



How can the school environment “inflare” or “extinguish” bullying behaviour?

Abstract:

Bullying is reported most frequently during break times in school environments such as playgrounds, school ovals, hallways, locker areas, the canteen and toilet areas. The way these spaces are organised, utilised and supervised can minimise the likelihood of bullying behaviour, while at the same time increase social skills, positive attitudes and connectedness to school.

An effective approach requires actions to address the environment including: social structures and outdoor equipment for positive social interaction; visible and responsive supervision; clear and consistent expectations for positive behaviour; constructive and engaging activities for social learning; and engagement of student leadership and peer support for social connections.

This session will address real school strategies to develop safe and supportive environments.

Key message:

1. Schools can develop strategies to provide these safe and supporting environments where students can socialise and engage with their peers, while developing key pro-social skills.