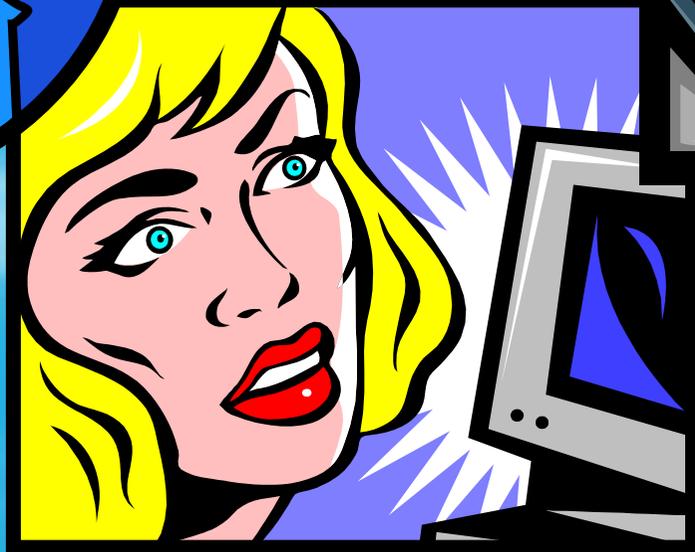


CYBER BULLYING



Annette Hammond
Cyber Bullying Project
Officer

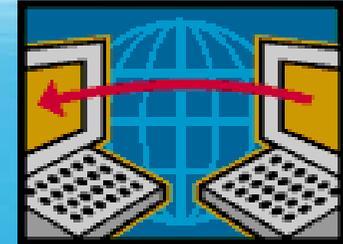
CYBER BULLYING

- **At the recent Youth Summit held in Maryborough on the 1st of April this year, the young people attending identified Bullying and Cyber Bulling as one of the biggest issues for them at present.**
- **In response to these findings the Fraser Coast Regional Council in partnership with Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre has developed a Cyber Bullying Awareness Program, available to all local schools till the end of the year.**
- **The purpose of the program is to provide information to young people aged between 12 & 17 years, who have been identified by youth workers, school based police officers, teachers, guidance officers and other relevant services as being at risk of committing Cyber Bullying offences, or of being a victim of Cyber Bullying.**
- **The young people are then referred on to the program.**
- **The program is however, designed to raise awareness of the issues of Cyber Bullying and inform young people of the legislation in place and the possible consequences of their behaviour. So the program is open to all students in the age group.**

- **Cyber Bullying is a relatively new and emerging area of concern that can have a significant impact on the lives of young people.**
- **Traditionally bullying was a face to face confrontation. The bully would humiliate or demean their victim in the presence of others. This kind of bullying of course still exists.**



- **But today we have this more insidious kind of bullying,
– *Cyber bullying!***



- **An electronic form of bullying done via the internet through emails, instant messaging, chat rooms, blogs, gaming sites or mobile phone text messages.**
- **The workshops are conducted in small groups of 6-8 students, male and female, so this enables a lot of interaction. There are a lot of questions and answers so students have the opportunity to explore many of the issues of Cyber Bullying.**
- **The workshops provide a safe environment for young people to discuss Cyber Bullying and most students are open and honest, freely admitting to being a Cyber Bully.**
- **A lot of young people however state they didn't realise the impact of what they were doing, with some saying it started as a joke and just got out of hand.**

- **The Workshop Topics Included:**
- **What is Cyber Bullying?**
- **How it's done? Why it's done?**
- **Some of the Effects of Cyber Bullying**
- **The Consequences of Cyber Bullying**
- **Information on Blocking the Internet & Mobile Phones.**
- **Other Cyber issues such as Friends on Face Book**
 - like adding people that they don't even know and disclosing personal information about themselves.
- **Cyber Stalking and predators is a huge issue that surprisingly these young people appear to be very naive about.**
- **The workshops include a power point presentation, a DVD, brochures, handouts and some stickers.**
- **Students also receive a Certificate of Attendance to the Cyber Bullying Workshop**



- A questionnaire is completed at the end of the workshop, providing Statistics on age, gender, school, bully or victim and the likelihood of them re offending.
- Enabling some evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.
- The anticipated outcomes of the Cyber Bullying program are Young people and their families will have the information to make informed decisions on Cyber Bullying.
- They will understand the possible offences in relation to Cyber Bullying and the consequences of such behaviour.
- They will realise the impact of their actions on another person's life and how sometimes tragic this can be.
- The Workshops will help to provide a reduction in the number of young people committing Cyber Bullying offences.

■ For more information contact:

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