




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.57 am): As the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, I would like to inform the House that schools and students across Australia will be uniting tomorrow as part of the fourth annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

It will shock many members here to learn that as many as one in four students in Australia have experienced some level of bullying, whether in the form of harmful verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour. All forms of bullying are a scourge on our society, and this government supports strong action against it, especially in our schools. Bullying can rear its ugly head at any time and at any place: in the playground; on the bus; in the workplace; on the sporting field; and increasingly online.

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence will raise awareness of the impacts of bullying and violence and the actions that schools can take to promote the safety of children. Tomorrow, Madam Speaker, more than 2,000 schools and almost one million students Australia-wide are taking a stand against bullying, with Queensland leading the way with over 540 schools and 300,000 students involved. Queensland schools will be using the national day of action to showcase the work they do with students to promote antibullying. This includes planning special assemblies, newsletters, quizzes, posters, competitions and art galleries, as well as making music and video clips to engage students and promote the antibullying message. There are lesson plans and other resources available on the Bullying. No way! website, which is bullyingnoway.gov.au.

I invite all members to take a look at the website—an important one-stop portal that provides information and advice on bullying, harassment and violence for teachers, parents and students. I have often spoken in this House about the decisive action this government has taken to strengthen our education system through our Great Teachers = Great Results action plan. One of the first issues this initiative addressed was school discipline. This includes giving principals greater autonomy to implement strong approaches to discipline, enabling principals to respond quickly and firmly to inappropriate behaviour including bullying and violence. This is just another example of the practical measures this government is taking to make this great state a safer, fairer state with a bright future for all students. Finally, I know that all members of this House will stand united with Queensland schools tomorrow for the national day of action to say no way to bullying.