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Telling it like it is

A candid new documentary on same sex attracted young people reveals their innermost feelings and how they cope.

Not So Straight tackles myths and stereotypes and shows that like their peers, GLBTIQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer) young people have a range of personalities, insecurities and issues to deal with.

The feature length documentary profiles members of Family Planning Victoria's same sex attracted support group for people under 26, YAK.

Developed by YAK members themselves with documentary film makers Peter George and Poppy Shmith, the film is an honest and confronting exploration of current issues facing same sex attracted young people in Melbourne.

It uncovers the reality of social exclusion, rural isolation, heterosexism and sexual identity through thought-provoking commentary filmed on location at Midsumma Carnival, Pride March and Birrarung Marr.

YAK facilitator Mark Camilleri says they tackle myths and stereotypes head on and give a true insight into how the world works for many young people who are same sex attracted.

Also delving into sexual relationships, safer sex, HIV, support strategies, cyber safety and community attitudes, the film is an excellent teaching resource for schools, youth organisations and health professionals working with young people.

'Viewers will understand and empathise with the open and honest stories and talk about the issues that come up, helping break down pre-conceived ideas about sexuality in the wider community,' Mark says.

As one YAK member says, 'I know a lot of people who come from conservative families who believe being homosexual is bad and evil.'

Another member explains, 'It's more about teaching them who we are, because they don't actually understand.'

'If we want them to accept us, we have to let them into our world as well.'

Purchase *Not So Straight* from FPV by following the links at www.fpv.org.au

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FPV is the leading Victorian provider of youth sexuality education and clinical services.