ANTI-BULLYING RAPID REVIEW

Anti-Bullying Rapid Review

Implementation Plan

VERSION 1
February 2026

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The document must be attributed as the *Anti-Bullying Rapid Review Implementation Plan*.

Contents

Joint Statement from the Education Ministers 2

Implementation Plan 3

Further actions 8

Appendices 9

Joint Statement from the Education Ministers

Every school should be a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment in which bullying and other harmful behaviours are prevented and addressed. However, bullying and other harmful behaviours are increasingly impacting Australian school communities, with significant impacts on students, their families and communities, and the wider Australian society.

That is why the Australian Government announced the Anti-Bullying Rapid Review (the Review) in February 2025, to examine what is working to address bullying in Australian schools and what needs strengthening. Led by expert co-chairs Professor Jo Robinson AM and Dr Charlotte Keating, the Review included extensive consultations with students, parents and carers, school staff, and other stakeholders.

The Final Report from the Review includes eight recommendations that aim to ensure that every Australian school is a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment (**Appendix 1**). In October 2025, all Education Ministers accepted the Review recommendations and asked their departments to work together to develop an implementation plan.

As noted in the Review, many schools and schooling systems already have effective policies, practices and programs to prevent and address bullying in ways that reflect local context. This Implementation Plan sets out Education Ministers' expectations and will align with and build on this existing work, providing confidence that bullying and related harmful behaviours—including racism, discrimination and online harms—are addressed appropriately in every school and schooling sector.

Through the activities outlined in this Implementation Plan, all jurisdictions and school sectors commit to immediate and continued meaningful action. This work will set a pathway for every Australian school to be a learning environment where bullying and other harmful behaviours are appropriately prevented and addressed.

Every school should be a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment in which bullying and other harmful behaviours are prevented and addressed.

Implementation Plan

Priority action area*	Current and planned activity	Report recommendations
Consistent anti-bullying requirements	◗ Education Ministers across Australia have endorsed and agreed to implement the National Framework for Addressing Bullying in Australian Schools (the National Framework) (**Appendix 2**) across all school systems nationally. ◗ The Australian Government, working with state, territory and non-government education sectors, will promote awareness and understanding of actions that prevent and address bullying and other harmful behaviours. ◗ By Term 1 2027, all state, territory and non-government education sectors will: – Embed and reflect the expectations of the National Framework (or equivalent contemporary jurisdiction specific Frameworks*) in existing or new school or sector wide policies and procedures. – Deliver communication activities to all schools to raise awareness and understanding of the National Framework, including relevant expectations such as the two school-day timeframe for schools to initiate responses to bullying and other harmful behaviours. This can include publishing new or linking to existing policies and procedures suitable for the education sector. ◗ By Term 1 2027, all schools will publish or link to new or updated policies and procedures that align with the National Framework*, are appropriate, and align with their sector's policies and local context.	**1, 2 and 4**

Priority action area*	Current and planned activity	Report recommendations
Whole-of-school and locally tailored approaches	The Australian Government will support education sectors to embed whole-of-school and locally tailored approaches to prevent and address bullying and other harmful behaviours. This will include the following activities from July 2026, with education authorities to be consulted as this work progresses: – The development and rollout of targeted resources for students, parents/carers and the school workforce to support implementation of the National Framework* in school communities, including for priority equity groups, developed in consultation with key stakeholders and made available on relevant platforms. – The delivery of a national public awareness campaign, including research, creative development and public relations activities to promote awareness of bullying and other harmful behaviours, their impacts and supporting resources for school communities.	**1, 2, 3 and 4**

Priority action area*	Current and planned activity	Report recommendations
Clarity and confidence in school anti-bullying action	• Education Ministers have agreed to support all Australian schools to implement clear, transparent, and responsive anti-bullying policies. Under these policies, schools make reasonable effort to initiate safety and support planning and communicate with relevant parties in response to bullying and other harmful behaviours within two school-days of becoming aware of the behaviour, recognising that further time may be required to fully address the issue or to undertake appropriate investigation. This includes education sectors embedding the two school-day initial response timeframe within their relevant policies and procedures. • By end of June 2026, jurisdictions will advise Ministers on whether their school registration requirements currently reflect the core elements of the National Framework*, and where they do not, include timelines to engage with the non-government sector on adopting these, including using existing frameworks. • National activities will align with and complement actions underway across the education sectors.	**1, 2 and 4**

Priority action area*	Current and planned activity	Report recommendations
Intervening early and appropriately	• The Australian Government will continue to support education sectors and school communities nationally to prevent bullying and other harmful behaviours including through targeted resources (as outlined above) and continued investment and work across education sectors to support the delivery of culturally responsive, age-appropriate and evidence-based consent and respectful relationships education. • By July 2026, the Australian Government and state and territory governments will develop an approach for consideration by Education Ministers on the development of an anti-bullying resource hub. The resource hub will provide schools and school systems with evidence-based, quality assured anti-bullying information and programs, with a focus on prevention and intervening early and appropriately. • The above national activities will be complemented by education sector actions underway that support schools to intervene early and appropriately, including through appropriate policies, procedures and access to supporting resources.	**2, 3, 5 and 6**
Support the school workforce	• By Term 1 2027, prevention and response to bullying and other harmful behaviours policies and procedures will be reflected or embedded into school practices, such as through induction and training of the workforce. • In 2026, the Australian Government will commence preparatory scoping and research work to strengthen the focus on anti-bullying, consent and respectful relationships education within Initial Teacher Education core content. • National activities will be complemented by education sector actions, including access to appropriate professional learning for school leaders, teachers and other school staff in their school sector.	**4, 5 and 6**

Priority action area*	Current and planned activity	Report recommendations
Reducing risks and fostering safe, inclusive and respectful communities	◗ In the next Australian Curriculum review cycle, the Australian Government and state and territory governments will explore opportunities to review relevant content in the Australian Curriculum and/or relevant resources to ensure they include an appropriate focus on preventing and addressing bullying and other harmful behaviours, for initial consideration by Education Ministers. ◗ Through the eSafety Commissioner, the Australian Government will continue to safeguard Australians at risk of online harms, including through targeted support for Australian school communities. The Australian Government will also continue to support the online safety of young Australians through the Social Media Minimum Age restrictions for Australians aged under 16 years. ◗ The Australian Government and state and territory governments will engage with relevant government portfolios to determine early opportunities for collaborative action at national and jurisdictional levels, including in relation to risk and protective factors and cross-sector supports. ◗ State, territory and non-government education sectors will continue to support their respective schools in the delivery of consent and respectful relationships education as an existing Curriculum Connection and, where applicable, social and emotional learning and online safety education. ◗ By end of December 2026, the Australian Government will provide a progress report on implementation to EMM.	**5, 7 and 8**

Notes:

* The above Priority Action Areas align with the components of the National Framework for Addressing Bullying in Australian Schools.
* The activities listed have been grouped according to the priority action areas of most relevance, noting that many of the activities will also support delivery of other priority action areas.
* Throughout the table, the term 'National Framework' is used to refer to the National Framework for Addressing Bullying in Australian Schools and equivalent contemporary jurisdiction specific Frameworks.

Further actions

As work to deliver on the Report's recommendations continues to progress, this Implementation Plan will be updated periodically with agreement from all Education Ministers.

In addition to the commitments outlined above, Education Ministers commit to regularly reviewing and updating this Implementation Plan to ensure it continues to reflect progress on activities and new actions to advance the national priority areas from the Review. Education Ministers also commit to complete an implementation review of the recommendations in 2027 to guide future actions to ensure that every Australian school is a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment in which bullying and other harmful behaviours are prevented and addressed.

... Education Ministers commit to regularly reviewing and updating this Implementation Plan ...

Appendices

1. Summary Recommendations from the Anti-Bullying Rapid Review
2. National Framework for Addressing Bullying in Australian Schools