



Implementing the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce Report

April 2019 progress report



Queensland
Government



Premier's foreword

It was only October last year that we launched Queensland's Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce report.

It made 29 recommendations. As this update shows we are well on the way to delivering all of them.

While we are making progress there is still a lot to be done.

Cyberbullying is not a problem that ends at the school gate. Nor is it something that ends at our border.

The poet, Lia Walsh, summed it up best when she wrote:

*The internet is good and the internet is great
It's our values, and they are much too late*

It means the misuse of technology has developed faster than our ability to write the rule book.

That's what we are doing. We're writing the rule book.

As I have said, there is not one thing that will end cyberbullying. We have to do everything.

This report shows how far we have come together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anastacia'.

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

Overview

Adjust our Settings provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the prevalence and effects of cyberbullying in Queensland. The Queensland Government is committed to implementing all recommendations, responding to the urgency of the issues and solutions identified by the Taskforce through its extensive consultation with the Queensland community.

Implementation has commenced on all 29 of the Taskforce's recommendations, with four recommendations completed in the period to 31 March 2019.

To make sure there is clear and accountable reporting of the progress being made to address cyberbullying, the Queensland Government will table biannual progress reports on implementation of the Taskforce's recommendations. This document is the first progress report.

The Queensland Government continues to lead the nation in its response to cyberbullying, but requires collaborative action from the Commonwealth Government, social media platforms, broadcasters and other members of the community to fully address this issue.

Empowering young people

The Queensland Government has placed children and young people at the centre of its policy responses to cyberbullying – as the focus of actions, as advisors on implementing the recommendations affecting young people, and as future community leaders.

With the support of the community, the focus of Queensland Government action is on ensuring all children and young people feel safe, empowered and informed. This includes ensuring young people's voices are heard by government as a core focus of its implementation activities, and enabling young people to generate ideas and solutions to address the prevalence of cyberbullying.

- Key actions**
- Ensuring representation of young people on the Anti-Cyberbullying Advisory Committee established in February 2019 (recommendation 2)
 - Co-designing public awareness and education campaigns with young people (recommendation 6)
 - Delivering a grants program for young people and youth organisations to develop anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying initiatives, to open in mid-2019 (recommendation 9)

Supporting parents and carers

The Taskforce heard many parents and carers were concerned about the safety of their children in the online world, and were at times uncertain of how to help their children. Parents and carers also often acknowledged their own digital literacy was limited, and they were therefore hesitant to enforce boundaries on their child's engagement with technology.

The Queensland Government is exploring options to deliver targeted parenting skills and digital education programs to help better support parents and carers. These programs will focus on providing advice that is practical, accessible, and delivered in ways everyone can access, regardless of where they live.

- Key actions**
- Examining options to deliver parenting skills programs and digital skills training to support parents and carers (recommendation 10)
 - Distributing resources to support parents and carers prepared by the Department of Education's Cybersafety and Reputation Management team (recommendation 10)
 - Engaging with parents and carers in developing and delivering public awareness and education campaigns, and delivering an online portal providing central access to information, advice and support (recommendations 6 and 7)

Supporting schools and students

Cyberbullying is fundamentally about behaviour, and prevention is key. Schools provide one avenue to influence generational change in attitudes towards bullying, with a whole-school approach needed to maximise the chances of success in reducing bullying.

A key tenet of the government's response to the Taskforce's recommendations has been through an extensive consultative review of procedures and guidance materials to assist school communities to prevent and address the prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying. A range of resources has been produced to help promote social and emotional competencies among students, establish clear procedures for responding to cyberbullying complaints, clarify the scope of school responsibilities in responding to cyberbullying incidents, and provide guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools. Relevant resources will also be shared with the non-state school sector for use and adaptation by non-state schools as required.

Support and technical advice is also being provided to schools through the Department of Education's Bullying Stand-Up Team. The Cybersafety and Reputation Management Team continues to assist Queensland state schools with addressing online incidents and provides advice on choosing anti-cyberbullying programs that are appropriate to individual schools' needs. Funding of \$1 million has been allocated for whole school initiatives in

Queensland schools including implementation of the eSmart Schools Program in Queensland schools.

- Key actions**
- Distributing a new Student Code of Conduct for schools, including exemplar and template policy documents, in Semester 1, 2019 (recommendations 11, 16 and 17)
 - Developing resources including a fact sheet on the scope of school responsibilities related to cyberbullying, and clear procedures on responding to cyberbullying incidents (recommendations 15 and 28)
 - Continuing operation of the Bullying Stand-Up Team and the Cybersafety and Reputation Management Team (recommendations 15 and 18)

Supporting the community

Addressing cyberbullying requires action by everyone. State and Commonwealth governments, and all members of the community, must work together to help make the future a better place for children and young people.

The community told the Taskforce they wanted to help – but many were unsure where to find advice and assistance about cyberbullying. To address this, the government allocated \$2 million to develop public education and awareness campaigns and a comprehensive online portal that will provide information, advice and assistance to the community about cyberbullying, and how to help prevent and respond to it.

The campaigns will be co-created with a diverse group of young Queenslanders to make sure they are directly involved in providing advice and solutions.

- Key actions**
- Delivery of public awareness and education campaigns to assist the community, parents and carers, and young people to understand cyberbullying (recommendation 6)
 - Development of a comprehensive online portal to provide information and advice on cyberbullying, including links to relevant advice and support agencies (recommendation 7)
 - Advocating for the inclusion of content on preventing and responding to cyberbullying as part of teacher education programs (recommendation 14)

Progressing national action

Cyberbullying does not stop at the border. The Queensland Government is continuing to advocate for action and solutions at a national level.

At the December 2018 COAG meeting, the Premier obtained agreement that the Commonwealth would develop a proposal on introducing ‘right to be forgotten’ legislation in Australia in consultation with states and territories. Such legislation would give individuals the power to request the removal of personal data from a search engine when there is no compelling justification for its continued use.

The Premier has also advocated for action on a range of recommendations which require a national response including: providing the eSafety Commissioner with powers to require publication of Australian data on complaints and response times by social media platforms; and provision of consumer advice about bullying behaviour in programs on television networks, broadcasters and streaming services.

- Key actions**
- Driving national action on introduction of ‘right to be forgotten’ legislation through the Council of Australian Governments (recommendation 29)
 - Advocating for amendments to the *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 (Cth)* to provide the eSafety Commissioner with powers to require publication of Australian data on complaints and response times by social media platforms (recommendation 25)
 - Formally requesting action from television networks, national broadcasters and streaming services for ‘bullying’ to be included in program consumer advice (recommendation 5)

Social media action

It is crucial that social media platforms take greater responsibility and do more to address cyberbullying. Given our children and young people spend a lot of time online – whether for study, work or fun – the Queensland Government wants social media platforms to work harder to help create a safer online world.

The Premier has advocated directly to social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Google and YouTube requesting they act to make privacy settings and reporting tools visible, easy to use and accessible. The Queensland Government has also asked social media companies to be part of the cyberbullying solution, and provide resources for public awareness and education campaigns.

The Premier also urged the Prime Minister to call on social media platforms to take greater action on cyberbullying. The Prime Minister has advised that the Commonwealth Government is currently developing a draft online safety charter to set out expectations of social media companies.

- Key actions**
- Advocating for action by the Commonwealth Government to ensure social media platforms better protect children and young people's online experiences (recommendation 21)
 - Formally requesting that Facebook, Instagram, Google and YouTube make maximum privacy settings the default setting for all users and improve accessibility of reporting tools and education and safety materials (recommendations 22 and 24)
 - Approaching social media companies to provide funding or resources for campaigns (recommendation 6).

Status of implementation of the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce recommendations – as at 31 March 2019

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
1	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government endorse recommendation 5.7 of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee that ‘Australian governments approach cyberbullying primarily as a social and public health issue...(and) consider how they can further improve the quality and reach of preventative and early intervention measures, including education initiatives...’</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government agrees cyberbullying should be approached from a social and public health perspective.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Queensland Government is taking a comprehensive approach to cyberbullying in Queensland through a holistic response that includes implementing Taskforce Report recommendations for governments, schools and students, social media, law, parents and carers and the wider community.</p> <p>The Queensland Government reflected its position that cyberbullying is a social and public health issue in the Queensland Government Response to <i>Adjust our Settings</i> and the terms of reference for the Anti-Cyberbullying Advisory Committee.</p> <p>This position is the guiding principle which is informing the Government’s policy responses to addressing cyberbullying in Queensland.</p>
2	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish an independent implementation committee by February 2019, supported by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, to advise the Queensland Government about implementation of recommendations in this report • ensure the membership of the independent committee include key stakeholders identified in the Taskforce report, particularly young people • include in the terms of reference for the committee the need for an evaluation plan to assess the impact of actions to reduce the prevalence of cyberbullying among young people in Queensland, and be used to inform future policy on cyberbullying • table biannual reports on implementation in the Queensland Parliament. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will establish an Implementation Advisory Committee by February 2019 to advise the government about implementation. Advice from young people on the committee will be essential to the successful implementation of the Taskforce recommendations.</p> <p>Given the evolving nature of cyberbullying and rapidly changing technology, the Implementation Advisory Committee will include influential young people and people with expertise in relevant technology and trends, and in family and parenting issues.</p> <p>The Premier will table biannual reports about implementation of the Taskforce recommendations in the Queensland Parliament, with the first to be tabled in April 2019.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Anti-Cyberbullying Advisory Committee was established on 13 February 2019. The Committee includes representation from young people and people with expertise in law, social media, technology and family and parenting issues.</p> <p>The Committee will provide advice to Government departments on implementation of recommendations of <i>Adjust our Settings</i>, consider development of a high-level evaluation plan to support departments to assess the impact of actions undertaken and advocate within individual members’ communities and organisations on the importance of supporting the recommendations of the report.</p> <p>To date, the Committee has met twice – on 27 February and 29 March 2019 – focusing on implementation actions by the Department of Education and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.</p> <p>This progress report is the first of the biannual reports on implementation of <i>Adjust our Settings</i> recommendations that will be prepared in accordance with the Government response, to ensure public reporting on progress of implementation of the report’s recommendations.</p>

Traffic Light Status Category:

- Not started
- Commenced
- Completed

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
3	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government, individually and/or in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and other state and territory governments, commission and fund research to measure the national prevalence and impact of bullying and cyberbullying among children and young people on an annual basis, with data to be published with a breakdown by states and territories.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the importance of up-to-date data on the prevalence and impact of bullying and cyberbullying, particularly to contribute to assessment of prevalence over time.</p> <p>In the first instance the Premier and Minister for Trade will raise the issue at the Council of Australian Governments and work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and other bodies to commission and fund research to give a national picture of the prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Government is continuing to pursue the need for national research to establish a clear understanding of the prevalence and impact of cyberbullying through national forums including through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the COAG Education Council.</p> <p>In December 2018, COAG noted the <i>Enhancing community responses to student bullying, including cyberbullying: Report and Work Program</i> which recommended establishment of a national research and evaluation agenda related to bullying in schools. Elements of this work program, including the establishment of a research and evaluation agenda related to bullying in Australian schools, are the responsibility of the Safe and Supportive School Communities Working Group (SSSC) and a time-limited SSSC sub-group has been established to support implementation. The Department of Education is represented on this sub-group.</p> <p>On 18 February 2019, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister requesting national leadership to instigate a national survey on the prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying among children and young people.</p>
4	<p>The Taskforce encourages Members of Parliament and other community leaders to consider the views expressed about their behaviour by stakeholders during consultations, and commit to showing leadership in demonstrating more respectful behaviour.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government acknowledges community opinion about the behaviour of Members of Parliament and other community leaders, and accepts that more respectful behaviour would provide a positive model for children and young people. The government will encourage respectful behaviour, particularly in the Parliament, and among all community leaders, particularly those with public profiles and who have greater influence with young people and children.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the responsibility of community leaders, including Members of Parliament, to set high standards, particularly during Question Time and online.</p> <p>The Premier has discussed the importance of implementing the Taskforce Report in Parliament, including addressing standards of behaviour of Members of Parliament during the Parliamentary sitting of 13 February 2019. The Premier will also highlight this issue in letters to Queensland community leaders, including local government Mayors.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to develop further actions to engage community leaders, including through the public education and awareness campaigns, to reinforce modelling of respectful behaviour throughout the community.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
5	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government formally request television networks, broadcasters and streaming services to include the term 'bullying' in program consumer advice.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the impact of bullying behaviour in popular television and streaming programs, particularly reality programs. The Queensland Government will formally request television, broadcast and streaming services to include 'bullying' as a category of consumer advice about programs.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will also ask the Prime Minister to include bullying in standards under the Film Classification Act.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Queensland Government has formally requested action from television, broadcast and streaming services to address the potentially negative impact of bullying behaviour on television programs, by providing more detailed consumer advice.</p> <p>On 18 February 2019, the Premier wrote to free-to-air networks and associations, community television, and pay TV and streaming services requesting that 'bullying' be included in program consumer advice and displayed in the same way as other consumer advice. On 28 February 2019, the Australian Broadcasting Commission replied advising that it will consider any changes or additions it can make to its broadcasting standards. On 25 March 2019, the Special Broadcasting Service replied indicating that a review of their Codes and Guidelines is scheduled for late 2019 and will consider the views expressed by the Queensland Government regarding cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Premier also raised this issue in correspondence to the Prime Minister on 18 February 2019, requesting the Commonwealth Government consider this issue in the context of the <i>Guidelines for the Classification of Films 2012</i>, which provides high-level guidance on program classifications to television networks, broadcasters and streaming services.</p>
6	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiate statewide public awareness and education campaigns for adults and children and young people about preventing, reducing and responding to bullying and cyberbullying, to be co-created with a diverse group of young Queenslanders approach social media companies to provide funding and/or resources for the campaigns. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government accepts the value of public awareness and education campaigns aimed at reducing the prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying, and how to respond to it, and recognises the value of involving young Queenslanders in the design and creation of campaigns.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will approach social media companies to provide funding or resources for campaigns, including building on the agreement the Premier reached with YouTube in February 2018 to cooperate in tackling cyberbullying.</p> <p>Awareness and education campaign material will be disseminated through the public service, as Queensland's largest employer, to reach a large number of parents and young people under 25.</p> <p>Further consideration is required to determine the scope, design and funding of the proposed campaigns.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>In October 2018, the Queensland Government allocated \$2 million over two years to develop and roll out awareness and education campaigns to assist the community, parents and carers and young people to understand what cyberbullying is, the harm it can cause, and how we need a whole-of-community response to address it.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is currently planning for delivery of these state-wide campaigns. Campaigns will be co-designed with young people to raise awareness around cyberbullying and to provide information on where they can find assistance. Development and delivery of the campaign plan will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> market research engagement with young people to develop the campaign a review of available and required resources for parents and carers, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders. <p>On 5 February 2019, the Premier made representations to social media companies Facebook, Instagram, Google and YouTube, to request support for campaign delivery, either through funding, in-kind support or other resources.</p> <p>On 15 March 2019, the Premier and the Minister for Education launched the social media campaign #endcyberbullying on the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This features a video co-created and developed with students from Yeronga State High School, and responds to the Ministerial Student Advisory Council feedback that government campaigns need to better reflect the lived reality of bullying for young people.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
7	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government deliver a comprehensive online portal that is accessible and inclusive for all members of the community that provides information and advice that links to relevant services and agencies.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government accepts in-principle the recommendation for a comprehensive online portal. Further work is needed to consider the costs to establish an online portal, and to ensure it is maintained with up-to-date information and links to relevant resources and services.</p> <p>Design of an online portal will need to consider accessibility for young people, and parents and carers.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Government will develop a single, comprehensive online portal to provide information and advice on cyberbullying to everyone in the Queensland community, including links to relevant advice and support agencies.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is currently assessing potential approaches to delivering the portal.</p> <p>Opportunities to leverage existing Queensland Government websites and link with existing resources, such as the website of the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, are being considered as part of this work.</p>
8	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write to state sporting, youth and community bodies requesting policies to prevent and intervene in bullying and cyberbullying be developed and implemented • ensure sporting and community bodies involving children and young people that receive Queensland Government funding are required to have and implement policies to prevent and intervene in bullying and cyberbullying. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will write to state sport, youth and community bodies in which children and young people participate, to ask them to develop and implement policies to prevent and intervene in bullying and cyberbullying. The importance of sport, youth and community organisations in reducing cyberbullying is recognised by government. Those organisations can potentially model positive behaviour to contribute to reducing cyberbullying, and to call out bullying behaviour.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will review funding program guidelines for organisations that involve children and young people with a view to requiring funded organisations to have and implement policies to prevent and intervene appropriately in bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>The review of funding program guidelines will include consideration of the support that can be offered to funded organisations to introduce and implement appropriate policies.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Government is currently reviewing funding program guidelines to consider the support that can be offered to funded organisations to introduce and implement appropriate policies that provide young people and their parents and carers with information about where to obtain help.</p> <p>Relevant departments are also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • currently reviewing relevant strategies, internal processes and contract conditions/investment specifications for sporting and community bodies to identify ways to promote the adoption of appropriate policies. Following these reviews, departments will write to relevant sport, youth and community bodies to advise of any changes to requirements, and provide information and resources to develop any new policies • writing to and working with funded homelessness services that provide services to young people, including youth shelters.

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
9	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government allocate grants to youth organisations, to enable young people to develop and undertake anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying initiatives in their school or local community.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government accepts the recommended grants program for youth organisations to enable young people to develop and undertake anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying initiatives in their school or local community.</p> <p>Further work is required to design a grants program that is accessible to young people and best supports young people's endeavours in reducing cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>In October 2018, the Queensland Government allocated \$500,000 for a grants program over two years for both youth organisations and young people to develop anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying initiatives across the state. This will provide an opportunity for young people to be directly involved in creating solutions to cyberbullying, and undertake projects to help address cyberbullying in their school or local community.</p> <p>Project scoping work is underway and grant criteria are being finalised by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. First year grants are proposed to open in May 2019.</p>
10	<p>The Taskforce recommends that the Queensland Government support parents and carers to engage actively in prevention and management of bullying and cyberbullying behaviour by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing and promoting parenting skills programs, ensuring these programs are accessible to Queensland parents and carers regardless of potential barriers (such as geography, language, and technology access) • developing accessible and inclusive education resources for parents and carers of vulnerable children or those with specific needs • funding community groups to deliver parenting skills training • offering context-specific parenting skills training at regular intervals in the transitional stages of a child's development • promoting parenting skills programs in broader community awareness campaigns about bullying and cyberbullying ensuring children and young people are involved in the design of technology information and digital education programs for parents and carers • exploring innovative ways to engage parents and carers in relevant skills training relevant to the cycle of child development. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government accepts in-principle the recommendation to support parents and carers to actively engage in prevention and management of bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Queensland Government considers parents and carers are pivotal to reducing and constructively responding to cyberbullying, whether independently or in partnership with schools. Some parents and carers are actively engaged in their children's online activity, while others want more resources and support.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will undertake further work to identify the most effective ways to deliver and fund the programs, resources, training and strategies to implement the Taskforce recommendations.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Government will support delivery of programs for parents and carers that will provide advice and resources to assist them in preventing and managing cyberbullying of children and young people.</p> <p>Planning is currently being undertaken to assess the most appropriate ways to deliver programs that will encourage participation in parenting skills training and digital education training. This will consider the particular needs of vulnerable children and will be delivered in a variety of formats across the State. These initiatives will seek to build on existing parenting support programs available across Queensland.</p> <p>The Cybersafety and Reputation Management team in the Department of Education has also commenced production of resources to support parents and carers.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
11	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government require all schools to deliver evidence-based whole school programs that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote social and emotional competencies among students • include evaluation of the programs impact • include professional development for teachers. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government accepts that a whole school approach to bullying and cyberbullying is most effective, and that schools must endeavour to genuinely engage parents and others in the school community in their approach to bullying and cyberbullying. A whole school approach to bullying and cyberbullying is encouraged in state schools.</p> <p>Bullying behaviour is primarily a relationship issue, and the Queensland Government supports programs that promote social and emotional competencies among students.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>All behaviour procedures and guidance materials were reviewed by the Department of Education in 2018 through an extensive consultation process. As part of this review and in response to the Taskforce’s recommendations, the Department of Education has developed a new Student Code of Conduct that requires state schools to have an evidence-based whole school program to respond to cyberbullying.</p> <p>During Semester 1 2019, all Queensland state schools will be provided with advice regarding the use of the Bullying, No Way! STEPS evaluation framework and the Beyondblue Be You program review service, to enable schools to identify programs that may be suitable for their individual school. The department’s Respectful Relationships education program for students in Prep to Year 12 will also be further promoted. The Respectful Relationships program includes supporting students to develop pro-social skills such as empathy, mindfulness and emotional regulation.</p> <p>Consultation has commenced with the non-state sector peak bodies regarding implementation of this recommendation in non-state schools.</p> <p>In October 2018, the Queensland Government committed a total of \$1 million for whole school initiatives in Queensland schools including a one-off grant of \$450,000 in funding to the Dolly’s Dream Foundation in partnership with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, to implement the eSmart Schools Program in Queensland schools. Consultation has occurred with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, together with the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland, to implement this program in State or non-State sector schools that elect to take up the program, including rural and remote schools. A service agreement is currently under development.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
12	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government in collaboration with an independent body such as the proposed national education evidence institute, commission a rigorous evaluation of relevant anti-bullying programs and resources in order to assist school leaders and school communities to reduce the prevalence of cyberbullying.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government accepts that evidence-based information about the available anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying programs and resources would assist schools in their efforts to reduce cyberbullying.</p> <p>The proposed national education evidence institute is unlikely to be fully operational within the next 12 months. The Queensland Government may seek to commission this work through another mechanism so it can progress as a matter of priority.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes the evaluation referred to in Recommendation 11 above will take some considerable time to implement. In the meantime the 'STEPS' decision-making tool on the Bullying. No Way! website is available to help schools select appropriate evidence-based anti-bullying programs and approaches. The eSafety Commissioner also has a voluntary certification scheme of some programs and resources.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes other Australian jurisdictions are currently implementing and evaluating anti-bullying programs, and Queensland will continue to closely monitor the outcomes.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Government is encouraging organisations to submit their anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying programs to the Beyondblue Be You review process, which provides a summary of program features and the best evidence-base, available for schools in a central location.</p> <p>As an interim measure, schools will be encouraged to access the Beyondblue Be You site and apply the STEPS decision-making framework to select an appropriate evidence-based anti-bullying framework. This will provide evidence-based information about anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying programs and resources that would assist schools in their efforts to reduce cyberbullying. Promoting this service also aligns with the COAG Education Council cyberbullying work program that was developed in 2018.</p> <p>The Office of the eSafety Commissioner also has a voluntary certification scheme to assist schools to select online safety programs. The scheme certifies online safety program providers who meet eligibility requirements, and currently operates until mid-2019.</p>
13	<p>The Taskforce recommends schools continue to have autonomy to determine student access to mobile phones and other personal devices at school, and ensure their policies on the use of mobile phones and other personal devices are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed in consultation with the whole school community • regularly reviewed in light of rapidly changing technology • give consideration to technology-free spaces and times. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government agrees that schools should, after consultation with the school community, continue to determine their policy about student access to mobile phones and other devices at school. The Queensland Government will provide example protocols for school communities on student access to mobile phones and other personal devices in early 2019.</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises mobile phones and other portable devices will be increasingly used outside schools, and considers that education in the safe and respectful use of devices may contribute to reducing cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Department of Education is developing new templates, guidelines and resources on the use of mobile phones and other technology in Queensland state schools which will be released in Semester 1 2019.</p> <p>This will provide clarity to schools and allow them to determine, in consultation with their school community, their own individual policy about student access to mobile phones and personal devices.</p> <p>The policy will indicate what is considered as acceptable and unacceptable use of devices, and advise schools that they should consider allocating technology-free spaces and times.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
14	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government work with universities that offer initial teacher education to ensure pre-service teachers receive education in strategies to prevent and intervene in bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes that the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership’s national guidelines for the accreditation of initial teacher education programs includes provision for strategies that support students’ wellbeing and safety.</p> <p>The Queensland Government, through the Minister for Education, will work with the Queensland universities that offer initial teacher education to promote education in strategies to prevent and intervene in bullying and cyberbullying for pre-service teachers. The Minister for Education will also ask the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership to consider amendment of its guidelines for accreditation of initial teacher education programs to include content relevant to preventing and responding to cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Taskforce report was discussed at the November 2018 meeting of the Higher Education Forum, which comprised the Minister for Education, and Vice Chancellors and representatives from the nine Queensland universities. At the forum, the Minister for Education encouraged universities to consider how this recommendation might best be achieved. Further to this request, the Minister for Education will write to universities in the first half of 2019, seeking advice about the measures universities currently have in place to address this recommendation as well as any further actions planned.</p> <p>The Taskforce report was also discussed at the March 2019 meeting of the Queensland Council of Deans of Education/ Department of Education Forum, which includes all Queensland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). At this meeting all HEIs confirmed that initial teacher education programs do ensure preservice teachers receive education in strategies to prevent and intervene in bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Minister for Education will also be writing to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership to request that it consider amending its national guidelines for accreditation of initial teacher education programs to include content relevant to preventing and responding to cyberbullying.</p>
15	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government provide clear guidance for all schools on the scope of their responsibilities in relation to cyberbullying, including the circumstances when the principal is and is not responsible.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government acknowledges the Taskforce finding that some schools, principals and teachers expressed uncertainty about the extent of their duty of care for cyberbullying, particularly when it occurs outside school hours.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will provide clear guidance for state schools on the scope of their responsibilities in relation to cyberbullying, including when the principal is and is not responsible. This guidance will be shared with the non-state sectors.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>A fact sheet on the scope of school responsibilities related to cyberbullying is being developed by the Department of Education and will be applicable to all schooling sectors. This will be provided during Semester 1 2019.</p> <p>The Department of Education’s Cybersafety and Reputation Management team is also continuing to provide support to state schools through resources, advice, online investigations, and responding to instances of inappropriate online behaviour.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
16	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government ensure the Department of Education has contemporary, best practice exemplar policy documents about reducing and responding to cyberbullying, including a complaints management process.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will review and revise its exemplar school policies and procedures relevant to reducing and responding appropriately to bullying and cyberbullying, and ensure those documents include a complaints management process and the features of school policy and procedure (as proposed in Taskforce Recommendation 17).</p> <p>The Queensland Government will provide these updated protocols in early 2019.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Department of Education has developed a new Student Code of Conduct for all Queensland state schools which will be released in Semester 1 2019.</p> <p>As part of this new Code, relevant exemplar and template policy documents will detail current best practice and research evidence on responding to bullying and cyberbullying complaints.</p> <p>These are in the final stages of approval in anticipation of release of the new Student Code of Conduct in Semester 1 2019. These resources will be publicly available so non-state schools can adopt or adapt for their local contexts.</p>
17	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government expect all schools to have clear, transparent, readily accessible and easily understood policies and procedures to address cyberbullying, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include a flowchart clearly outlining the school response to incidents and reports of cyberbullying and provide indicative timeframes for school responses provide contact details of relevant school staff identify when parents and carers will be contacted by the school state the possible consequences for the student who has bullied identify the support available for the student who has been bullied and the student who has engaged in bullying behaviour. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government expects, as part of a whole school approach, all schools will have clear, transparent and accessible policies and procedures to address bullying and cyberbullying, and notes that many schools have high quality procedures in place.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes the Taskforce reported that school policies and procedures vary considerably and that some stakeholders were frustrated by a school's response. The Queensland Government will deliver best practice documents to state schools in early 2019.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will also consult with non-state schools about their protocols during 2019.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Department of Education is developing clear, transparent and published procedures for how schools should respond to cyberbullying, grounded in a whole-school approach to managing bullying and cyberbullying. This will address the current uncertainty around existing procedures.</p> <p>Data analysed from incoming complaints has informed the design of the new Student Code of Conduct guidelines and resources, including flowcharts and timelines. New materials have been drafted after extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders, and are in the final stages of approval in anticipation of release of the new Student Code of Conduct in Semester 1 2019. Consultation has commenced with the non-state sector peak bodies regarding implementation of this recommendation in non-state schools.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
18	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue and appropriately resource the Bullying Response Team of Senior Guidance Officers in the Department of Education to provide expert advice and assistance to schools, parents, carers and students when they want advice about addressing and resolving reported incidents of cyberbullying commission an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of current processes to address reported incidents of cyberbullying across all school sectors. The evaluation should consider the merit of establishing an independent dispute resolution body for complex matters which are unable to be resolved at school or system level. The approach used by the Victorian Independent Office for School Dispute Resolution in relation to school disputes about bullying and cyberbullying should form part of the evaluation. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue the Bullying Stand-Up Team of Senior Guidance Officers in the Department of Education, to provide expert advice and assistance to schools, parents, carers and students about addressing incidents of bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will commission an independent review of the effectiveness of current processes to address reported incidents of cyberbullying in state and non-government schools.</p> <p>The review will consider the views of students, parents, schools and school authorities, and whether there is merit in establishing an independent dispute resolution body for complex cyberbullying matters unable to be resolved at school or system level.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>In 2018, the Department of Education established the Bullying Stand-Up Team, comprised of two senior guidance officers who immediately respond to bullying issues that have been escalated for resolution, and work closely with parents and the school. The team will continue to work closely with regions to enhance capacity to quickly and effectively resolve bullying complaints at the local level.</p> <p>Support is also provided to parents and carers with children at non-state schools.</p> <p>An independent evaluation will explore the effectiveness of processes to address reported incidents of cyberbullying across state and non-state sectors, including exploring the approach of the Victorian Independent Office for School Dispute Resolution.</p> <p>A tender process for the evaluation will occur after schools have had the opportunity to implement the new reporting processes, anticipated to be first quarter 2020.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
19	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government ensure schools that provide boarding facilities, and other organisations that provide accommodation for school students, have policies and procedures to ensure the safety and welfare of boarders. Those requirements should include staff training and competencies to prevent and respond to cyberbullying, based on best practice standards.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government currently requires departmental and non-state school boarding facilities, and non-government student hostels to meet student safety and welfare requirements. Those requirements for non-government student hostels are currently under review.</p> <p>Current arrangements for Department of Education run boarding facilities are guided by the Boarding Standard for Australian schools and residences.</p> <p>Non-state school boarding facilities are required by legislation to have written processes about appropriate conduct of staff and students.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will consider whether legislative amendments are needed to require specific procedures about cyberbullying and to enable the Non-state School Accreditation Board to oversee non-state schools' compliance with requirements.</p> <p>Currently, conditions of funding for non-government and local government organisations that operate student hostels require facilities to have written policies and processes about the appropriate conduct of staff and students.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Department of Education has released a new state schools procedure for departmental run boarding facilities, <i>Safety and wellbeing of students residing in a state school operated residential boarding facility</i> for implementation from July 2019. It is informed by the <i>Australian Standards: Boarding Standard for Australian schools and residences</i> as well as other departmental procedures such as the 'Safe, supportive and disciplined school environment' and 'Student protection'. The procedure was reviewed by Dolly's Dream and the Alannah and Madeline Foundation.</p> <p>Currently, non-state schools, including boarding schools, are required under the <i>Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017</i> to have policies and procedures relating to the safety and wellbeing of students. Boarding schools must also provide sufficient numbers and types of staff to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students while boarding. Consultation has commenced with non-state sector peak bodies regarding implementation of this recommendation in non-state boarding schools.</p> <p>The broader review of Student Hostels (operated by non-government and local government organisations) commenced in February 2019. Consultation with Student Hostels is due to be completed by July 2019. Implementation of this recommendation is planned to occur in 2020.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Public Works continue to work closely with service providers to ensure they have policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety and welfare of boarders. Service providers will be required to develop staff training and competencies to prevent and respond to cyberbullying, based on best practice standards.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
20	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government encourage universities (and their associated residential colleges) and VET providers in Queensland to adopt and implement comprehensive and accessible policies about prevention, reporting and responding to cyberbullying among their students.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will encourage universities, associated university residential colleges and vocational education and training providers to adopt and implement comprehensive and accessible policies about prevention, reporting and responding to cyberbullying among their students.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>At the November 2018 meeting of the Higher Education Forum, universities were encouraged to review and implement comprehensive and accessible policies about cyberbullying for the wellbeing of their students and on campus generally. This request is to be confirmed in a letter from the Minister for Education to universities in the first half of 2019, seeking advice from universities about the strategies, policies and procedures already in place as well as any additional steps taken or planned since the Report was handed down. The Department of Education also tabled an item for discussion at the Queensland Deans of Education-Department of Education forum on 8 March 2019.</p> <p>A review of relevant TAFE Queensland's policies and procedures commenced in February 2019. The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training is also progressing communications to be circulated to its pre-qualified suppliers in the second quarter of 2019, encouraging them to implement cyberbullying policies and review current policies.</p> <p>On 8 March 2019, the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development wrote to the Australian Skills Quality Authority seeking national leadership in encouraging all registered training organisations to adopt anti-cyberbullying policies.</p>
21	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government, individually and/or in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and other state and territory governments, undertake or commission research into the efficacy of requiring social media companies to implement identity verification.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will work with social media companies and state and territory governments to assess the efficacy of requiring social media companies to implement identity verification.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>On 18 February 2019, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister requesting national action to instigate research into identity verification mechanisms used by social media companies, as well as national research into the prevalence and impact of bullying and cyberbullying (recommendation 3).</p> <p>The Queensland Government reinforces the need for national leadership to commission research to inform future policy responses across Australia.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
22	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government, individually and/or in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments, require social media platform providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make the maximum privacy settings the default settings for all users • make a link to privacy settings clearer, up front and more user accessible, including regular promotion of privacy settings to users • make blocking more readily viewable and available • implement ‘safety by design’ principles • make their educational and safety materials easy to find, and regularly promote those materials to users. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will work with state and territory governments to urge the Commonwealth Government to consider introducing requirements for social media companies aimed at preventing cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will advocate that social media companies: change user default privacy settings; provide better information about privacy, blocking and educational and safety materials on their platforms; and implement ‘safety by design’ principles.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes that the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee (Senate Committee) report of March 2018 recommended that the Australian Government place and maintain regulatory pressure on social media platforms to both prevent and quickly respond to cyberbullying material on their platforms, including through the use of significant financial penalties where insufficient progress is achieved.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Premier wrote to the Prime Minister and social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Google and YouTube on 5 February 2019 regarding privacy settings and related issues employed by social media platforms.</p> <p>The Premier requested that social media platform providers improve the visibility, accessibility and regular promotion of safety and educational resources. This included making the maximum privacy settings the default for all users, and improving accessibility and promotion of links to privacy settings and educational materials.</p> <p>This reflects the Queensland Government’s position that social media companies have a responsibility to ensure that their privacy and protection settings are providing appropriate protections for young people from cyberbullying on their platforms.</p>
23	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government, through Advance Queensland or other sources and in collaboration with social media companies, universities and business, examine opportunities to support the development of applications and machine- learning algorithms to detect cyberbullying.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will examine opportunities to support innovation and technical developments to detect cyberbullying material. To that end, Advance Queensland will examine opportunities to support Queensland businesses and universities with relevant expertise to develop applications and machine learning algorithms to detect cyberbullying material.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Department of Innovation and Tourism Industry Development is continuing to examine opportunities to support the development of solutions to detect cyberbullying.</p> <p>In the period to December 2019, it is anticipated that several Advance Queensland programs with the potential to support this recommendation will be open.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
24	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government, individually and/or in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments, take steps to ensure social media companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the visibility, consistency and accessibility of reporting tools on their platforms • include a link directly to the eSafety Commissioner for users who are not satisfied with action taken by the social media company • include messages on their platforms to remind users of the harm cyberbullying can cause and steps on how to report. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will advocate that the Commonwealth and state and territory governments work together to press social media companies to improve access to reporting cyberbullying, and use their platforms to inform users on how to report and the harms of cyberbullying. In particular, social media companies will be asked: to improve the visibility, accessibility and consistency of reporting tools; show links to the eSafety Commissioner; include messages to remind users of the harm cyberbullying can cause and information on how to report cyberbullying.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Premier wrote to the Prime Minister and social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Google and YouTube on 5 February 2019 regarding issues of functionality of reporting tools, links to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and messages about cyberbullying on social media platforms.</p> <p>The letter to social media platforms requested that they improve visibility, consistency and accessibility of reporting tools, include a direct link to the eSafety Commissioner on their platforms, and include messages regarding the harm of cyberbullying and providing information on how to report cyberbullying.</p> <p>This reflects the Queensland Government’s position that social media companies should do more to proactively address cyberbullying and improve procedures for reporting of such behaviour on their platforms. This position requires national cooperation to support social media companies to take steps as part of a whole-of-community effort to address the effects of cyberbullying.</p>
25	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government call on the Commonwealth Government to amend the Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 to provide the eSafety Commissioner with powers to require annual publication of detailed data on complaints and response times by social media platforms.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the important role of social media companies in reducing cyberbullying on their platforms. It will ask the Commonwealth to legislate to give the eSafety Commissioner powers to require social media companies to publish detailed data about the complaints and requests to remove cyberbullying material made to them, the response times and outcomes.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes the Senate Committee recommendation ‘... the Australian Government consider requiring social media platforms to publish relevant data, including date on user complaints and the platforms’ responses, as specified by the eSafety Commissioner and in a format specified by the eSafety Commissioner.’</p> <p>The Premier will continue to call on the Commonwealth Government to allocate sufficient resources to the eSafety Commissioner to enable the provision of accessible services and support to all Queenslanders.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Premier wrote to the Prime Minister on 18 February 2019 to request the <i>Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 (Cth)</i> be amended to provide the eSafety Commissioner with powers to require annual publication of detailed Australian data on complaints and response times by social media platforms.</p> <p>Country-specific data on the number of complaints and responses by social media companies are necessary to improve understanding of the prevalence of cyberbullying and help inform future policy responses aimed at reducing cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Premier will continue to advocate for Commonwealth action to ensure the eSafety Commissioner is provided with appropriate powers.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
26	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government investigate collecting and reporting on the number of bullying and cyberbullying related charges, prosecutions and outcomes under the relevant offences in the Criminal Code.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will investigate the collection and reporting of the number of matters under the Criminal Code that relate to bullying and cyberbullying. This will require work to assess what changes to systems or legislation may be required to record charges, prosecutions and outcomes of matters that relate to bullying or cyberbullying</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>A working group has been formed involving the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Queensland Police Service, Court Services Queensland and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the collection and reporting of matters relating to cyberbullying. The group is currently assessing the efficacy of capturing data related to charges, prosecutions and outcomes of relevant offences in the Criminal Code across the spectrum of the criminal justice system.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the outcomes of these investigations will be provided by June 2019.</p>
27	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Police Service review its Operational Procedures Manual to ensure reports of cyberbullying incidents are appropriately and consistently investigated.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government, through the Minister for Police, will ask the Queensland Police Service to review its Operational Procedures Manual in relation to reports of cyberbullying incidents.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Queensland Police Service has undertaken a review of the Operational Procedures Manual and is currently drafting amendments. The amendments reinforce the findings of the Taskforce that cyberbullying is a social and public health issue, emphasising the need to not further criminalise young people who may be engaging in the behaviour. This will provide operational police with guidelines on the effective management of cyberbullying complaints, with serious complaints to be investigated and enforced as appropriate.</p> <p>All changes to the Operational Procedures Manual will be supported by state-wide communication to officers.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the revised Queensland Police Service policy on the management of cyberbullying complaints will be published in the Operational Procedures Manual in the second quarter of 2019.</p>

	Taskforce Recommendation and Government Response	Current Status as at 31 March 2019
28	<p>The Taskforce recommends the Queensland Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide clear guidance to teachers, school staff and mandatory reporters on the application of child protection and other relevant legislation and guidelines for reporting requirements relating to harm and risk of harm from cyberbullying of a child provide additional support and resources to schools to assist with any changed expectations relating to any revisions to legislation, guidelines and procedures. <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will provide clear advice about reporting harm or a risk of harm of a child in connection with cyberbullying after consulting with organisations that represent schools, principals, teachers and other professionals who are required to report under the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>. The government will consider whether any additional resources are required for schools after developing new advice for those required to report harm or a risk of harm of a child.</p>	<p>Commenced</p> <p>The Department of Education has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developed additional resources to guide school staff, including principals, in making decisions about mandatory reporting obligations offered targeted student protection training to all state school principals developed a fact sheet to support staff on mandatory reporting in the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector. <p>The Student Protection procedure, guidelines and the suite of support materials have been promoted through a range of forums in the Department of Education, both centrally and through regional communications. Broad consultation was undertaken during development of these resources including with the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and school principals.</p> <p>Student Protection Principal Advisors are also available to provide expert advice and training to state schools; contact details regularly communicated with school staff and with other relevant government agencies. Student Protection Principal Advisors will deliver targeted training again in 2019, informed by data and reflecting the specific needs of schools in their region.</p> <p>A fact sheet has also been developed to support Department of Education staff to provide information on mandatory reporting to the early childhood education and care sector. Further guidance will also be developed about risk of harm from cyberbullying.</p>
29	<p>The Taskforce recommends that the Queensland Government advocate that the Commonwealth Government introduce 'right to be forgotten' or 'right to erasure' legislation in Australia.</p> <p>Government Response</p> <p>The Queensland Government will advocate for legislation to be introduced by the Commonwealth Government, to create a right to request the removal of personal information from internet search engines. The recommended legislation would be informed by the 'right to be forgotten' provisions introduced in the European Union General Data Protection Regulation.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>At the Premier's request, the issue of the introduction of a statutory 'right to be forgotten' was considered at the 12 December 2018 COAG meeting.</p> <p>Jurisdictions supported in-principle the 'right to be forgotten' for victims of cyberbullying, with the Commonwealth Government, following consultation with states and territories, to bring a proposal to the next COAG meeting. The Queensland Government will continue to monitor, and drive national action on introducing 'right to be forgotten' legislation.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is also continuing to monitor the outcomes of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's digital platforms inquiry, with the final report due by 3 June 2019.</p>



