

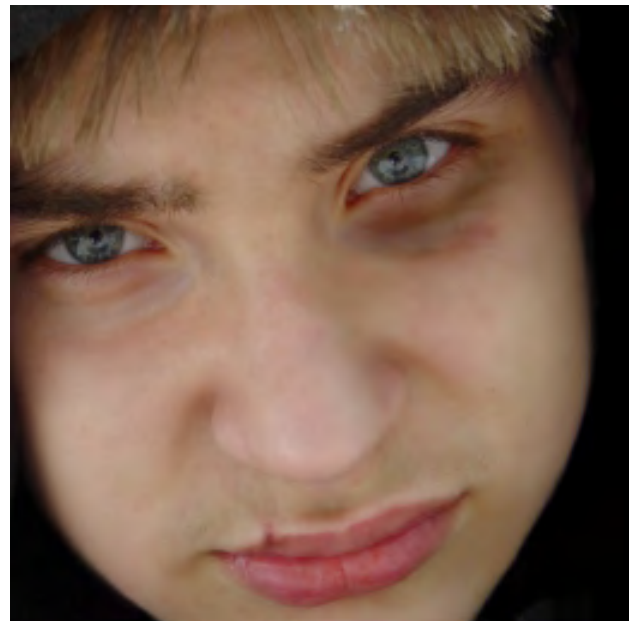
RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Reducing Violence in Groups

Professor Rhonda Craven, Dr Alexander Yeung, and Dr Marjorie Seaton from the Centre for Positive Psychology and Education will combat bullying and violence in high schools by developing and rigorously evaluating a new innovative whole-school anti-bullying intervention for high school students. The project is funded by the Australian Government Attorney General's Department in conjunction with the New South Wales Police Force.

'School bullying and violence are pervasive problems with long-term consequences for all those involved: perpetrators, victims, and bystanders', says Professor Craven. 'The aim of the project is to identify processes that can be used to reduce the tendency of people within a group context to become involved in actions that may lead to violent extremism. The central purpose of this project is to combat bullying and violence in high schools by developing and rigorously evaluating a new innovative whole-school anti-bullying intervention for high school students. Processes that are identified as positively influencing persons within a group context may then be used to build interventions in their school contexts.'

The team will survey students in high schools in the greater western region of Sydney. Teachers will be trained to implement the anti-bullying and anti-violence intervention and a DVD will be produced. This DVD will be used to explain to students in an engaging way what bullying is, what it is not, and how best to respond to bullying and violence. Focus group interviews will then be conducted with key stakeholders (teachers, students, and principals). The survey will be administered at three time points to determine whether the effects of the intervention are long lasting.



The results will directly inform the development of what schools do in practice and effective policy to counter bullying and violence.

Project Title: Reducing Violence in Groups (RVG) - Phase 1: School Anti-Bullying Program
Funding has been set at: \$234,545
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