




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.22 pm): I am sure all members of this House were as shocked as I was at the tragic death of Dolly Everett in January this year as a result of repeated cyberbullying. In response to this tragic event and also in light of the increasing prevalence of cyberbullying of our young people, the Premier established the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce. The Queensland government maintains a zero tolerance for bullying and cyberbullying and is committed to working with children, parents, schools, communities and experts to address this complex and pervasive issue.

I am proud to bring my experience and expertise in educational administration to the Premier's 16-member task force of young Queenslanders, parents, schools, communities and experts who will provide the Queensland government with advice on tackling cyberbullying. Together, we will establish a framework that will recommend community and government action to address this issue of cyberbullying among our young people.

The task force has now finished the consultation phase of its work across communities, gathering ideas and solutions via round tables with invited education, health and other professionals and student forums, forums of young people outside mainstream secondary schools and, of course, public forums. The task force has worked to foster creative community driven solutions that use contemporary ways of engagement, including social media platforms and multimodal communication. Members of the task force have harnessed ideas and research to develop and oversee strategies that address the complex causes of cyberbullying.

Empowering and engaging our young people in particular will be a significant part of delivering effective solutions. The task force has also invited written submissions from the public with ideas about how to prevent or reduce cyberbullying of young people and how to respond to cyberbullying generally. Submissions closed on 1 June.

On 21 May I was honoured to host a community forum in my own electorate of Mansfield at Mansfield State High School, which is the largest high school in my electorate. Many members of my community came along to make a valuable contribution to this very important work.

Meanwhile, the task force will work in parallel with the national work of the Council of Australian Governments and the Queensland Family and Child Commission. The COAG meeting outcomes identified that, if we are to successfully reduce the incidence of cyberbullying, we must better understand its underlying drivers and adopt a whole-of-community approach. The task force is excited to be reporting its findings to the Premier by 31 August 2018.

I am proud to be part of a Queensland Labor government, led by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, that is committed to tackling complex social issues such as domestic violence and cyberbullying. The anti-cyberbullying framework is important work that will guide the future governing of this state and community leadership—

(Time expired)