**Growing connections – Secondary 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 and support each other so everyone feels safe and welcome at school.  
  
By growing connections, we're helping to prevent bullying.  
  
For me, growing connections is about knowing the people in your community and knowing someone to trust.  
  
For me, connection means finding interests, opinions, and sharing your diversity between one another.  
  
My teachers connect with me and other students by understanding that not every student is the same and we all have different support needs.

My teachers connect with me by always asking if I'm okay in class.

And if I'm ever upset, they'll come and talk to me privately if I'm comfortable with it.

It is always right to be part of your community and feels really good when you have your community peoples talking in your own language.

I have so many connections with people on my soccer training. They show respect to each other. They help when you're stuck on something.  
  
For connecting with people I don't know, I would have an open mindset and accept them for who they are.  
  
We can make the life better if we stop bullying and make the people feel safe and happy as well.  
  
By growing our connections with people, they'll be able to support you through tough times.

If someone was being bullied, I would tell them to find someone they connect with and talk to them about it.  
  
I would make sure that they're doing okay, and they're seeking help from a trusted adult or parent.  
  
Growing connections makes us better together.

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