

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
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MEDIA RELEASE

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New eSmart program to tackle cyberbullying in Keppel school

Students in Keppel will soon benefit from new specially targeted programs designed to keep them safe from the dangers and perils of cyberbullying.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga has announced Taranganba State School would benefit from the \$1 million program, which is backed by a partnership between the Palaszczuk Government, Dolly's Dream and the Alannah & Madeline Foundation.

"Cyberbullying is one of the biggest issues we face in society today.

"It's vital that we teach our school communities about online behaviours, social media and the tools needed to tackle cyberbullying.

"That's exactly what these eSmart programs are all about."

Ms Lauga said the partnership with Dolly's Dream and the Alannah & Madeline Foundation was a key feature of the Queensland Government's \$3.5 million commitment to implement the recommendations of the Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce.

"As part of these programs, schools are able to choose to roll out the eSmart Schools Framework, hold workshops for parents and teachers, and provide digital licences for individual students," she said.

"It's wonderful that Taranganba SS was successful in its application receiving a total value of up to \$11,000 to implement the program.

"We're doing everything we can to help stamp out this insidious problem and I know this program will greatly benefit the staff, students and parents of the local community."

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Ms Lauga said there were a number of cybersafety programs already in place across Queensland state schools, including in Keppel:

- The Safe and Supportive School Communities Working Group (SSSC) hosted by Queensland on behalf of all states and territories, provides advice on bullying, harassment and violence for teachers, parents and students through the *Bullying. No Way! Website*
- The SSSC also delivers the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, held in March every year
- A specialist Bullying Response team of senior officers are in place to respond immediately to referrals for urgent advice and support to families affected by bullying
- The Department has a dedicated team of specialists in the Cybersafety and Reputation Management Team (CRMT) to help schools to respond to and prevent inappropriate online behaviour.

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