

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Legal and Constitutional Affairs and References Committee 2017-2018

**Public Hearing
7 March 2018**

Department of Education and Training

Senator Patrick, Rex asked on 7 March 2018, Proof Hansard page 44

Question

So, in the context of this inquiry looking into matters that directly relate to cyberbullying, can you table that letter or arrange to have a copy of that letter sent to the committee?

Answer

A copy of this letter is provided at [Attachment A](#).

Senator Steele-John, Jordan asked on 7 March 2018, Proof Hansard page 46

Question

If the national curriculum cuts off at year 10 and the technology spoke goes up to year 8, what exists in the year 9 space?

Answer

- The Australian Curriculum addresses cyber safety and security both explicitly and implicitly from Foundation to Year 10. Primarily this is incorporated into the digital technologies strand of the F-10 Australian Curriculum: Technologies (endorsed by all ministers for education in September 2015) and is, more broadly, a part of the ICT general capability.
- The Australian Curriculum: Technologies is written on the assumption that all students from Foundation to Year 8 will study both Digital Technologies and Design and Technologies. For Years 9 to 10, school authorities will decide whether students can choose to continue in one or both subjects and/or whether technologies specialisations that are not provided for in these subjects will be offered.
- The ICT general capability is woven into the curriculum across all learning areas, providing opportunities for teachers of Years 9 and 10 students in learning areas other than Technologies to include aspects on cyber safety and security into their teaching.
- In the Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship, students in Years 7-10 develop the knowledge and skills to use digital technologies to research and source information on civics and citizenship, including critically analysing that information. They learn about and have opportunities to use social media to collaborate, communicate, share information and build consensus on political, legal and social issues. In the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, students in Years 7-10 further develop their understanding of the role ICT plays in the lives and relationships of children and young people. They explore the nature of ICT and the implications for establishing and managing relationships in the twenty-first century. They develop an understanding of ethical online behaviour, including protocols and practices for using ICT for respectful communication.

- The Australian Government has funded Education Services Australia to develop the Digital Technologies Hub, which provides online support for teaching and learning about digital literacy in schools.

Senator Steele-John, Jordan asked on 7 March 2018, Proof Hansard page 47

Question

But, beyond what you've listed here, is there any guidance within the national curriculum to ensure that your language here about reputation isn't interpreted in that damaging way, or is it just as you've placed here?

Answer

- It is important that all children and young people in Australia learn to become digitally literate in a safe and supportive environment. In the F-10 Australian Curriculum: Technologies, students develop the capacity to understand and apply ethical and socially responsible principles when collaborating with others and creating, sharing and using technologies.
- As noted in evidence given to the Committee during the hearing, the Australian Curriculum is a framework that state and territory government and non-government education authorities implement. Is it therefore up to these authorities, schools and teachers to determine what will be taught to students in classrooms, and how it is taught.
- Resources provided on the Digital Technologies Hub to assist teachers and schools in implementing the curriculum make it clear that teaching students about digital reputation can support them to become confident and responsible digital citizens, both in the way they represent themselves online, and also in the way they treat and are treated by others. In no sense is this intended to place sole responsibility on the individual to manage how others may use their content.
- The Office of the eSafety Commissioner provides support and assistance for people who have had their images non-consensually shared online. The sharing of intimate images between children and young people can have serious legal consequences and there are laws in place to protect children and young people when this occurs. The eSafety website also includes information for teachers on sexting, including tips on how to manage the risks in schools and supporting classroom resources.



PRIME MINISTER

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

28 February 2018

Principal
[Schoolname]
[PostalAddress]
[PostalSuburb PostalState PostalPostCode]

Dear Principal

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is fast approaching. More than 2300 schools have already signed on with more than one million students committed to take a stand.

We believe all students have the right to be safe at school. Bullying and violence has no place in Australia.

This is our chance to stand together. Together we can reduce the incidence of bullying, whether inside the school gate or online, and eliminate it wherever we can.

Friday, 16 March 2018 is an opportunity for Australian schools to stand united in their communities to say that bullying and violence is unacceptable.

As you may know, the National Day of Action is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools.

In 2018, schools are called to imagine a world free from bullying and share their big ideas within their own school community.

Registrations are now open and we encourage your school to register as an official National Day of Action school. Registered schools are equipped with an extensive range of resources and materials to make the day a success, including ideas for school events, class activities and lesson plans.

For example, a group of schools are holding a student conference focused on help seeking behaviour and assisting students to support their peers. Other schools across the nation will hold poster competitions, make murals about students' contributions to making their school safe and supportive and create pledge walls where all students will pledge to 'make their school free from bullying'.

The National Day of Action is a positive day, bringing school communities together to help find workable solutions that address bullying and violence.

While schools and educators have a key role to play in tackling bullying, we also know the important role parents and families play.

We urge you and your school community to get involved in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence 2018.

Further information about the National Day is available at bullyingnoway.gov.au

Yours sincerely

MALCOLM TURNBULL

SIMON BIRMINGHAM