



# SCSEEC

Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **OVER 900,000 students to unite in Australia's largest anti-bullying event**

On Friday, 21 March more than 900,000 students from across the country will take part in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence – Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools.

Now in its fourth year, the National Day of Action is the largest single anti-bullying event in Australia with more than 2,000 schools set to showcase the work they do throughout the year to create safe and supportive learning environments, free from bullying and violence.

ACT Minister for Education Joy Burch, Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), said this year's event will be the biggest yet with the number of schools taking part up more than thirty-five per cent on last year.

"This year's response clearly demonstrates how important this issue is as schools actively raise the awareness of bullying through their school communities," said Minister Burch, who officially launched the campaign in February.

"Schools in all states and territories will take part in the day in a range of activities that support students as they 'take a stand together' against bullying and violence, which is the theme for the annual event. The range of activities is designed to not only raise the awareness of this social issue, but just as importantly, the practical ways schools manage bullying."

Teachers can go to the *Bullying. No Way!* website and download curriculum-based lesson plans that encourage students to actively shape how their school addresses bullying. The site also contains resources for students and parents such as facts sheets, tips on what to do if they or someone they know is being bullied and even a free *Take a Stand* app for students to download to keep tips on bullying close to hand.

"With so many schools joining together in this truly national day, I encourage parents and the media to find out what their local school is doing to raise awareness of the proactive steps being taken to not only help reduce the impact of bullying throughout schools now, but to shape the impact of bullying in Australian workplaces, and society, in the future," said Minister Burch.

For more information, and to see what your local school is doing, please visit the National Day of Action section of the *Bullying. No Way!* website at [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au)

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*\* Note: The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) met in December 2013 and agreed to new Council arrangements, including the establishment of an Education Council. SCSEEC will transition to the new Education Council throughout 2014.*