



6/6/2018

The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade
GPO Box 15185
City East Qld 4002

Dear Premier

I am writing on behalf of all Zonta Members in District 22, to congratulate your government for setting up the Queensland Anti-Bullying Taskforce.

Zonta International is a world wide organisation whose main objective is the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and we place a significant focus on Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women worldwide. Our goals are linked to the CEDAW Articles 1-16 and to the Beijing Platform for Action 12 Critical Areas of Concern which focuses on women and the girl child.

Our major concern about cyberbullying is the effect that messages inciting mental abuse and self-harm sent to women and girls who are/have been subjected to such abuse, have on them. We are reading far too often about these women and girls who commit suicide as a result of such actions by cyberbullies. That your taskforce is focussing on youth is admirable, but we would advocate that women over 18 years also need to be protected as well by strengthening existing laws and/or introducing specific laws.

Zonta District 22 clubs (45 in total) already engage in projects which address some of these issues- Say NO to Violence Against Women, support for domestic and family violence refuges, 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women, and Love Bites- a program for secondary school students which promotes respectful relationships.

Cyberbullying should be regarded as a criminal offence and this needs to be stressed in Queensland laws; an education campaign could be undertaken in all schools, sporting groups and other organisations where young people are contactable, and action should be taken to prosecute all offenders .

We alerted all Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs (15 in total) in Queensland to your Task Force's public consultation forums so that they could spread the word amongst their school peers and parents.

Another related issue we would like to raise for consideration is that of non-consensual postings of intimate images of women and girls on the internet. This should be 'targeted' under the present Queensland Criminal Code .

Indeed it might be useful, for education purposes, to set out the kinds of acts regarded as bullying/cyberbullying and list, against each one, the relevant Queensland Act (and federal Act

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where appropriate) and punishments attributable. This information could then be available for all schools/universities and higher education institutions, all sporting clubs, women's and men's groups as well as the general public. It would be especially useful to have posters available which could be distributed to local businesses, local government councils, and all politicians offices (federal and state) to be prominently displayed on the national day of Action against Bullying and Violence held in March each year.

Zonta District 22 wishes to express its appreciation for the setting up of the Task Force and the invitation to put in a submission. We look forward to the production of your 'Framework' and Report.

Yours Sincerely,



Ansmarie Van Erp
District 22 Governor 2016-2018
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cc. Hon Yvette D'Ath MP,
Attorney general and Minister for Justice

cc. Hon. Grace Grace MP,
Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

cc. antibullyingtaskforce@premiers.qld.gov.au