

# Feature Article

Cyber bullying is becoming prevalent in Australia in today's society. This is due to the fact that technology is getting so advanced that you have a computer, camera, video recorder and Bluetooth all in a phone that fits in your pocket ready to bully people. In Australia 22% of girls and 15% of boys between the ages of 8-11 have a mobile phone. I don't understand why a child would need one at that age. Children getting introduced to technology like phones and computers so early will learn how to manipulate it even quicker. Bullying particularly face to face style is what it use to be until technology came around. Although there are still those big bullies who say they those hurtful words, now there are little bullies pretending to be those big bullies over the internet. Reasons why they do it over the internet are because they can remain anonymous, they don't get in trouble, they don't have to say it to their face and it's quick and easy. Studies from England and UK state that if your being bullied your 9 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts. Bullying has been becoming so wide spread that children as young as 3 years old can become victims of bullying, right when they start Pre School. An estimate of 200 million people, children and adults, are being bullied by their peers around the world according to the 2007 kandersleg declaration against bullying in children and youth. I think we all wish that bullying could be stopped by a simple press of a button. But it's not that simple. As stated by the country times on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 all children need clear boundaries and guide lines for using social technologies and a clear understanding of the possible consequences. 3 million a year is currently being spent to stop cyber bullying and education of children to prevent bullying.