Findings of bullying research in Victorian schools: Implications for prevention and school policies

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Bio:
Professor Sheryl Hemphill is a research Professor at the School of Psychology, Australian Catholic University and an Honorary Principal Research Fellow at the Centre for Adolescent Health, Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on the prevention of violence and crime including bullying in young people. She is particularly interested in schools and communities as contexts for prevention, including the impact of school policies such as the use of suspension on student outcomes. Sheryl has a PhD in psychology and is a member of the Australian Psychological Society’s College of Health Psychologists. Much of Sheryl’s work focuses on the dissemination of research findings in the community.

Abstract:
There is much concern about the rates and impact on young people of bullying, cyber bullying, and related behaviours. To provide guidance on the prevention of bullying, it is important to know the extent of bullying experienced by young people and the comprehensiveness of school “anti-bullying” policies. Hence, this presentation will cover two main topics: 1) rates of bullying and related behaviour in Victorian secondary students; and 2) a comparison of school bullying policies in Victoria, Australia and New Zealand. The findings regarding rates of bullying and related behaviours will be used to draw out implications for the prevention of bullying. The results of the comparison of school policies provide clear direction for the future improvement of school anti-bullying policies.