

FRIENDLY SCHOOLS Institute

Every Child. Everywhere. Feels Safe. Prevent Bullying in your school.



**SYDNEY
PERTH**

**Wednesday 19 November
Friday 21 November**

Friendly Schools Institute

Say NO to bullying and YES to building more resilient students in your School!

Join leading authors, researchers and international presenters Professor Donna Cross and Erin Erceg at Australia's premier social and emotional learning and bullying prevention event. They will lead participants through the Friendly Schools collaborative approach that has led to countless schools moving from policy to action for results school staff, parents and students so readily deserve and want.

What is Friendly Schools?

Friendly Schools is one of the few rigorously researched social and emotional learning initiatives for children and adolescents in schools that reduces bullying behaviour. It is recognised nationally and internationally as a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that can enhance students' social and emotional development and reduce bullying behaviour. By promoting positive, sustainable, whole-school improvement, Friendly Schools helps school communities to build their own capacity for change. It enables schools to assess the social and emotional wellbeing of their students, examine their existing strategies for bullying prevention, identify areas in need of improvement and then address these gaps using widely tested strategies.

Friendly Schools aims to increase understanding and awareness of bullying; improve communication about bullying; foster adaptive responses to bullying; encourage peer and adult support for students who are bullied; and promote peer and adult discouragement of bullying behaviour.

Institute Information



Keynote Presentation

9:00am–10:30am

Positioning student wellbeing as learning, not just support

Professor Donna Cross

While a school's consistent delivery of quality pastoral care is critical to young people's development, it is often organised and treated as a separate entity to student learning: "I teach maths, not pastoral care." At best, pastoral care is seen as a means to support student learning, especially for those experiencing difficulties, and at worst it is used only to manage poor social behaviours. Consequently, most schools' social wellbeing programs are overly reactive and a distant cousin to their teaching and learning programs. Unlike proactive initiatives that seek to build school capacity for action, these reactive programs are often guilty of training student helplessness, not resilience.

Young people need to be socially and cognitively prepared for difficulties – or at least change – so that they can build a toolkit of responses to draw upon as early and often as required. This keynote presentation will review the most recent Friendly Schools research evidence about social and emotional learning as a driver of school pastoral care policy and practice. Topics discussed include building student social competence and resilience; using a whole-school approach to shape teaching and learning; empowering student bystanders to stop bullying; reviewing the school organisation, ethos and environment; and developing tools to evaluate student social and emotional wellbeing outcomes.



Breakout Session 1

11:00am– 12:45pm

Strategic alignment: Linking school vision, values and social and emotional outcomes with the delivery of student wellbeing

Professor Donna Cross

This session will interrogate current research addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of students in order to help participants align their schools' vision, mission, values and wellbeing outcomes, in this way enabling school staff to develop a consistent, shared delivery of policy and practice. Strategies to help schools determine key pastoral care outcomes when monitoring social and emotional wellbeing will be examined, especially in relation to students' developmental needs and school transitions. Participants will also review the latest evidence regarding ways to increase the approachability of school staff, and they will consider what evidence-based responses staff need to provide when a student seeks social and emotional help.

Creating a Friendly School: A step-by-step guide to building students' social and emotional learning

Erin Erceg

Friendly Schools supports learning communities on their journey to create safe and secure environments for children to learn in. This interactive session will guide participants through an easy-to-follow, evidence-based process for effectively implementing a whole-school initiative to prevent bullying and aggression. A range of practical strategies, processes and resources will be introduced to identify your school's current strengths and needs, including toolkits that have been developed and evaluated over the past 12 years in consultation with staff, parents and students in Australian schools.





Breakout Session 2

1:30pm–3:15pm

Reducing harm from not-so-friendly online social behaviours

Professor Donna Cross

Recent research shows alarming trends regarding both the extent to which young people use online environments and the use of texting to behave badly. This session will provide a fast-moving, interactive opportunity to review current research findings on online social behaviour, including the latest patterns of young people's positive and not-so-positive cyber experiences and their possible effects. To help school staff and families, this session will also examine practical Friendly Schools strategies that appear to be effective at reducing these challenging behaviours and their effects, including the protective strategies that seem to build the online resilience and coping skills of young people.

Building a Friendly School culture: Enhancing social and emotional capability

Erin Erceg

This session will provide a snapshot of highly effective strategies to improve students' social and emotional competencies and directly reduce bullying and aggression. The engaging, interactive, student-centred learning activities offered have been extensively researched with over 20 000 students in Australian schools and are directly linked to the Australian Curriculum's personal and social capabilities. The activities include strategies to reduce cyberbullying and other inappropriate online behaviours.



Panel Discussion

3:15pm–4:00pm

Panel discussion: Bringing it all together – evidence for action

Professor Donna Cross and Erin Erceg

Using exemplar case studies, this panel session will close the day by exploring how different schools across Australia have used Friendly Schools resources to add value to their student wellbeing programs. Evidence-based ideas to support Aboriginal students, boys- or girls-only groups and students with special learning needs will be presented.

Presenters



Professor Donna Cross is a Winthrop Professor with the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Western Australia and the Telethon Kids Institute. Donna has an international reputation for developing community-based interventions to reduce bullying and aggression among young people. She is currently the lead investigator on seven 3–5 year longitudinal research projects aiming to prevent bullying, cyberbullying and associated mental health harms among Australian children and adolescents. Her strong focus on translational strategies has culminated in the dissemination of school curriculum and bullying prevention resources to over 3 000 Australian schools. Donna's research has contributed to sustainable policy and practice change, including sun safety policies (such as "no hat, no play") and national and state policy for bullying prevention and management.



Erin Erceg is currently working as lead trainer for the Friendly Schools initiative with Hawker Brownlow Professional Learning Solutions. Having spent 12 years with the Child Health Promotion Research Centre at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, Erin's most significant roles relate to her work on research around aggression and bullying among young people. Other areas of research Erin has been involved include capacity building for intervention in schools; secondary school transition factors; cyberbullying and its effects; reducing the effects of bullying among Aboriginal children; children's connectedness factors and mental health; building school capacity to engage parents and increase their connectedness to the whole-school environment; and the self-esteem and resilience of young people.

JUST LAUNCHED!



ALL THINGS FRIENDLY SCHOOLS!

An online resource for bullying prevention

www.friendlyschoools.com.au

INDIVIDUAL: \$350 per person (inc. GST)

TEAM: \$315 per person (inc. GST)

(A team is a group of 5 people from the same organisation, registering at the same time.)

SYDNEY

Date: Wednesday 19 November 2014
Time: 9:00am–4:00pm
Venue: Waterview in Bicentennial Park
Bicentennial Drive, Bicentennial Park
(off Australia Avenue)
Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney 2127

PERTH

Date: Friday 21 November 2014
Time: 9:00am–4:00pm
Venue: TBA, Perth

School/Organisation

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____

Email address for invoice: _____

Registrant

Name: _____

Position: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Team Registrant

Name: _____

Position: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Team Registrant

Name: _____

Position: _____

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Dietary requirements: _____

Team Registrant

Name: _____

Position: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Method of Payment

INVOICE

Please invoice school/institution (official purchase order must be supplied)

Purchase order number: _____

CREDIT CARD

School/organisation credit card Personal credit card

Visa Mastercard Amex (4% surcharge)

Card number:

Amount: \$ _____ Expiry date: _____ Signature: _____

CHEQUE

Cheque – Make cheque payable to Hawker Brownlow Professional Learning Solutions

PO Box 580, Moorabbin, VIC 3189

Fax: + 61 3 8558 2400 or 1800 150 445

Email: info@hbpls.com.au • **Ph:** + 61 3 8558 2456

W: www.hbpls.com.au • **ABN:** 74 140 155 111