

## NATIONAL ANTI-CYBERBULLYING TOUR COMES TO TASSIE

**Monday 27 November, 2017:** Oatlands teenagers will be the first in Tasmania to take part in a new national Telstra program that aims to tackle cyberbullying by empowering bystanders to stand up and take action.

Youth-driven movement against bullying, PROJECT ROCKIT, created the unique and powerful program in partnership with Telstra, which combines in-school workshops with a digital classroom.

More than 100 students from Oatlands District High School will participate in the workshops today, before the program continues a week-long tour in southern Tasmania.

The anti-cyberbullying tour follows Telstra's 'Schoolyard to Screen' study, which found more than one in three (36%) Australian teenagers have personally experienced cyberbullying, with one in five (20%) stating the bullying occurred within the last month.

PROJECT ROCKIT presenter Archie Boulter, said as technology evolved, so has the way bullying plays out – but today's workshop was not your usual approach to the issue.

"This program is about empowering young people to feel confident and supported to stand up for themselves or a friend when it comes to bullying online or offline," Archie said.

"There's no preaching, lecturing or judging – this is about celebrating technology, facilitating real talk and working with young people to come up with safe and cool ways to take action.

"Less than 50% of young Australians believe they could confidentially stop cyberbullying if they saw it happening. We're here to tell them they can, and every young person we speak to can stand-up and make a difference."

Telstra Tasmania Area General Manager Michael Patterson said the anti-cyberbullying tour was part of the Telstra Foundation's Digital Futures program, which aims to build digital citizenship and technology skills in young Australians.

He said Telstra would gift Oatlands District High School with the PROJECT ROCKIT Online digital classroom – to ensure today's session wasn't a one off and to help build digital citizenship in every student.

"For young people experiencing bullying today, it no longer ends when the school bell rings – with laptops and smartphones meaning young people are contactable 24/7, there's no reprieve from former schoolyard bullies," Mr Patterson said.

"Through the Telstra Foundation Digital Futures program we want to help tackle the important issue of cyberbullying by equipping young people with real and credible tools to stand up to bullying when they see it happen."

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