

## Feature Article

### Traditional Bullying Drops as Cyber Bullying Rises.

Cyber Bullying is becoming ever more prevalent in the Australian society. "Cyber bullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones."

There are two kinds of cyber bullying. One kind is direct attacks. This is where the bully is attacking the victim directly. The other kind of bullying is by proxy. This is where a bully attacks through the use of another person.

According to expert Dr Toni Noble, **"the incidence of bullying, particularly face to face style, is not increasing."** Kids no longer need to bully face to face. With all this new technology becoming available, they have the option to bully others over the internet. To make matters worse, the internet can now be accessed via mobile phones. This means that kids who own or can gain access to a mobile phone, can bully others whenever they want.

The damage done by bullying, especially cyber bullying, can have serious consequences. Children who were bullied were up to 9 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts. 1 in 10 kids have been cyber bullied. Children as young as 3 can be bullied. But these consequences don't only apply to the victims of cyber bullying, they also apply to the bullies of cyber bullying as well.

**"young people who bully have a 1 in 4 chance of having a criminal record by the age of 30"**

It's not only boys that get bullied. Girls get bullied too. In fact, statistics show that "Girls were much more likely than boys to be victims of both cyber bullying and traditional bullying." Girls who were victims of bullying in their early primary school years were more likely to remain victims as they get older, according to British research.

*This is where a picture would go of ways to be cyber bullied.*

Prevention of bullying is quite simple really. One option of prevention is education. Children need to be taught right from wrong, and if they know that bullying is wrong, then they won't do it.

**"All children need clear boundaries and guidelines for using social technologies and a clear understanding of possible consequences."** Parents and teachers are the ones to assist in educating children about bullying. "The spotlight on cyber safety program was created 2 years ago with \$3million to tackle the emerging issue of youth safety online and mobile phones. Over 200 million youth around the world are being bullied by their peers