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## **Healthy Relationships Program sets TAFE students on the right path**

TAFE students will learn about forming and maintaining healthy relationships via a new program jointly launched by TAFE Queensland and YWCA Queensland this week.

The Healthy Relationships Program will be delivered through TAFE Queensland's online learning system and every enrolled student will be able to access it, free of charge.

YWCA Queensland CEO Kate Tully said the 2015 Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce report, *Not Now, Not Ever*, detailed issues pertaining to domestic violence in Queensland in a way never before seen while also issuing a challenge.

"The report challenges the reader with a blunt question - what are you going to do about this?" she said.

"The Healthy Partnerships Program is a joint response to this question by YWCA Queensland and TAFE Queensland."

The program is structured to be highly engaging and provoke learners to think about their attitudes and be accountable for their own behaviour.

Ms Tully said TAFE Queensland, educator of tens of thousands of young Queenslanders every year, was a natural partner for YWCA Queensland to launch the program.

"Prevention is always better than a cure and the Healthy Relationships program will help ensure our society has a 'critical mass' of relationships that are respectful and healthy from the outset.

"The Healthy Relationships program fills an important gap in education programs available by arming young adults with the skills and understanding to support their development of adult relationships," she said.

Jodi Schmidt, TAFE Queensland CEO, said the partnership and program gives TAFE Queensland the opportunity to contribute to positive change through the power of education; which challenges beliefs and attitudes and develops knowledge and understanding.

"The program will assist our students to recognise the signs of domestic violence and to adopt appropriate responses and provide our students with an opportunity to gain a greater awareness of themselves," said Ms Schmidt.

"Beyond our students I saw this as an opportunity for TAFE Queensland to be a conduit to providing awareness of healthy and appropriate behaviours across all relationship types as approximately one in four people have been or will be affected by domestic violence."

# MEDIA RELEASE



“This exciting and innovative program will roll-out to our South West and North regions initially and will be available to students from September.

From Monday, 5 September 2016 TAFE Queensland students in South West and North regions will have access to the Healthy Relationships program via TAFE Queensland’s online student portal – Connect. The program can be accessed free of charge.

“TAFE Queensland’s full student cohort will be able to access the program from the start of 2017,” said Ms Schmidt.

TAFE Queensland and YWCA Queensland acknowledge that this program also has the possibility to be rolled out into the larger community and looks forward to the opportunity to work with other organisations.

More information about the Healthy Relationships program will be made available after the first phase of roll-out of this fantastic new initiative.

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