

14 March 2019

A day of action to say Bullying. No Way!

On Friday 15 March, 5,726 schools and 2.4 million students will take action and say Bullying. No Way! to mark the ninth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). Education Council Chair, Minister Dan Tehan said students are at the heart of this year's NDA.

"Tomorrow is an important day for all communities across Australia to show their commitment to work together and take action against bullying.

"More than 60 per cent of Australian schools take part in the NDA and will take action to involve communities in addressing bullying and creating supportive, inclusive, respectful and safe environments where all students can reach their full potential.

"I encourage schools and all communities to keep the *Bullying. No Way!* message going all year round. We all have a role to play," Minister Tehan said.

The Education Council is also releasing the *Benefits for schools: impacts of the NDA*, which summarises the results of a longitudinal *Shape the Future of the NDA Survey* of the positive impact of the NDA on schools.

The *Shape the Future of the NDA Survey*, analysed the impact of participation in the NDA on schools with 1–2 years, 3–4 years and 5–7 years involvement.

It found schools that participated in the NDA reported positive changes in student skills, knowledge and actions, most notably a greater understanding of what bullying is and how to respond to it.

Minister Tehan said staff were found to be more proactive in bullying prevention and more able to respond to bullying. Schools also reported that the NDA helped create a more positive school climate.

"The survey found the longer schools are involved in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, the stronger the results," Minister Tehan said.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is delivered by Bullying. No Way!, a national initiative of the Education Council's Safe and Supportive Schools (SSSC) Working Group. Bullying. No Way! is the trusted government authority on bullying, providing free quality resources on bullying prevention for schools and early childhood settings.

To view the findings of the *Impacts for schools of the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence*, [click here](#).

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence partners include: Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Kids Helpline, headspace, Facebook and Instagram.

For Education Council media enquiries please contact Greg Donaghue, Education Council Secretariat, on 03 9639 0588 or greg.donaghue@ec.edu.au

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

Benefits for schools

The **National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA)** is Australia's key anti-bullying campaign for schools. It supports schools to work with their school communities to find practical and lasting solutions to bullying and violence. This school-focused campaign is held annually on the third Friday in March.

The **Shape the Future of the NDA** survey was undertaken to identify whether the NDA contributes to change in schools. The survey of over 200 schools showed positive impacts which increased in schools with longer involvement with the NDA.



“The NDA has been an important part of giving bullying prevention a profile and focus each year.”

Positive impacts

“We considered it important to be part of a national response to bullying. It is an opportunity to focus on and promote our bullying prevention policies and practices.”

“We needed to change the culture of staff, students, and community ... and how to deal with conflict in a calmer manner.”

“We wanted to help students to understand bullying and talk about it ... which then would open the doors for families and the community to talk about bullying also.”



“In participating in the NDA ... we are approaching bullying as a whole school community ... It sets this as a priority for our school and a tone for the year.”

“Shared understanding of the research and practices to reduce bullying.”

“We found out about the NDA and decided it reflected our school values beautifully.”

“We had seen information in the media and saw the NDA as a way to positively impact our school culture.”

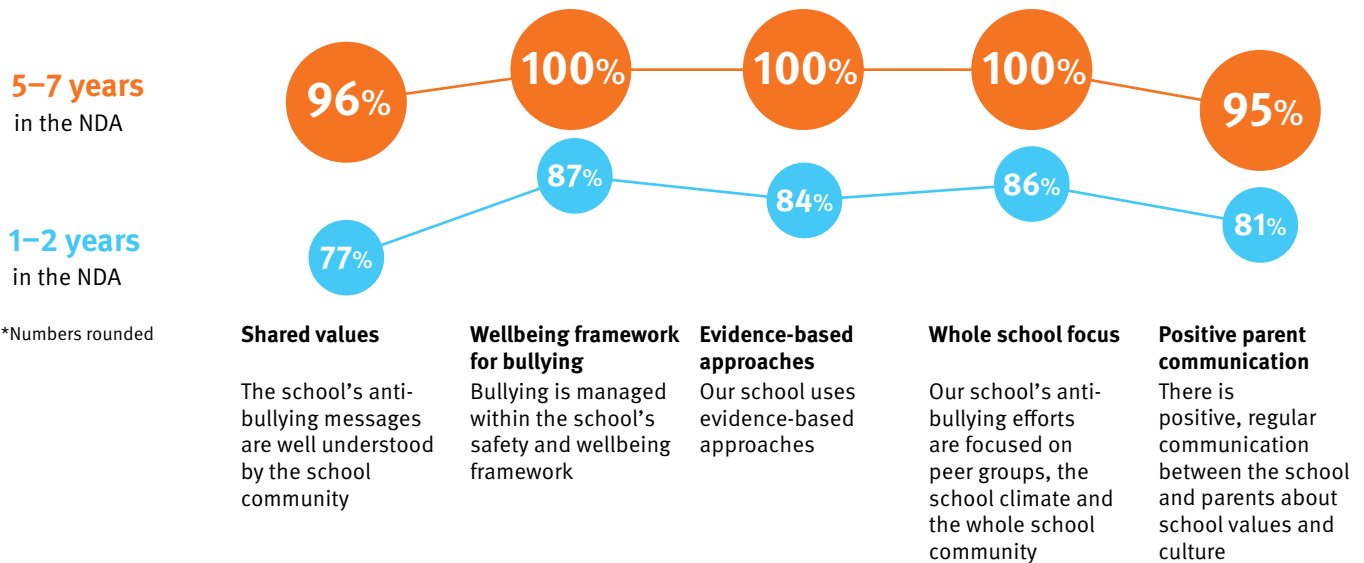
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Longer involvement – stronger results

Schools with longer NDA involvement showed stronger results, with more answering **usually** or **always** to the statements below.



Of the schools with more than five years NDA involvement:

73% reported positive changes for students

Including:

- greater understanding of what is bullying
- greater understanding of the importance of proactive bystander behaviours
- knowledge of what to do if bullied
- increased reporting of bullying
- a common language to use
- more positive relationships with other students and staff.

“We have noticed students being more inclusive and problem solving. If an incident arises it is reported almost immediately if the students can't work it out themselves.”

66% reported positive changes for staff

Including:

- greater knowledge of school policy and practices
- increased understanding of bullying
- improved response to bullying
- proactive management of student behaviour
- improved teaching about bullying and use of resources
- more positive relationships with students.

“Staff awareness of bullying, cyberbullying and the impact on individuals and groups has improved and has enabled staff to take a more active role in both challenging bullying behaviour and supporting students that have been bullied.”

66% reported positive changes in school climate

Including:

- a more positive school climate
- a sense of working together with a shared focus
- contribution to school values
- a common language to use
- reduced playground incidents
- more positive relationships.

“Overall the climate of the school has become more inclusive... The students understand the school's values and what it means to show respect to everyone.”

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