

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Council
General Purpose Standing
Committee No 2

Inquiry into Bullying of Children and Young People
Online Consultation

W e s t W o o d S p i c e

Better Outcomes, Better Lives

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 of the NSW Parliament is conducting an Inquiry into the Bullying of Children and Young People. An online survey was designed to provide an opportunity for the views of young people to contribute to the work of the Committee.

1.2 Method

An online survey was designed and made available on a website from Friday 14 August to Monday 31 August 2009.

The survey was promoted to young people on Facebook, with an advertising campaign targeting Facebook users in NSW within the age range of interest to the Committee. Children under 12 were not included as the language and design of the survey was not tailored to them and parental supervision would be required.

The week long Facebook campaign comprised 3,229,689 impressions (number of advertisements shown), resulting in 1,483 Click throughs.

The survey was also available direct to young people not using Facebook through a URL promoted via a media release.

Some caution should be used in interpreting results, as the anonymous nature of online methods gives no guarantee of the veracity of the input.

1.3 Responses

The survey received 438 responses; 304 full responses (respondents reached the end of the survey although they may not have given an answer to every question) and 134 partial responses (the survey was not completed).

136 people asked for a copy of the summary report of the Committee to be emailed to them and provided email addresses.

The information in this report is based on the 304 full responses.

Where the survey had open fields, many of the respondents chose to comment. All the responses have been read and the common ideas grouped. Quotations from the young people are included in this report to give a flavour of their comments. The full text is listed as appendices to the report. The age range of participants is listed in the table below:

Table 1: Age

Answer	Count	Percentage
12 (A)	30	9.87%
13 (B)	31	10.20%
14 (C)	40	13.16%
15 (D)	34	11.18%
16 (E)	37	12.17%
17 (F)	39	12.83%
18 (G)	12	3.95%
19 (H)	13	4.28%
20 (I)	12	3.95%
21+ (J)	29	9.54%
No answer	27	8.88%
Total	304	

The majority of participants are currently studying in schools.

Table 2: Occupation

Answer	Count	Percentage
School student (A)	203	66.78%
TAFE (B)	8	2.63%
Unemployed (C)	13	4.28%
Apprentice (D)	3	0.99%
Other employment (E)	27	8.88%
University (F)	23	7.57%
No answer	27	8.88%
Total	304	

Over 60% of responses were from females, almost 30% from males and about 9% chose not to disclose their gender.

Table 3: Gender

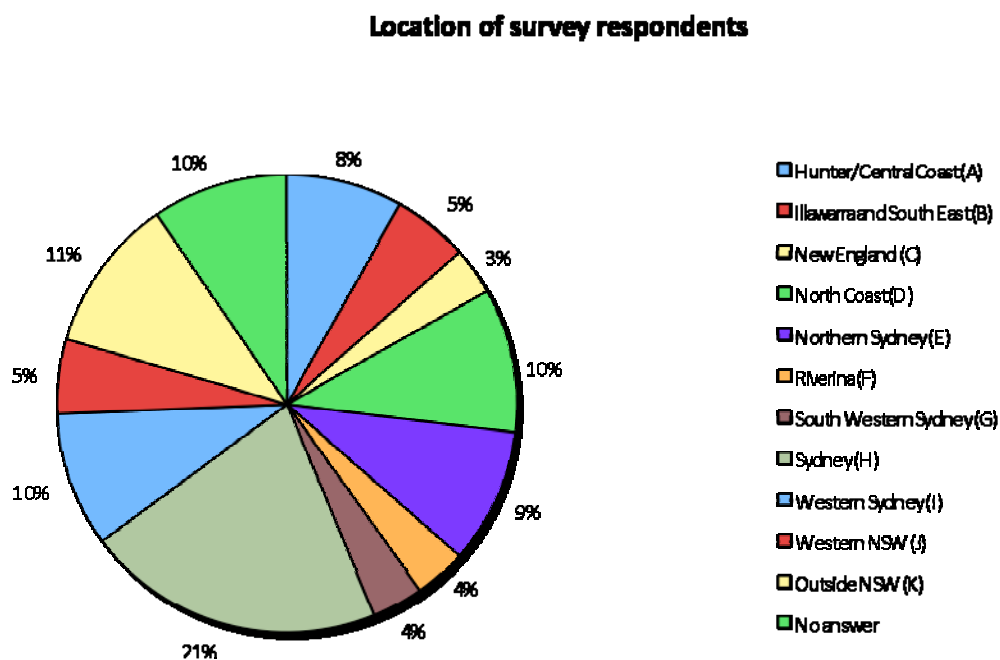
Answer	Count	Percentage
Female (F)	187	61.51%
Male (M)	89	29.28%
No answer	28	9.21%
Total	304	

The survey attracted responses from across and from outside NSW.

Table 4: Location

Answer	Count	Percentage
Hunter/Central Coast (A)	25	8.22%
Illawarra and South East (B)	16	5.26%
New England (C)	10	3.29%
North Coast (D)	31	10.20%
Northern Sydney (E)	29	9.54%
Riverina (F)	11	3.62%
South Western Sydney (G)	11	3.62%
Sydney (H)	64	21.05%
Western Sydney (I)	29	9.54%
Western NSW (J)	16	5.26%
Outside NSW (K)	33	10.86%
No answer	29	9.54%
Total	304	

Figure 1: Location of survey respondents



QUESTION ONE

Almost 85 % of survey respondents indicated that they had experienced bullying.

Table 5: Have you ever been bullied?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	259	84.92%
No (N)	23	7.54%
No answer	23	7.54%

QUESTION TWO

The most common form of bullying experienced was name calling or teasing (experienced or witnessed by over 80% of respondents). 73% indicated exclusion as a common form of bullying and almost half had been threatened or knew of incidents of threatening.

Table 6: Tell us what kinds of bullying have happened to you, or to someone you know

Answer	Count	Percentage
Name calling or teasing (A)	248	81.31%
Exclusion - leaving someone out (B)	223	73.11%
Physical - punching, kicking, hitting etc (C)	130	42.62%
Threatening (D)	151	49.51%
Using a mobile phone (E)	74	24.26%
Internet – e.g. Myspace/ Facebook (F)	117	38.36%
Other	46	15.08%

46 respondents listed other forms of bullying, with the most common examples relating to harassment (8 examples), intimidation (8 examples) and public embarrassment/ gossip (21 examples). Other forms include blackmail, stalking, and theft. The full list is available at Appendix One.

Some of the examples¹ offered by respondents are quoted below:

Table 7: Quotations: forms of bullying

Writing on bathroom walls, leaving notes in school bag and handing out copies of abusive song lyrics to other students
 Rumours about sexuality, substance abuse. All lies but still very upsetting. This kind of bullying is designed to attack the persons image and it unfortunately works very well.
 Graffiti on personal property- rude words, tags and obscene pictures drawn on my car windows
 Following me outside of school, harrasment in the street

QUESTION THREE

Over 60% of respondents reported that bullying was a very serious or quite serious problem in their

¹ Quotations include original spelling; they have only been altered to ensure anonymity e.g. where a respondent named their school.

school or workplace.

Table 8: In your view is bullying a serious problem in your school or workplace?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes very serious (A)	108	35.41%
Quite serious (B)	85	27.87%
Not very serious (C)	66	21.64%
Not really a problem (D)	20	6.56%
No answer	25	8.52%
	304	

QUESTION FOUR

Question Four asked: “How does bullying (face-to-face and using the phone or internet) make people feel?” 270 people (88.82%) people answered the question, 34 did not answer (11.18%).

Table Nine summarises the comments, grouping the suggestions made by the young people. Comments are listed in Appendix Two.

The most common words used to describe the feeling of bullying relate to worthlessness, isolation and sadness. People also talked about being scared and feeling depressed, even suicidal or feeling that life is not worth living. Many comments emphasized the undermining effect of bullying to self confidence and self esteem.

Some people also expressed anger and annoyance with the bullies, describing them as “stupid”, or as having a view that it could be ignored.

Table 9: How does bullying (face-to-face and using the phone or internet) make people feel?

Comment	
Worthless	80
Sad	65
Isolated, alone, rejected	53
Scared, intimidated	41
Depression	38
Bad, upset, distressed	34
Angry, vengeful	23
Helpless, powerless, confused	21
Insecure, undermined, lowers self esteem, failure, inferior	22
Suicidal	16
Unloved, unwanted	12
Humiliated, embarrassed	10
Annoyance, a minor issue	9

Quotations from the comments are listed below.

Table 10: Quotations: how bullying makes people feel

It makes them feel small, frightened and that life really isnt worth all the pain that you endure

everyday. You feel like a prisoner in your school or workplace and feel like there is no way out.

I have not experienced it on the phone or internet, but face to face is very well known to me. when people call you names and make fun of you in front of everyone you feel embarrassed, and when everyone starts laughing and your friends sit beside you but they say nothing it makes you feel like they think that way too, but they just don't say it because their your friends. You feel like telling them that you have to go through a lot at home and that you don't need their help to make you feel bad about yourself, or to make your life more of a living hell

.
Terrible, i felt that everyone was against me and that there wasnt any point in being happy because they would always just bring me down

like their being isolated off from the world

vulnerable, guilty and ashamed to be the subject of bullying; perhaps one feels like an inferior person

i guess it makes u feel like there is something wrong with you. like u r different and not in a good way. bullying can make u look in the mirror and hate what u see for no particular reason it makes people feel like they are inferior to the bully

I feel really sad and don't want to go to school because others are mean to me.

it makes people feel like they are at the bottom of the world under everyone else

it makes me feel like crying.. sometimes i just feel like dieing or killing my self. it lowers my self esteem.. and i feel like i dont belong. i hate bullies.. they me hate myself..

very scarred at first and dont want to go anywhere with out a brother or a parent and you have to be picked up from the bus stop insted of riding your bike or walking home and always looking to see if the bully is around and you sometimes have really bad dreams and you always wonder when it will happen next and how you will get away next time.

Powerless, Inadequate, Weak, Small.

unloved, like nobody in the world could possibly like you. its like someone bullying you is ruining all of your self esteem, especially when people bag out ur looks. it makes you really self concious like they arent wanted.

Upset, Angry, Scared, Lonely

makes them feel vulnerable and quite distressed at times.

it makes you feel worthless, sure theres the old saying "sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me" but there is only so much one can take...

Well it made me feel pretty bad, hating everyone, and staying away from society and such but then I realised that maybe if I stood up for myself for once then it wouldn't happen to me. So I built myself

up and now I realise - If kids getting bullied weren't such targets they wouldn't be bullied. People aren't bullied for no reason. They are bullied because they present themselves as a nice target. I have been on both receiving and giving sides of bullying and can safely say this.

it made me feel extremely angry. i was constantly having to control my anger which made me extremely depressed and made me want to die.

Well there just words and you can get over it.

QUESTION FIVE

Question Five asked: "Is the impact of online and phone bullying different to other types of bullying?" 266 people responded to the question (87.54%), 38 gave no answer (12.46%).

The comments of 162 people (62%) indicated that they thought online and phone bullying had different impacts (either worse or better) compared with other forms of bullying; 100 people (38%) thought the impacts were the same.

Many people commented that the anonymity offered by cyber bullying encouraged extreme language and behaviours. Views differed on impacts – some thought that it was easier to ignore (delete the message or turn off the computer) and also to report (as you had a written record).

Others thought that cyber bullying was impossible to escape, that it invaded personal space and was worse than face to face bullying as it had the potential to be seen by many other people. Comments are listed in Appendix Three. Some quotes from the young people are listed below.

Table 11: Quotations: Is the impact of online and phone bullying different to other types of bullying?

Yes because online bullying is just a click of a button

No. i dont think so. its exactly the same. just with out the punching and kicking. but name calling is just the same. its harder then u think to ignor it, especially if its posted all over your myspace or facebook for everybody to see. it doesnt go away stright away. everyone has a chance to read it untill u delete it. and only if ur lucky do u see it before anyone else. but it kills ur pride and any enthusiasm u might have for going back to school.

no they are pretty much the same. bullying can be down physically or verbally. but the most harmful way to hurt someone is mostly verbally online. spreading rumours

Yes. Online and phone bullying is probably easier to deal with cause even though you might be really scared you don't have to show it and you can just delete it or report it if you want.

Yes. It hurts a little more mentally because when your home and safe, to have bullying invade your home is a sickening feeling

Not really, all bullying has negative effects. But I feel online and phone bullying can escalate and become serious quicker then traditional bullying.

no they are pretty much the same. bullying can be down physically or verbally. but the most harmful

way to hurt someone is mostly verbally online. spreading rumours

It is. Because its in black and white and concrete. It is something that can be read over and over and publicised. However it is also easier to combat in the case of something that has an owner. I.E. Facebook message always has an author. so that messaged can be printed off and handed to relevant authorities.

the internet is more open & available to a wider audience which could make others who know the victim being bullied think that they too can start bullying them. Phone bullying is a very intimidating, it could cause the victim to be too scared to answer the phone or even go out in public

yes its worse. people dont take it as serious as say physical bullying they tell you just to 'ignore it'

Yes, as it is sometimes easier for the bully to reach their target. Also some bullies themselves aren't that confident to do it face-to-face, and appear to become "keyboard warriors"

its the same.. you still feel like you dont belong.. its just in a different way. theres no different type of impact... there all the same.. you feel like dieing and crying.

totally, i think face 2 face bullying is much more upsetting

QUESTION SIX

Friends and parents were the people that bullying was most likely to be reported to.

Table 12: Who would you report bullying to?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Would not report bullying (A)	80	25.97%
Parent/ carer (B)	148	48.05%
Teacher (C)	116	37.66%
Another adult (D)	61	19.81%
A friend (E)	165	53.57%
School Counsellor (F)	77	25.00%
MySpace/ Facebook etc (G)	29	9.42%

QUESTION SEVEN

Question Seven asked: “What sorts of things do online or phone bullies do?” 252 people responded to the question with comments, 56 gave no answer.

Responses describing cyber bullying emphasized how the anonymity of the bully enabled them to say things they would not say face to face. Bullying online was also described as a tool to involve others in the bullying.

Comments related to threats and harassment, insults and teasing, use of the internet to spread rumours and false information, humiliation, involving others in bullying/ ganging up on people, and specific examples of how pictures and images on the net can be used to bully.

19 people said they had not experienced bullying by online or phone bullies and therefore didn't know what they do.

Table 13: Online and Phone Bullies – what they do

Harrass/ threaten	Insult/ tease	Rumours	Humiliate	Involve others	Pictures	Don't know
92	136	45	34	24	34	19

Table 14: Quotations: What sorts of things do online or phone bullies do?

I've seen name calling and threats. Just really nasty things people would never say to your face, because they're sitting behind a computer and somehow think they're stronger.

It can vary, a person could post pictures or start rumours over the internet, because the net is so available to everyone. Phone can give the bully the power to bully someone and remain unknown to the victim

From my experience, they harass you, write things about you in bulletins (without the use of names) but its very obvious who its written about, they can make you feel like you have done something wrong which is very distressing and they write really really slack stuff to you on instant messenger.

Little things which add up to drive you over the edge either by spreading things about your personal life and emotions

Write nasty things about you weather its true or false...its online so everybody can see it..can be quite embarrassing

Degrade, defame, Spread false stories to discredit. Impersonate their victim and spreading falsehoods while pretending to be them. Gang up by getting other's to help them bully and defame through contacting them through communications such as instant messenger. They search out private info on the internet, store the information in their computer then post it in, manipulating the information to cause defamation. Make use of the delete button, getting a large number of other bullies to press the delete button to get rid of their victim.

Personally, I've been called ugly, hideous. I've been told that what I have to say is worthless, that nobody likes me, and that nobody cares what I have to say.

Trick you as to who they are. Lie about what they really think so that you will say something they can

use against you. Post humiliating things on web pages. (non exhaustive list)

Threaten people, Call them names, Take away your feeling of safety/security in your own home, Take away your sense of trust (anonymous bullies).

They may make comments that ostracize others. They also can bluntly tell people what they think about them. Also threats and other bullying activities can be done in this manner. The internet has the ability to engage more than one person so this also can be quite damaging to people who are being bullied.

I have been told I am ugly and annoying. Called a whore and things like that.

Say next time they see me they will bash me

Use harsher worst/deeper threats as its not face to face, they are more confident/comfortable in saying worse things than that individual wouldnt never say in person

Intimidate their victims, humiliate them. Quite often the person being bullied does not personally know the person bullying them (eg: a myspace "friend" [or other online contact] bullying them, or someone prank calling the person's mobile with a private number and making threats [serious, joking or otherwise] or calling repeatedly knowing full well the person will be trying to sleep, or many other examples.)

Write threatening messages, post edited photos, post messages on different websites about someone, try hack your myspace and facebook accounts.

They make you feel bad and what they say is WAY worse than what they would say face to face.

Spread rumours, call at random hours of the night threatening my life. abusive messages.

Send nasty text messages and post rude things on public walls. Text messages may seem like an easy way to bully as it's simple, every day usage for a teenager and you can hide behind the screen. Online bullies get joy out making public humiliation through posting on a facebook wall or similar and having other mutual "friends" see what they've said then can talk about it without the victim knowing, or they can gang on through posting comments agreeing. Bullies can also start groups and get people to join for example "Jane smells" and then get all their friends to join and belittle the victim even more.

Say hurtful comments on pictures of the victim. They use the victims name as an insult. At my school my name was used as an insult to other people. for example if you wanted to insult another person you would call them by my name.

Well iv been online bullied beford and bullied for 8 years in the real world,online in my exsperence i got told i was having sex and a i was a slut and that was a lie. but it was on myspace so everyone commented on it and gace me dirty looks in the real world.

Eg, tag photos of negative pictures (photos etc) with your name eg a horses backside, tagged with your name so that all connected see your name as tagged and look.

They send messages/pictures to many people in 1 go and can harass them and threaten them that they will do this.

The full list of comments is at Appendix Five.

QUESTION EIGHT

Just over half of those responding said that they had attended anti bullying programs at school.

Table 15: Have you attended anti-bullying programs at school?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	166	53.90%
No (N)	115	37.34%
No answer	27	8.77%

QUESTION NINE

Anti-bullying programs at school were viewed as making not much difference or no difference by over 65% of those responding. Comments were invited and 123 people added a comment (39.94%). Comments are listed at Appendix Six.

The comments covered a wide range of areas relating to bullying in schools. Some young people felt that anti-bullying programs had made a difference and that teachers had addressed issues and enforced the program; others commented that telling bullies to stop had no effect. A small number of young people used this section as a plea to stop bullying.

Table 16: Did these programs make a difference?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes - a big difference (A)	5	1.62%
Yes - some difference (B)	40	12.99%
Not much difference (C)	70	22.73%
No difference (D)	140	45.45%
No answer	53	17.21%

Table 17: Quotations: comments on school anti-bullying programs

There were anti bullying workshops at school which addressed the basics but didnt really go into the online issues

For teenagers these programs are pretty boring and not interesting to us. because it's not interesting most teens don't take it in or remember it. if they were more interesting we might pay attention to what is being said.

They all have the same old boring stuff about how it's bad and your not the only one going through it - no shit sherlock! tell me something I don't already know, like different to the last 5 discussions!! There was one program i forget what it's called by it was a play that addressed bullying I watched it in year 7 - kids are gonna pay more attention to plays or musicals or something like that.

The programs at school attempt to reach children by being "hip or cool" but all it really does is provoke a cynical response from teenage audiences, and can sometimes worsen the problem.

I wish we have anti-bullying talks as a whole school with someone coming in from police or something of big authority so that it would scare bullies more than just teachers or carers telling them off.

Mostly we just mocked them but the harsher sanctions for the bullies stopped them from doing it again.

I would report a bully at school, (because my friend is being bullied on his first day of my school) ,if i could fully-trust a teacher not to tell anyone that i told them, and they wouldnt tell the bullies that they were bullying just my friend because then they would try and get my friend back by bullying even more..

The more knowledge that people have about negative attitudes to bullying the better. The bullies need to know that their actions are cowardly.

Most bullies just say they were "only joking" and pretty much all the teachers let them get away with it. Bullying programs advising kids to seek help don't always work - teachers need to investigate whether the kid really was "just joking".

The schools don't enforce the programs.

School seem to put the problem under the rug

Please help to stop bullying. i get bullied all the time.. it might be for stupid reasons.. but it does make a big impact.

We do stupid stuff like what would you do in a situation or 'Stop, I don't like it' but bullies are much more cruel and won't be easily stopped by that. Teachers don't seem to understand its a lot more complex even to report bullying and if we do try to explain they just say 'do whats right, who cares about what others think'.

I run a program anti bullying campaign im 17 now when i was 15 i applied to goverment for a grant received 10 grandf now im in the acutal community trying to ellminate bullying reganing the voice of victims / troubled perpetrators through art / stories / music tc.

Programs play a crucial role in educating others about the effects of bullying. However, one must look beyond educational programs and look at other avenues of addressing this problem which has never gone away.

Time and money spent on these programs is wasted. Bullying has always been around and always will. Blaming the internet and phones is also stupid, It's just a new way to do it. Im not saying doing it is good, But people should learn to bully back, Telling people that are being bullied to speak up about it just get bullied more and more.

QUESTION TEN

The question asked: "What can be done by schools or workplaces to reduce bullying?" 251 (82.57%) respondents provided an answer, 53 did not comment.

Over half those responding (148 comments) made suggestions relating to school enforcement of existing policies, more awareness and intervention by teachers. There was also an emphasis on harsher penalties for bullying and ensuring that people who disclose bullying are believed. Comments also reflected an understanding that bullies may also have problems and difficulties that

need to be dealt with.

26 comments expressed a view that bullying cannot be stopped and 20 suggested that victims of bullying might be listened to and supported. 12 people emphasized the value of kids learning strategies to stand up for themselves.

Comments are listed at Appendix Six.

Table 18: What can be done by schools or workplaces to reduce bullying?"

Don't know	Listen/care	Can't stop	Kids stand up for self	Schools enforce policies	Teacher training	Harsher penalties	Understand problems bullies have	Diversity
9	20	26	12	148	4	95	9	2

Table 19: Quotations: What can be done by schools or workplaces to reduce bullying?

Listen to someone when they say they are being bullied. Have anonymous measures for reporting bullying behavior.

To be honest, I don't know. I've seen kids singled out by teachers for bullying programs. I've seen the blank looks on the faces of bullies every time we're told of the consequences if caught bullying. I don't know how you can stop what's been happening for years, how you can stop something that is a part of some people. I wish you guys could find something that works, real soon.

Hello!! Look out for it more. Believe people when they say it, dont just no believe it because you may not know this person.

that is pretty hard to come up with because teachers tell us to tell them about being bullied, but sometimes it just makes the bullying worse by doing this. if the school taught teens how to stand up to bullies it might have a better affect.

Not much, make sure counsellors are well known and that there is always someone there. Make sure kids at schools always have at least one friend in each class!!

teachers need to be much harsher and stick to their words!

promote friendly relationships between peers through pastoral care programs etc specific "antibullying" campaigns often fall on selectively deaf ears and automatically turn the prepetrators away

I think that schools from early on should teach students that bullying stems from insecurity, jealousy and pettiness. If all students are made to completely realise this, then not only would it make those who are targeted by bullies feel better knowing it's not their fault or problem, but would also make people think twice about bullying, especially if they know they'll be seen as insecure, jealous or petty. Disempower bullies by making it widespread knowledge that they're only doing so out of a problem of their own. Teach students the psychology behind it. Have much stricter policies and stronger punishments.

Needs to be tougher, warnings are no longer good enough 99% of the time telling an authority figure about bullying makes it worse

Actually listen and act on bullying would be a start, I was bullied for 3 years. i reported it to the school but the school didnt do anything. in the end i ended up snapping and bashed the kid... although after that bullying stopped, i was suspended from school for physical violence. the bully was never punished

Offer real counseling and protection to victims, and real punishment-justice for the bully(ies).

Education. Some forms bullying arise from prejudice or discrimination. If we as a nation were more educated in other cultures and customs i believe we would become a more accepting community.

I think schools and workplaces really need to bring in people who have been through the experience of being bullied, and dealt with it in an effective way in order for programs to work. Obviously there have to be decent programs in place for it to work though.

More programs that are conducted by younger people. School aged kids find it easier to connect with people closer to their age. For example, 40 hour famine GLCs are hosted by mainly young people, and they are very successful. It is easier for people of my age (17) to connect with people closer to our age group, eg 18-25 rather than a 40yr old.

Create larger support mechanisms for the victim of the bullying. I was bullied myself because I was an easy target - I had zero confidence in myself because of the way my parents raised me. However the school counsellor helped build my confidence in myself. which in turn made me a stronger person which intimidated the bullies.

My school doesn't have very consistant punishment, i think that could make a huge difference.

QUESTION ELEVEN

The question asked: “The Committee will make recommendations to the NSW Government about ways to reduce bullying. What do you think we should recommend?” 230 responses were received (75.66%) and 74 gave no answer.

86 comments related to stricter consequences and punishments. 54 suggested different types of learning opportunity such as workshops or better counselling and other support, with an emphasis on learning from the experience of other young people who had found ways to address bullying. Other suggestions relate to student lead activities (committees or discussion). 34 suggestions relate to broader policy issues and 14 mentioned preventative strategies including awareness of the causes of bullying. 23 commented that they had nothing further to add.

Responses are listed in Appendix Seven.

Table 20: Areas suggested for recommendations

None	Consequences/ punishment	Learning	Student lead	Policies	Prevention/ Bully awareness
23	86	54	11	34	14

Table 21: Quotations in response to the question: “The Committee will make recommendations to the NSW Government about ways to reduce bullying. What do you think we should recommend?”

Freedom of expression and education to allow victims the knowledge that they do not have to "put up" with the situation, and that if they tell someone that they will actually be listened to.

Zero tolerance. Get rid of the people bullying and results in school will improve.

Girls and Boys are committing suicide because of this. I think encouraging students or even people to come forward, letting them know it will be anonymous. and making sure u actually deal with the bullies. Stop giving them warnings. warning 1. warning 2. warning 3. i mean common.. they are just gonna push their luck as far as they can. if need be 1 warning. after that, they can lose their job or be suspended..

Do not target the victims. Target the bullies. Don't try empathy, it doesn't work. Make it 'uncool' to be a bully: talk about how most bullies are insecure etc.

information programs and support programs for both the bully and bullied

more in depth programs - not just talks to large groups by one person but 1 on 1 sessions with an experienced counsellor. the counsellors should make the kids want to speak up to them or teachers.

Again, I recommend some sort of anonymous complaint system. With a certain amount of people complaining about one kid, the kid will be taken for a discussion with the school counselor. The only problem is that the system could be easily corrupted.

Less talk more action. Bullies don't listen to reason they will sit there and laugh at warnings or messages. When they're properly dealt with is when it will stop

Better support for kids experiencing bullying. Better funding for counseling services. Not have a half hearted attempt at stamping out bullies. It needs to be consistent and continuing.

Integration of people. Mixing different friendship groups, and increasing acceptance of others.

Real Authorities involvement in bullying cases and investigation.

Creating a course for teachers and parents/ carers to do, to help them understand what actually goes on, and that teaches them ways to resolve it.

more teachers on playground, a private way to tell teachers your problem

pastor care groups in schools and workplaces. (having a group with two people from every year in it meet once a day for 10 minutes at school)

apply more internet police because that's where most of the bullying occurs and if the police get involved it should dramatically decrease

Programs that deal with the more serious forms of bullying and combinations of bullying. Programs that teach victims how to cope and how to help friends who might be suffering it. Not everyone will go to someone if they are a victim of bullying but sometimes friends will notice they just won't say anything or do anything because they don't know what to say / do. Also it needs to be brought to light that a lot of people let bullies get away with their actions because they are afraid if they get involved they'll be the victim. People need reassurance that this won't happen or they might not be willing to help the victim.

From as early age kids should be taught to stop bullying. Bullies can only bully because no body attempts to stop them. They see themselves as powerful beings however tables can be turned if we take a no tolerance attitude. It shouldn't only be up to teachers or higher authorities to restrict these types of behaviours. It is hard and ineffective. Peers are better suited to stop forms of bullying.

Imagine when a bully begins name call etc and the whole class or peers in the playground tell him/her to be quiet.

Perhaps a state-wide bullying campaign and programs that feature people who have been through the experience. People need to feel reassured that they can get through it with a tried and proved formula rather than one that's been thought up by someone who has no idea what being the victim is like. Also, maybe bring in a few more strategies in primary school to try and turn people away from becoming bullies. If you start early, maybe the problems won't happen later.

- Travelling drama productions that address bullying and mentor students about bullying and its consequences would be an ideal way of dealing with this issue. As a former high school student I know that these forms of learning/teaching/productions work particularly well with students, especially those who don't like working or reading. A lot of students who bully are not the smartest tools in the shed and these students don't learn well with worksheets. Having this more visual form of learning and educating would work well and can touch many different people.

Focus most on increasing self-esteem in all students. Usually the worst bullies are also the ones who get the worst treatment by the teachers, which only serves to perpetuate the problem. While there is a place for discipline, it is also important to show forgiveness and love to offenders, or they feel they are stuck where they are and cannot change their reputation.

make the people who are responsible for others like teachers and bosses accountable and make them take action and not just say they will

i don't know if they (the bullies) will ever really understand the impact of what bullying does. or, for that matter, what is bullying? when does it differ from joking around with someone to becoming bullying>

a way to tell people about bullying that isn't face to face with pathetic teachers

Personally, I feel that you should mention all of the above as I have experienced seeing and being bullied and I feel that I know how to resolve. I think that the best solutions are the compulsory anonymous bullying survey and a strong, strict bullying policy e.g. on the bullies third warning his/her position in the school/workplace will be reviewed and may result in being asked to leave/being expelled.

Make sure all teenagers know that cyber bullying is a form of bullying and that it can be stopped. Make children aware of the different types and what they all are.

Increase support to school counsellors. (financial)

Definitely making all schools do a rock and water thing.

don't let your parents get involved because it's not that big of a deal like they make it seem. it will eventually stop. you're not young forever it's only a small section of your life.

Higher governing body that goes into schools and workplaces to investigate bullying complaints. Then give bully appropriate skills to stop behaviour. Person might need counselling

Getting schools to actually follow the policies given to them

If a school fails to deal with a serious case of bullying, an inquiry should be taken and proper action should be taken against them

To stop being so optimistic in your goals to stop bullying. No matter what strategies are put in place, there will always be someone being bullied, who will in turn become a bully. It is a cycle that can

only be stifled.

look at what New York did to curb violence in the 90's. They clamped down hard on young offenders. In 10 years they had a significant drop in murders and other serious crime.

That early intervention to bullying is a must. Bullying starts in the home and if a kids bullied at home they then do it outside their home.

The police should be able to do something but they say they can only do something if it is a family problem like a domestic. The rules should change so the police can do something for kids if its someone who you know even if they are not in your family but who you know very well and live near you so you cant get away from them. It sucks when the police do get an AVO for you and then it is stopped because the bully goes back to court and gets it stopped then no one can help you and the bully feels good and gets more worse. its wrong for another judge to stop what the first judge says and let the persohn keep bullying you

i dont really know, because, our school is fairly good, but they cant stop the bullies, even after punishment, because the bully's motive is too strong. maybe a community service should be a new way of punishment

Teach people to learn and know what is like to be a victim of bullying through workshops and also have students know that there is help out there if they do become a victim of bullying. Clear and strict messages MUST be sent to students and people in the workplace about bullying.

QUESTION TWELVE

Question Twelve asked: "Is there anything else you would like to share with the Committee about bullying?" 172 answers were received (56.58%).

The biggest group of comments (75 people) provided information about impacts of bullying. In some case the respondents provided information of their background or told their story of bullying. Others emphasised points made earlier in the survey regarding more effective action and punishment of bullying. Some suggested causes of bullying (such as racism, intolerance of differences), others suggested strategies such as education for parents and teachers. 18 people raised points to do with problems reporting, such as the importance of ensuring anonymity. 5 people commented that they thought bullying was over stated as an issue. There were also comments expressing the need to do more to understand bullies.

Comments are listed in Appendix Eight.

Table 22: Is there anything else you would like to share with the Committee about bullying?

n/a	Punishment	Bullying overrated	Impacts	Teach confidence/peer support	Reporting	Parents	Thanks/do something	Cant do anything	Other
39	8	5	75	6	18	5	4	9	9

Table 23: Quotations: Is there anything else you would like to share with the Committee about bullying?

bullying wil always happen u cant stop it because there will always be the cool and the not cool that

is just how school is. and the only way for guys to sort out there problems is to fight so you should let them then they will be fine after. girls will also always bitch because that is how they sort it out. just let us kids sort it out ourselves.

Teach kids to stand up for themself and have a little confidence

The government should really do something along with the roll out of laptops

The worst bullying seems to happen from late primary to early high school stages. It is really hard to fit in in early high school so people bully just to fit in. It isn't fair that somebody who has done nothing has to go through the emotional scarring that bullying brings up.. It destroy's lives and the social effects last forever. It also doesn't just hurt one person, it hurts entire families when even one of their own is bullied, the effects are depressing seeing somebody you are close to going through something that they don't need when things are going on at home and they can end up feeling so bad that they commit suicide.

im ABORIGINAL!

people bully others that arnt the same as them. For example i am the only Australian one in my class so i get called bogan. People target others who have differences

the person must understand that insulting others does not benefit anything, drags down the other person and the bully looses breath in the process bullying is a sad, attention seeking act

The victim often feels like they cannot tell anyone for fear of the bully becoming worse, this is a frequent occurance and the victim needs to know they can stop it.

I've seen some of my friends break down crying after a nasty rumour went around about her. I've been excluded because I'm different. I've been shouted at, threatened, jeered at, simply because I'm different. I've felt so sad, I've felt like just dying then and there when threatened by girls from another school. And no one could do nothing. They never physically hurt me, and they left no traces. They haven't been caught. Yet I wish they were. Reporting to teachers does nothing. Teachers generally single the bully out, and tell them to quit it, or tell them to stay away from a particular person. The bully then targets that particular person more. Or stops during school hours and begins to target people after school when the teachers aren't watching. Or starts up on the internet, where there's little to nothing to stop them. I've tried to hide, I wanted to just die when that started, anything just to stop it. I even tried to take my own life, and I'm not the only one. Maybe this has helped you understand that there are some things that are just part of life, simply because that is the way it has always been. There's no way to stop it entirely.

DON'T TEACH US TO TELL TEACHERS ABOUT IT!!! it calms down for a bit, but after it just becomes worse

Um, in my experience (i've been to 5 different schools in different parts of Australia and one in America) it's not that big a deal IF you know how to use common sense in not believing everything you hear and reporting abuse if it's really getting to you. BUT to be honest I think parents need to be informed even more than kids, I bet a normal parent wouldn't know the half of bullying - mine wouldn't.

For me, the media and government words on my religion have caused issues for my life. Ive been threatened,beaten,had knives pointed at me for being a Muslim and from how the media portrays Islam as being evil and terrorist have caused my life to be in danger a lot, its very hard for me to go out, and i ended up quitting school for one of those reasons and other reasons. Bullying mainly has come to me because I am a Muslim and i cover, so ive been attacked in school and out of school,

also so called friends who were my friends have turned on me and also attacked me for my religion.

i really wish that bullying can be stopped or minimized especially cyber bullying, it can be more damaging than face to face bullying

If relationships and bonding between school peers can be established before the trouble years of year 9/10 high school bullying would probably be seen to significantly decrease

There needs to be a safe way of tell teachers there is a bully my grade used a box you could put any note into that box eg questions on what studying methods are best or who was bullying you

People are really getting hurt. More needs to be done! A good video to watch is the students of TRAC speaking out about bullying called "Bullying, Crunching The Numbers".

It is horrible. It has lasting effects. Do not let anyone try and say it is ok or a natural part of growing up. It doesn't have to happen and it is very unfair.

its easier to say "walk away and count to ten" than to have it actually work. and all these people who tell you to say "no stop" to the bully havent been bullied

please stop it. it ruined 3 years of my life.

There needs to be a systematic, large scale program that works in a positive light to promote acceptance of diversity. No tokenism because this is a youth issue. In the adult world, bullying is called racism, sexism, homophobia and abuse. Why can't we face that in the world of young people and name it the same way?

stop myspace? facebook? msn perhaps..? no ..seriously there isn't anything that can really stop bullying. thats' unless every students in the world turns in to a goody two shoez

Schools need much stricter policies on it. My school attempted to suspend the girl who was bullying me after many warnings but in the end backed down because her mother came in screaming about how it was unfair. My bully then wasn't suspended and became much more nasty because she knew there was nothing more the school could do about it.

People tend to bully people whom they can sense weakness in. This 'weakness' can arise from what the bully sees as different from them.

Unfortunately, bullying is inevitable. People often learn it from their parents and bully other because they feel low self esteem themselves, maybe something can be put together to educate the bullies on how to deal with their own shit so that they wont need to bully others to get a sense of empowerment.

i think that parents should attend compulsory training at schools about how to stop their kid being a bully and their kid can't go to school until their mum or dad has done the training. i also think that ALL bullies in schools should be punished when they are caught doing this to other kids.

You won't be able to stop it, it will always happen. Kids will be kids. But you can minimize it so you shouldn't stop trying.

Bullying happens when a bully feels so bad about himself that he wants someone else to feel worse than him. It doesn't stop because the bully can't get rid of the awful feeling making him feel sad.

The responsibility to observe, report and stop bullying should not be place on the child but on the school staff. Children being bullied do not always tell due to fear of more bullying happening to them.

dont know how it can be fixed

I believe that bullies are everywhere and need as much help as the people that are bullied.

the bully and the victim aren't always who you think it would be. someone who you wouldn't suspect as a bully might possibly be one and same with the victim

FEEDBACK ON THE SURVEY

The survey asked: “Do you think surveys like this are a good way for our Committees to find out the views of young people?” Over 80% thought that is was a good method, and 100 people added comments on the survey.

Comments are listed in Appendix Nine.

Table 24: Feedback on the survey

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	250	82.24%
No (N)	28	9.21%
No answer	26	8.55%

Table 25: Quotations: Feedback on the Survey

Yes. Only if things begin to change...

yes it is great but I would have never seen it unless I was bored, going through Face book, more advertising is needed.

Don't make them too long and give people rewards for doing it as it means you will get the most amount of response

This is an excellent idea :)

Not everyone owns up and talks when you put out surveys like this. Some people feel threatened by this, and think that you may try to find them and actually ask them what's going on.

It would be good if the parliment of nsw made this known to Canberra so they can send out this survey to all schools in australia and including Tafe's.

i'm really glad that the parliament is doing something about it. i really appreciate it and hope that bullying can be lessened.

Great to see that people are making a real effort to overcome this problem and putting links on facebook. Thanks heaps for taking a step on our behalf. :)

thankyou for letting me tell out my feelings about bullying. this impact you are letting people let out what they think is great! good work, and i hope bullying in australia stops.

Advertising on facebook is the best desicion. i never would of found out about this if you hadnt.

you should give out free itunes credit to encourage more people to participate in these surveys.

this is good, maybe we can find a way that actually works

Need to advertise this more. Only by chance I saw it on Facebook (great idea!). Advertise at schools about these surveys.

its a good idea but isnt effective as most people cannot be bothered 2 do it

I think a reward, like some kind of voucher, would attract more people to do these surveys. Just something to think about for future surveys.

thank you for putting this on the page i hope i have been a good help to yous all thank you

having a survey is a good idea but maybe put it on more sites like kongregate,bebo or something people won't do it, or will just bullshit on it. i didnt because this is pretty much the only way to tell people the truth cos if you tell someone that they cant stop bullying they are like "yes you can" so yeah.

I think using the internet to get people to take part in surveys is an excellent way to get in touch with society. Many people do not like to take surveys on the phone, or write them down and send them away. On the internet it's easily accessible and can be done at each individuals own pace.

Congratulations for moving with technology.