

17 March 2017

Schools across the nation put the spotlight on bullying

School communities across the nation are today marking the 7th *National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence*.

The Chair of the Education Council, Minister Jeremy Rockliff, said more than 1810 schools and 840,000 students had one clear message for Australia - 'Bullying. No Way!'

"Today, schools all over Australia are opening their doors to the community, hosting local events and igniting a powerful discussion that bullying is never ok", Minister Rockliff said.

"I'm proud that schools are empowering their communities to get involved and are taking action to put the spotlight on bullying and how to address it. Bullying and violence have absolutely no place in schools or outside of schools. It is so important this message is delivered today, and all year round.

"As a nation we need to model positive behaviours for young people and ensure we are working together in school communities to create environments where every student feels safe and supported. When we see bullying happening, we can take a stand together to say *Bullying. No Way!*"

Schools have access to a variety of engaging lesson plans, resources, classroom activities and materials on the website www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to support students in saying no to bullying.

As part of the National Day of Action more than 136,000 stars are being created, as a colourful way to show a school's commitment to ending all forms of violence. Each star woven will contribute to a striking one million stars installation for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in support of Embracing 2018 and the One Million Stars to End Violence project.

Everyone has a role to play in saying '*Bullying. No Way!*' - visit the website at <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/nationalday> for more information about the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

For a full list of participating schools in each state visit:
<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/Pages/Participating-schools.aspx>.

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