1. Bullying involves a misuse of power in a relationship, is ongoing and repeated, and it involves behaviours that can cause harm. While bullying can affect people of all ages, recent public attention surrounding bullying has been focussed on school-aged children.
2. Cyberbullying refers to bullying that is carried out through information and communication technologies, an area that is notoriously difficult to control given the constantly changing and evolving technology sectors, including social media platforms.
3. The issue of bullying has become increasingly complex with the prevalence of technology such as mobile phones and increased use of social media have meant that children are not just vulnerable at school but also at home.
4. Cabinet noted that the Premier and Minister for Trade, the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence would host a stakeholder roundtable following Cabinet on 29 January 2018 to discuss the issues of bullying and cyberbullying.
5. Cabinet noted that the Premier and Minister for Trade would establish a dedicated Queensland Anti-bullying Taskforce to provide recommendations to Government about the best ways to address bullying, particularly cyberbullying.
6. Cabinet noted that a new communications campaign would be developed, aimed at young people, parents, and communities, to raise awareness and highlight the existing initiatives and tools targeting bullying and cyberbullying.
7. Cabinet noted that a donation of $60,000 would be made to yourtown (formerly Boystown), to be allocated to KidsHelpline and ParentsLine, to assist them to cope with increased demand for services as a result of these issues being brought into the public spotlight.
8. Cabinet noted that the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations would establish a Ministerial Student Advisory Council to provide advice to the Minister on a range of topics affecting young people, with the first topic of discussion to be bullying and cyberbullying.
9. *Attachments*
* Nil.