

Heidi Victoria MP

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School grants help students be better bully stoppers

Our Lady of Lourdes in Bayswater is among the many Victorian schools to receive funding in round two of the state government's *Bully Stoppers* grants program Bayswater District MP Heidi Victoria announced this week.

Ms Victoria said the school was successful in its submission for a grant and would receive \$5000 towards a project that encourages positive behaviour among students.

"Up to one in five children are involved in bullying at any one time, yet bullying has been known to stop in 10 seconds if bystanders take positive action.

"It is wonderful to be able to provide support to schools in the Bayswater District and work towards stamping out bullying in our school grounds."

Ms Victoria said The Bully Stoppers message is to 'Make a Stand, Lend a Hand'.

Our Lady of Lourdes deputy principal Joan Heenan said the funding for the new program would complement a number of anti-bullying and positive values programs already in place.

"We are teaching the students positive communication, whether online or offline. It's the same values," she said.

"The Growing Up Digital project will be taught through an inquiry unit to all students, and will focus on the acceptable protocols though positive communication.

Mrs Heenan said the project follows a learning together night for parents and Year 5 and 6 students held earlier this term.

"We also have an in-house artist that will work with students to produce a permanent mural representing our school's top ten values.

This is the second round of funding under the Victorian Government's \$4 million *Bully Stoppers* initiative and the broader \$14.5 million *Stamp Out Bullying!* campaign.

Education Minister Martin Dixon said school clusters were given \$10,000 grants and individual schools \$5,000. More than 100 Victorian schools shared in \$450,000 in round one of funding.

"The first round of grants produced everything from anti-bullying film festivals and peer mediation programs to a 'Gangnam-style' Bully Stoppers dance," Mr Dixon said.

“The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring schools are safe, inclusive and supportive places.”

The Victorian Government is also investing over \$124 million to introduce 150 additional Primary Welfare Officers in schools, \$10.5 million for the *eSmart* cyber-safety program, and \$2 million to improve teachers' capacity to manage challenging student behaviours.

To access Bully Stoppers resources for students, parents, teachers and principals please visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/default.aspx>

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