

I believe that bullying and cyberbullying **should be treated as a major public health, safety and human rights issue.**

Evidence is clear as to the psychological and traumatic impact of bullying. There is an urgent need for greater cross-collaboration between the education and health sectors. Parents, schools and community are central to addressing bullying and harassment.

Recent tragic events in Australia and internationally have highlighted this need, and led to increasing awareness in the community – and in the media – that more needs to be done by all of us.

Greater public health and safety investment in wellbeing, including evidence-based resources to prevent, identify and address bullying in all of its forms (online and offline) is required by all levels of governments.

Schools, students, parents and teachers need the skills and confidence to be cyber smart. We need a national framework that all schools adopt.

I urge the government to fund the **national implementation** of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation's eSmart Framework, Australia's largest cyber safety and wellbeing program.

eSmart is already in nearly one third of Australian schools, but every school needs to be an eSmart School www.esmart.org.au

Please help – we need to work together to help keep our children safe.

Yours sincerely,