

Building Out Bullying (2019-2022)

Aim

The Building Out Bullying project is investigating the influence of the school environment on the bullying behaviour and mental health of primary and secondary school students in Western Australia. The project explores all features of the school environment (social, built and policy) to generate policy-relevant evidence, system-level guidelines, and school-based interventions to prevent bullying and improve mental health.

Results/Findings

The research findings intend to:

1. provide critical knowledge about school policy, social and built environment determinants of bullying and mental health outcomes in students;
2. inform state system and school-level policies influencing the design of school environments to reduce bullying behaviour and improve mental health;
3. develop unique school audit tools for primary and secondary schools to objectively measure the built environment;
4. develop school environment checklists for principals and school staff to make changes that impact bullying and mental health;
5. inform capacity building and consultation workshops to further develop dissemination and translation strategies; and
6. inform the revision of the Friendly School resources.

Who was involved on the project?

Investigators: Jacinta Francis, Donna Cross, Erin Erceg, Gina Trapp, Natasha Pearce

Collaborators:

Healthway
Department of Education WA
Department of Finance
Department of Health WA
Western Australia Catholic Education Office
Parry and Rosenthal Architects
Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia
WA Primary Principal's Association

Publications

Francis, J., Trapp, G., Pearce, N., Burns, S., Cross, D. 2022. School built environments and bullying behaviour: A conceptual model based on qualitative interviews. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 19(23):15955. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192315955>

Francis, J., Strobel, N., Trapp, G., Pearce, N., Vaz, S., Christian, H., Runions, K., Martin, K., and Cross, D. 2022. How does the school built environment impact students' bullying behaviour? A scoping review. *Social Science and Medicine*. 314:115451. DOI: [10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115451](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115451)

Francis, J., Sachan, P., Waters, Z., Trapp, G., Pearce, N., Lin, A., Burns, S., Cross, D. 2022. Gender-neutral toilets: A qualitative exploration of inclusive school environments for sexuality and gender diverse youth in Western Australia. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 19(16):10089. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191610089>

Gizzarelli, E., Burns, S., **Francis, J.** 2022. School staff responses to student reports of bullying: A scoping review. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpja.680>