Research reveals shocking new statistics of Australia’s bullying crisis

Going to school is a key shared experience, it is the bottleneck through which all Australians pass. Currently, one in six Australians go to school. Yet despite the constant improvement in school facilities, education curriculum, teaching methods and training, bullying is a serious problem in Australian schools.

The Make Bullying History Foundation surveyed 692 students in 2018 and found that four in five students (80%) believe bullying is a serious problem at their school. With this Friday 15th March being the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, it is a pertinent time to be raising awareness of this huge national crisis.
Three in five students have experienced bullying

More students have experienced bullying than haven’t, with 59% or 2.3 million students nationally saying they have experienced bullying, with one in five experiencing it weekly (20%). Four in five students recognise the seriousness of the issue of bulling, with 80% saying it’s a problem in their school, and 20% saying it is an extremely or very serious problem.

“The prevalence of bullying in Australia is a national crisis. The majority of Australian students have been bullied and one in five of these are bullied at least weekly. With mental wellbeing one of the top challenges facing young people, and with every student having a right to a safe and supportive schooling experience, this research highlights the extent of this national shame.’ – Ashley Fell, Social Researcher, McCrindle.

Verbal bullying the most common

While over the last decade there has been a recognition of the emergence of cyberbullying, of those who have experienced bullying, the most common form is verbal (50%) followed by physical (20%).

The challenge for schools in managing this national crisis is that many incidents are not reported to the school. One in seven students do not speak to anyone about the bullying they have received and of those who do speak up, they most often speak with parents (27%) and friends (24%).

The impact of anti-bullying seminars experienced across Australia

The good news is that anti-bullying seminars do have an impact. Of the high school students who have attended a seminar, before the event less than half were extremely/very confident in handling bullying (46%), yet afterwards the majority (75%) felt extremely/very confident in dealing with bullying.

Students are a key part of the solution. One in five high school students admitted to having bullied another person (20%), but after attending a seminar, 83% said they are now likely to step in and stop bullying if they see it.

“I’ve had countless conversations with young people in the context of the anti-bullying seminars that I run, that share the pain that bullying has incurred on their life, and unfortunately this trauma is repeated daily in thousands of young lives across Australia. I
have found students to not only be incredibly attentive on the topic of bullying, which is such a priority for them, but this generation of young people are also increasingly empowered to step up and stop bullying. A key component of this is empowering them with change the culture in their school and equipping them with the right training and empowering them to be proactive.” – Brett Murray, CEO and Co-Founder of Make Bullying History.

Read more in this [Courier Mail article](#) or the in this [Whitsunday Times article](#).
About this study
The Make Bullying History Foundation surveyed students who had attended a Make Bullying History Foundation seminar during 2018, with 840 people commencing the survey and 692 completes.

For more information

If you found this article interesting, download our free Understanding Generation Z Report and Infographic for more information on how to recruit, train and lead the next generation.

For media commentary contact us on 02 8824 3422 or at info@mccrindle.com.au
Contact

Ashley Fell: ashley@mccrindle.com.au