

13 Project

ANNOUNCEMENT

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO HELP KIDS STAY SAFE ONLINE

Friday 1 March, 2013: Library associations across Australia have announced the 13 Project, to strengthen the participation of school library staff in schools' efforts to help keep their students safer online.

Every parent fears their child being bullied, and cyberbullying has added an extra layer to the threat. The 13 Project recognises the special role of school libraries as a place where students often access online resources, and the opportunity library staff have to promote cybersafety information. The 13 Project complements other school initiatives to deal with cybersafety by positioning school library staff as having an important role in keeping students safe online.

In November last year, School Education Minister Peter Garrett said, 'A 2009 Edith Cowan University report on covert bullying gave us a staggering statistic: one in six students are bullied weekly. A quarter of students between Year 4 and Year 9 reported being bullied at least once over the few weeks the research was undertaken. One in five students has experienced some form of cyber-bullying. This means every family either has a child, or knows one, who is being bullied at school ... No child should have to go through this.'¹

Through the 13 Project, school library teams will have access to web-based resources and information fact sheets to guide students and parents, and industry partner Softlink will be conducting research into school libraries and cybersafety as part of its annual Australian School Library Survey.

The library associations are partnering with the Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy for National Cybersafety Awareness Week, to promote being safe online through displays, events and activities right across the country. The campaign will roll out over 2013, with the main launch event taking place around National Cybersafety Awareness Week, starting on 20 May, 2013.

ENDS

¹ <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/garrett/be-bold-stop-bullying-facebook-campaign-launch>

13 Project

Note for editors

Why the name? Three reasons: the initiative takes its name from the year, 2013, the recommended minimum age for interaction with social media (Facebook), 13, and the launch date Friday 1 March 2013 (1/3/13).

13 Project partners include:

AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the professional organisation for the Australian library and information services sector. With 5,500 members across Australia, we provide the national voice of the profession in the development, promotion and delivery of quality library and information services, through leadership, advocacy and mutual support. www.alia.org.au

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AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Australian School Library Association (ASLA) is the peak body providing leadership and support for school libraries and the promotion of teacher librarianship in Australia. ASLA represents the interest of over 9,000 school libraries and more than 3.5 million students.

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SOFTLINK

Softlink has been exclusively dedicated to the development and support of advanced integrated knowledge, content and library management solutions for some 30 years. Softlink supports more than 50 percent of schools across Australia and more than 10,000 libraries across 108 nations and all library sectors. Softlink are strong industry advocates and have conducted the annual Australian School Library Survey since 2010.

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THE HUB

The Hub is a group of like-minded teacher librarians and teachers who are dedicated to the improvement of Australian schools through the inclusion of professionally staffed and well resourced libraries. Members have published in the media and were instrumental in getting the Federal Government's 2010 Inquiry into School Libraries underway. The hub works closely with other teacher librarian and library associations to further this cause and fully support the Project 13 initiative.

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