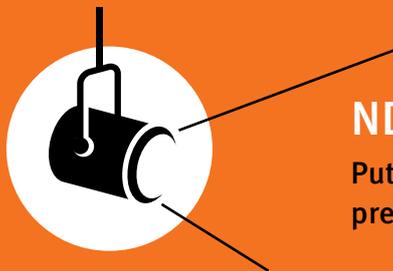


# National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence



**NDA Spotlight School**  
Putting the spotlight on bullying prevention approaches that work

Northern Territory

## Changing mindsets: Bradshaw Primary School

Bradshaw Primary School in Alice Springs has a school leader who believes in changing mindsets.

Principal Penny Weily, who started at the school as an Early Childhood Teacher, applies this belief to preventing and responding to bullying.

“There’s not a big emphasis on ‘zero tolerance’,” says Penny. “Zero tolerance seems a bit negative.”

“High expectations are our focus.”

“We have high expectations for how students learn, how students act. It’s a shift in mindset.”

“When you raise expectations, kids step up. We expect our kids, in everything they do, will take the step up. If they don’t make it, we’ll help them and start again.”

Bradshaw Primary School has taken part in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) since 2011.

“The best thing about the NDA is that it puts a spotlight on bullying.”

“The NDA is an opportunity to have conversations with kids, staff and families.”



Strong friendships are the focus at Bradshaw Primary School.

Bradshaw Primary School’s participation in the NDA is complemented by other student wellbeing initiatives including:

- School-wide Positive Behaviour Support
- Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum
- Buddies Program / Buddy Bench
- Bradshaw Behaviour Processes

### Key facts

#### Type of school

State primary school

#### Where

Alice Springs, Northern Territory

#### Student population

- 540 students preschool to Year 6
- 40% of students are Indigenous

“The best thing about the NDA is that it puts the spotlight on bullying. It’s an opportunity to have conversations with kids, with staff, with families.”

*Principal Penny Weily*



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Penny says the range of whole-school wellbeing initiatives, including the NDA, means Bradshaw Primary School students are clear on behaviour expectations and feel safe and supported to learn.

“When the NDA was first offered, it was creating awareness of bullying.”

“It evolved into an understanding of what bullying is, compared to someone just being mean.”

“Understanding the definition of bullying is important. Kids might call out in the playground ‘he’s bullying!’ when another child took the ball. An upset parent might say ‘my child is being bullied’.”

“We get students and parents in to talk about what’s happening. We talk to all sides. It takes time, but it’s worth it to resolve the issue for all concerned.”

“For the NDA we do something every day that week.”

“It might be an activity, where the buddy classes have morning tea and look at one aspect of the NDA or social emotional learning.”

“The big and little kids do it together, developing strong relationships and friendships that mean all students have someone they can talk to.”

“In 2018 we made posters on Bullying. No Way! to put around the school.”

“Buddy classes created powerful statements that linked into our literacy focus on creating a persuasive text.”

“We had a daytime disco where we turn the hall lights off and put on the disco lights. Our students love to dance.”



Artwork produced by a Bradshaw Primary School student for the NDA.

“We wrote in the school newsletter about having a conversation with your child if they are being bullied or are the bully. That can be a big challenge to a parent.”

Penny says while the school has several student wellbeing initiatives, part of the value of the NDA is starting conversations about what is, and what isn’t, bullying.

“Our bottom line is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students from Preschool to Year 6. Without that we can’t do anything academic,” says Penny.

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## Q & A with the principal

### Why is your school participating in the NDA?

“While the school has several student wellbeing initiatives, part of the specific value of the NDA is starting conversations about what is, and what isn’t, bullying.”

### What do the students get out of it?

“We have very clear positive behaviour expectations of the students. We hear kids in the school say ‘We don’t do that here’ when someone new at school is puffing up their chest.”

### What are the best aspects of the NDA?

“The best thing about the NDA is that it puts the spotlight on bullying.”

## Positive impacts from NDA involvement



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