

Combatting Bullying

Every student has the right to feel safe and respected at school regardless of their background, circumstances or experiences.

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$3 million over four years to the Combatting Bullying Initiative, to ensure our schools are respectful, safe and welcoming for all students.

The initiative provides resources that raise awareness and provide advice on the causes and consequences of bullying at school with a particular focus on cyber bullying.

The initiative is aligned to the *Respectful Schools, Respectful Behaviour* suite of resources that provide practical guidance for schools to support positive interactions and inclusive school communities.

The initiative includes a range of practical support and resources for schools:

Cyber Safety - eSmart Schools

- A partnership with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to improve digital skills and cyber safety for students and increase staff confidence in this area.
- The eSmart program has been available to all government schools since mid-2017: <https://www.esmart.org.au/>
- There will be no cost to schools for registration – costs will be covered through the DoE partnership.
- As at September 2018, 118 Tasmanian government schools had registered for the eSmart Schools program.
- Tasmanian government schools are also allocated \$2,000 each (\$1,000 on completion of initial training and \$1,000 on completion of the planning stage) to support the implementation of the eSmart Schools program.

Professional Learning

- A suite of best practice resources will be released in 2018 to support Tasmanian schools to effectively combat bullying.
- Tailored face to face professional learning has been made available for school leadership teams, classroom teachers and other professional staff to increase the capacity of staff to address bullying issues within a positive school culture through the Professional Learning Institute. Web based professional learning is also being provided for school leadership teams, classroom teachers and other professional staff.

Grants for schools to strengthen their anti-bullying approach

- School grants are available through the initiative to assist schools to implement strategies, initiatives or programs designed to prevent and respond to bullying (both face to face and online) in their school community.
- There are two types of grants presently available:
 - » Single: funding of \$5,000 available for a single school
 - » Collaboration: funding of up to \$20,000 available for applications involving two or more schools participating in the one project.
- Throughout the first 2 years of the initiative, sixty-eight individual schools have accessed funding.
- In the 2017/18 financial year \$145,000 was expended.
- For the 2019 school year \$180,000 has been allocated for school grants.

Community Partnerships

- Partnerships with community organisations to support school environments where all students and members of the community feel respected and valued (\$100,000 per year for four years).
- Working it Out and A Fairer World were the successful applicants for the 2018 school year. This occurred through an EOI process.
- Working It Out provides schools with practical resources and support such as targeted professional learning focused on supporting LGBTI students and their families.
- A Fairer World delivers *Let's Get Together*, a program that aims to create respectful school communities.