

# Bullying Prevention Advisory Group

## JULY 2014 UPDATE

**Bullying is an issue that all schools will experience at one time or another. Bullying behaviour of any kind is not acceptable. We believe combined action is needed to reduce the incidence of bullying in our schools.**

The Bullying Prevention Advisory Group (BPAG) is working together to support schools in reducing bullying. BPAG has representatives from a range of agencies and organisations who are committed to taking a stand against bullying.

BPAG's aim is to help schools build safe, positive physical and emotional school environments to enhance students'

achievement and wellbeing and to enable all students to be included.

BPAG are developing an action plan for this complex issue. The plan focuses on four key areas:

- › Creating safe and positive school environments that prevent bullying
- › Raising awareness and sharing good practice of bullying prevention
- › Building the research and evidence-base, and
- › Improving the monitoring and reporting of bullying.

### BPAG have taken significant first steps in supporting schools to address bullying. Highlights include:

#### April 2013

Formed BPAG and agencies committed to work together.

#### September 2013

Agreed a definition for bullying.

#### December 2013

Completed a stock-take of bullying prevention initiatives and supports available.

#### April 2014

Developed, published and distributed *Bullying prevention and response: A guide for schools*.

Started an online bullying prevention and response portal.

[www.education.govt.nz/bullyingprevention](http://www.education.govt.nz/bullyingprevention)

#### May 2013

Engaged with and listening to young people, school communities, key interest groups, researchers and academics to find out what is needed.

#### November 2013

Set up a dedicated email to receive feedback, comment and suggestions.  
[bullying.prevention@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:bullying.prevention@minedu.govt.nz)

#### February 2014

Recognised the complex and serious nature of cyberbullying, and established a cyberbullying sub group to look at the digital environment.

#### June 2014

Launched *Bullying prevention and response: A guide for schools* and shared our commitment for prioritising our next steps.

**We are currently developing our action plan.  
Some of our 2014 priorities include:**

**July 2014**

Meet with key researchers and academics to ensure our work is enriched by research and evidence.

**December 2014**

Work with groups at risk of bullying, to ensure our work is enriched by their voices and their experiences.

Work with others to look into various initiatives, programmes and support to help us reduce bullying across New Zealand.

**August 2014**

Continue to work together to develop a cross-sector bullying prevention and response action plan.

Further develop 'Tools for Schools' including policies and templates for bullying prevention and the search and retention of electronic devices.

**April 2015**

Promote, receive feedback and update *Bullying prevention and response: A guide for schools*.

**Ongoing**

Continue our conversations with young people, boards of trustees and schools, parents and whānau, education professionals, academics and communities to ensure we are on the same page.

Identify and share bullying prevention and response good practice.



We welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions on the direction of our work. Please email us at [bullying.prevention@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:bullying.prevention@minedu.govt.nz).