SUBMISSION No. 133

Secretary of the Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a Year 9 student, cyber bulling has had varying effect on me. Knowing some of the many reasons why people cyber bully has made me more aware of it and its degrees of impact on people.

Anonymity plays a big role in cyber bulling – the idea of 'being the one behind the screen' and 'pointing the finger without anyone knowing who you are' gives the bully even more satisfaction and chances without being caught. The computer screen becomes a metaphor for a massive wall protecting the bully from backlashes & consequences.

A lot of people have a sudden change of personality when online – they may create fake accounts, imitate people or be very dissimilar to what they are in real life. Experiencing bullying myself, I know this is extremely common. Going online gives opportunities for many to experiment and compete for attention. This may be ideal for some individuals due to [in their opinion] boredom or hatred of their lifestyle and relationships with others, although there are various reasons why people have rifts within.

To prevent more cyber bullying, we could try:

- stronger website policy on bans & personal safety
- stronger police enforcement
- different kinds of education
- government-run youth forums

I do hope you take these things into consideration and try to create many combatants against cyber bullying.
Thank you