

Submission  
No 5

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

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Thankyou for the opportunity to have a say on the issue of bullying. It certainly can make a child's life miserable and cause him to be afraid to go to school.

I feel very strict measures need to be taken and an attitude of zero tolerance adopted. Bullies, although I'm aware they often come from underprivileged backgrounds and are often bullied at home themselves, need to be expelled from their schools and kept from doing their damage. I think they are over-catered to. They need to feel the consequences of their actions so they don't grow up expecting the world to feel sorry for them, endlessly giving them "counselling" and excusing their behaviour. Often the one who is being bullied is made to feel HE is the criminal. While we all need to learn how to cope with life's knocks, it is worth asking: " How tough and well-equipped is an innocent little kid?" The victim needs to be protected.

Cathie West