

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 14a

## **INQUIRY INTO BULLYING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

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# NSW Secondary Principals' Council (SPC) Submission to the Legislative Council's Inquiry into Bullying

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The majority of teachers in NSW government schools have accessed professional learning to support a reduction in bullying and are knowledgeable of the Department of Education and Training's *Anti-bullying Plan for Schools*.

Numerous strategies and anti-bullying programs have been implemented in government schools to address the issue of bullying. Some strategies and programs that principals and school communities have used are detailed below. These have been found to be successful in reducing or eliminating bullying behaviours amongst students.

Many secondary schools use programs to educate Year 7 students about bullying and to build resilience.

- The Police Youth Liaison Officer is utilised in many schools to address year groups with presentations.
- Schools focus on communication strategies to inform students, teachers, parents and the community about bullying, to articulate zero tolerance and to encourage prompt reporting so that effective action can be taken to eliminate or reduce the negative impact of bullying on students -both the perpetrator and the target.
- Schools address bullying behaviours in their student code of conduct and welfare and discipline policies and procedures.
- Schools work with students and parents to address issues outside of school which contribute to bullying behaviours.
- Mind Matters, Peer Support, Anger Management, Theatre Productions, Bully Busters, Cooling Conflicts, Conflict Resolution, Bullying No Way, Better Futures, Circle Time, Mediation, Mentoring, Rock and Water, Student Leadership, Transition Program, Pikas Method and You Can Do It are all programs listed by principals as being effective.

Students, staff and parents have received training from agencies (outside NSWDET) to assist in bullying reduction.

Agencies that have provided this support (and the frequency of mention) include:

Police/Police Youth Liason/PCYC	32	Various performance groups (Class Act Theatre Co, Brainstorm Productions, Stride, JIRT)	7
Community and mental health agencies/local counselling services/Rotary	16	Churches/Religious/Salvos/Barnardo's Mission Australia/Centacare	14
DOCS	8	DET/school counsellor/district student welfare team/ Street Beat Teams	7

**Other sources of support include:** Plan It Youth, Better Futures, Dr Suzie Green, Ken Rigby (Adelaide Uni), Aboriginal Support Group, Job Link Plus, Chaplaincy Program, Community justice, Beyond Blue, Links to Learning, Cultural Groups (Deadly Vibe competitions), Mind Matters, Juvenile Justice, ISTB's Adult Mental Health Team, Home Base – local youth support agency, Pius XI (Aboriginal Community Health), Family Centre, Youth Pathways, Psychologist Michael Durrant, Workcover, CAMHS DEEWR, Eastlakes Family Support and Kuringai Youth Development services.

Cyber bullying is a developing form of bullying. School communities are learning to deal with this issue and research and support would be welcomed.