



SCSEEC

Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood

15 March 2013

Media release: “Take a Stand Together” – the 2013 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, MP, today celebrated the third annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (NDA).

The 2013 NDA campaign, funded by all Australian governments, calls on school communities across Australia to *Take a Stand Together* against bullying and violence.

“There has been tremendous support from schools right across the country, with 1485 schools and over 640,000 students committed to ‘Take a Stand Together’ against bullying and violence on the National Day of Action.

“The National Day of Action provides an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the anti-bullying initiatives and programs in schools throughout Australia, and to refocus our efforts even further to address bullying in schools”, said Minister Piccoli.

This year, a key focus for the National Day of Action has been the development of engagement activities for young children between 3 and 8 years of age, which aims to prevent bullying. This includes the release of *The Allen Adventure* - a new free iPad app for young children, and a new *Young Children* section on the *Bullying. No Way!* website, specifically aimed at parents and educators of young children.

The Allen Adventure is educational and interactive story about a young alien who visits a school on Earth. It teaches children how to identify and deal with different behaviours in different settings, in a fun way.

The new *Young Children* section on the *Bullying. No Way!* website provides parents and educators with extensive information about children’s social and emotional development, and offers advice and suggestions about dealing with bullying behaviours they experience or see with their children.

Additionally, this year the new *Stand Together 2013* curriculum materials have been developed for teachers to help students from early childhood through to senior schooling to explore the meaning of taking a stand together and to develop strategies for resisting and countering bullying at school.

“I encourage everyone to get behind the National Day of Action and to continue to work to create a nurturing and positive environment for children in all our schools. We need to show that bullying and violence aren’t acceptable, and send that message to our young people not only today, but throughout the school year,” said Minister Piccoli.

For more details and information about *The Allen Adventure* iPad app and the new Young Children section, visit <http://bullyingnoway.gov.au>

Media enquiries: contact Greg Donaghue of the SCSEEC secretariat on (03) 9639 0588 or greg.donaghue@scseec.edu.au