adaptive strengths of young GLBTIQ people.

'Q&A Victoria will prepare young leaders to take action on the issues and challenges that affect our communities every day, such as social inclusion, HIV prevention and sexual health, discrimination and human rights,' Michael said.

The program will run from August to November, with young leaders working through a rigorous and structured learning program involving community engagement, personal reflection, retreats, mentoring and project development within the GLBTIQ communities.

To apply, contact Q&A Victoria Coordinator, Abigail Elliott on 0403 820 796 or go to http://www.fpv.org.au/index_old.html

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Q&A Victoria and *Mind the Gap!* are conducted in partnership with Family Planning Victoria; Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations; Centre for Adolescent Health; Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDS; FAR Social Enterprises and the Twenty 10 Association. Both programs are funded by The Department of Human Services Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmitted Infections Unit.

For media enquiries, contact FPV's Media & Marketing Officer, Christine Harris on 0448 412 409.