

# ACTION PLANS

## SAFE SCHOOLS, SAFE MINDS, #SAFELIFE

### TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Safety at school is not only about physical safety. It is also about emotional safety. Emotional safety is about feeling respected and not judged. When students feel able to speak up and feel included, they are more likely to feel safe at school. Better communication, encouraging equal participation and improving classroom culture helps students feel safe.

### WHY THIS IS A PRIORITY:

Every student has right to a safe school environment. This involves everyone feeling safe, nurtured, and valued in their school community. Students who don't feel safe at school may not want to come to school or engage in their learning. They may not feel that they can be their true selves, may lose confidence or feel a loss of identity. When this happens, diversity and cultural richness in a school is lost.

### SOLUTIONS:

#### What students can do:

- Influential students in the school community could be supported to talk to their peers about wellbeing and safety.
- Instigate a *Buddy System* in their school to increase connection and support across year levels
- Lead events such as *Student-Teacher Meet and Greet Day* to build more genuine connections between students and staff, so students are more likely to reach out if they are feeling unsafe.

#### What schools can do:

- Establish a safe space where students can connect with each other and with teachers (e.g. Safety and Wellbeing Centers).
- Promote and encourage help seeking behaviour, identify a range of support options.
- Create a digital or actual suggestion box or process that genuinely listens to students' feedback and enacts their suggestions about enhancing safety.

#### What BCE can do:

- Establish a BCE Student Safety Day to enable students from different schools to connect, discuss ideas and learn strategies to enhance student safety.
- Create more eye-catching posters about student safety and wellbeing.
- Put up posters and information from other support organisations.
- Facilitate sessions for Guidance Counsellors and students to work out ways to counteract the stigma of access counselling/support in schools.

