**Growing connections – Primary school students**

Australian schools come together on the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence to raise awareness of bullying prevention.

This year, it's all about growing connections where students and teachers help to support each other so that everyone feels safe and welcome at school.

By growing connections, we're helping to prevent bullying.

Making connections to me is about knowing people and checking in on them, just making relationships as a whole.

To me, connection means feeling safe with someone and learning to understand them.

My teachers, whenever I come into class, they always ask if I'm okay, and they always welcome me into the classroom.

I have many connections outside of school. A big one is my circus group, which keeps me going, even when I feel like I can't do anything at circus.

I play for a football club and I've made a lot of friends there.

Making connections with people you don't know can seem really hard, but if you just start talking to them bit by bit and just saying hello each day to make bigger conversations.

Look into their interests, see what they like to do, be nice to them, and have fun.

If you grow connections with someone, it could help stop bullying by maybe telling them why bullying's bad and what we could do to help stop them from bullying people.

Well, if someone was being bullied, first of all, I would tell them that it's okay to speak up to bullying.

Then I would tell a trusted adult that this person is being bullied, and I would then talk to the bully and tell them it's not right.

It's okay to stand up to bullies as bullying is never okay and you should always prevent bullying in any way you can.

Growing connections makes us better together.

What can you do to grow connections in your school and community today?