

Stand out from the crowd

 Actions to prevent and address bullying and cyberbullying in Queensland schools

In 2018, the Queensland Government established the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce to develop proposals to address the complex and pervasive issue of cyberbullying.

All recommendations from the work of this taskforce, contained in the report *Adjust our Settings: A community approach to address cyberbullying among children and young people in Queensland*, were accepted for implementation by the Queensland Government. These commitments will further extend Queensland's nation-leading role in helping all schools to create learning environments where every student and school community member is safe, supported, respected and valued.

It is important to recognise that relationships and behaviours of children, young people and adults in our schools are influenced by many factors, some of which originate outside of the school boundaries. These include complex social, communication, economic, historical, cultural and geographical elements that permeate every household, business and government department. Schools are a reflection of their local communities. This is why the responsibility for preventing and addressing bullying must be understood as a community-wide task that requires cooperative actions from everyone, from the students, teachers, support staff, parents and carers to local business owners, leaders and elected officials. We all have a role to play in setting good behaviour examples in the use of social media and online interactions.

The Department of Education calls on all Queenslanders to stand out from the crowd by taking action to prevent and address bullying and cyberbullying in all Queensland schools.

Our approach



Act

Direct, rapid support for all students, teachers, support staff, parents and carers to prevent and respond to bullying



Collaborate

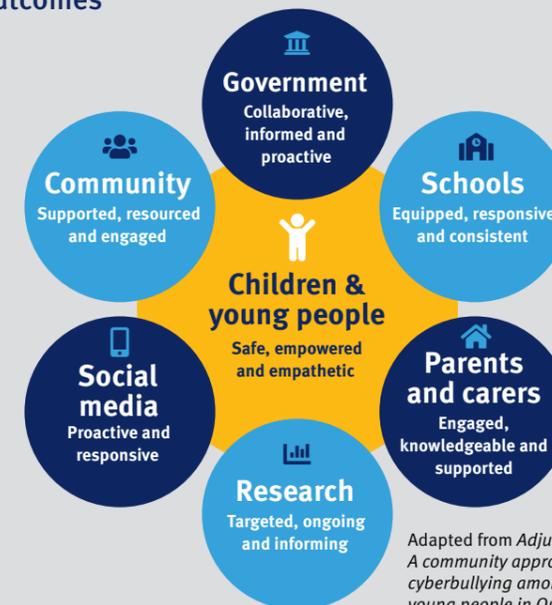
Listen and include young people and other partners in the development of strategies to prevent and respond to bullying



Educate

Build community confidence and capability to take action to prevent and address bullying

Addressing cyberbullying among children and young people – the outcomes



Adapted from *Adjust our Settings: A community approach to address cyberbullying among children and young people in Queensland* report

What did young Queenslanders say would help?¹

more support in schools and more guidance at home

adults to be more proactive and act earlier

peer support and training programs to give them the skills to help people their age

easier access to information, more help options, and accessible reporting tools

better internet protection and for adults to keep an eye on what children and young people are doing online

¹ *This place I call home: The views of children and young people on growing up in Queensland* report

“Young people’s voices are essential to help shape any new initiatives to intervene in cyberbullying and address its prevalence.”

Adjust our Settings: A community approach to address cyberbullying among children and young people in Queensland report

Actions to prevent and address bullying and cyberbullying in Queensland schools

Act



Everyone has a responsibility to take action to prevent and respond to bullying

What are we doing now?

- **implementing Positive Behaviour for Learning** as an evidence-based approach to improving social and academic outcomes
- **supporting schools through a Cybersafety and Reputation Management Team** to address cyberbullying incidents
- **cross-sector Bullying Response Team** with help to resolve complex bullying incidents or complaints raised by parents and carers
- **promotion of Student Protection** training and resources
- **leading the Safe and Supportive School Communities national project** for Bullying. No Way!

What's next?

- **new guidelines** for state schools on addressing bullying and the appropriate use of mobile phones and other technology
- **clear complaints process**, including timelines for responding to parents and carers
- **implement new tailored procedure** for safety and wellbeing of students residing in state school operated residential boarding facilities
- **collaborate with student hostels** to implement policies and procedures to address safety and wellbeing of students
- **\$700,000 in grants to schools** to support whole school programs, initiatives and activities to address cyberbullying
- **resources to empower parents and carers** to identify and respond to cyberbullying

What you can do now

- **listen** calmly to what the young person says and try to get the full story
- **reassure** them they are not to blame and ask open and empathetic questions to find out more details
- **ask** what they want to do and what they want you to do
- **discuss** sensible strategies to prevent and respond to bullying
- **approach** other significant adults in the young person's life to share appropriate information and develop a strategy to put supports in place
- **check in** regularly with the young person
- **report** to the appropriate authority

Collaborate



Bullying affects all of us and working together we can find solutions for our communities

What are we doing now?

- **promoting authentic parent engagement** through the Advancing Partnerships Parent and Community Engagement Framework
- **launched #endcyberbullying campaign** and video as part of National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence 2019, co-created with young people and using social media platforms to engage audience
- **encouraging schools to use the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework** to promote student wellbeing, safety and positive relations
- **providing a range of skilled staff in schools** to support students, including classroom teachers, guidance officers, school-based youth health nurses and mental health coaches

What's next?

- **continue to engage directly with young people** to gain advice and feedback on preventing and responding to bullying through the Ministerial Student Advisory Council
- **reach out to Queensland universities** to develop and promote policies to prevent and respond to cyberbullying and strengthen the content of initial teacher education programs to specifically address strategies to prevent and address all forms of bullying in schools
- **invest \$450,000 in Dolly's Dream Foundation** to support the eSmart Schools program in Queensland schools
- **work with Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland** to encourage non-state schools to develop and implement processes to prevent and address bullying and cyberbullying

What you can do now

- **parents, carers and community members set the example** of good social media behaviour
- **find out what current services and supports are available** in your local community to address bullying in schools, community spaces and work places
- **if you see something, say something** – speak to the person you see experiencing bullying, check if they are ok and ask what support they might need regardless of the setting
- **get involved in community awareness campaigns** like National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, RUOK? Day or Safer Internet Day
- **ask your local school** for information about bullying prevention and response programs they have in place and how you can support their work
- **reflect on your own use of language and behaviour** towards others

Educate



Education is key to creating positive, safe and inclusive school environments

What are we doing now?

- **maximising participation of state, Catholic and independent schools** in the annual National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence to raise awareness and spark conversations
- **promoting the use of Steps to examine programs and approaches for schools (STEPS) and the Be You program review service** to support schools in the selection of evidence based anti-bullying programs
- **delivering health and wellbeing education** as part of the Australian Curriculum in Health and Physical Education from Prep to Year 10
- **Student Learning and Wellbeing Framework** in place to promote benefits for students of positive mental health and timely help-seeking behaviours
- **implementing the Respectful Relationships education program** for students in Prep to Year 12
- **delivering the Online incident management guidelines** for school leaders

What's next?

- **new parents and carers section on DoE website** with information and links to resources on preventing and addressing bullying
- **new procedures and guidelines** for Queensland state schools on preventing and addressing bullying and cyberbullying
- **extending #endcyberbullying campaign** with more online advertising around help services and supports for young people, including Be You and Beyond Blue
- **releasing new fact sheets for principals** clarifying their scope of responsibility in addressing cyberbullying

What you can do now

- **critically reflect** on media reports about bullying, ask questions about what might really be happening 'behind the scenes'
- **read and share** with family and friends the extensive resources on government websites such as www.beyou.edu.au and www.bullyingnoway.com.au
- **if you hear people minimising or downplaying the impact of bullying** behaviour, offer an alternative view and share your knowledge or experience of some of the consequences and responsible solutions
- **facilitate conversations** with colleagues, family and friends about how to positively contribute to building safe and inclusive school environments