

Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

One voice for every child in public education



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MEDIA RELEASE

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Let's Take Action Together!

Today, March 19 marks the 11th Anniversary of the National Day of Action against bullying and violence.

ACSSO is proud to have been an ongoing supporter of this event since inception and urges LET'S TAKE ACTION TOGETHER. Schools should always be a safe place for students, parents, principals and staff.

"Research reveals clearly that one in four students in schools in our nation is bullied. Bullying behaviour is a very serious and complex issue, which is not restricted just to schools or the internet – it exists in workplaces, homes and the wider community. Our young people often reflect modelled behaviour." Ms Sharron Healy, ACSSO President stated

Held annually, this day provides a focus for all schools to say bullying behaviour in any form, anywhere, is not acceptable. Rising youth suicide rates highlight the need to address this issue immediately.

This year, while acknowledging the 11th anniversary, school communities are called upon to take immediate action. "In particular, with the ever-increasing use of online technology, due to our previous year of online learning we are seeing bullying behaviour appear in many different mediums – as parents and carers we must continue to raise our awareness of how to keep our young people safe online. We must model appropriate use."

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence is endorsed by Australia's Federal, state and territory education ministers, and all jurisdictions are working together to address bullying behaviour and violence in schools. Strategies and programs for students, parents, schools and the wider community are available on the Bullying No Way! website.

"Of paramount importance now is the genuine active engagement of school, parents and community to create social change and say NO to all bullying behaviour" Ms Healy concluded

For further comment

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