



13 May 2011

TAMWORTH STUDENTS WARNED ABOUT CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying can result in criminal charges for perpetrators and potentially tragic consequences for victims, Tamworth Court's Law Week organiser Naomi Spark warned today.

As part of a Law Week event, senior students from Tamworth high schools will attend the courthouse next week to learn about the dangers of cyber bullying.

"Everyone knows it is a crime to steal from a shop, but many students don't realise threatening or harassing another person online could be also be a criminal offence," said Ms Spark.

"People who make damaging and untrue comments about others online also run the risk of being sued for defamation."

A recent survey showed one in 10 Australian teenagers has experienced cyber bullying.¹

"Cyber bullying can cause victims to feel depressed, disconnected from school and to suffer from low self esteem,' said Ms Spark.

The Tamworth Law Week event will also include court and police station tours, career information sessions and talks about driver safety.

"The students from Years 10, 11 and 12 will be able to inspect a car wreck, which will provide a graphic warning of what could happen if they speed, drink drive or don't wear a seatbelt," said Ms Spark.

Ms Spark said younger students would also have a chance to get involved in Law Week.

"Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to enter a short story competition on 'A Day in the Life of a Legal Professional', while primary school students will be able to take part in a colouring competition," said Ms Spark.

The Law Week event will be held at Tamworth Courthouse on **Thursday, 19 May from 9:30am-12pm**. It will be a collaborative project between the Department of

¹ research by the Child Health Promotion Research Centre at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia (2010)

Attorney General and Justice, the Tamworth City Library, NSW Police and the local Aboriginal Community Justice Group.

National Law Week 2011 runs from May 16 – 22. The theme of Law Week is Law and Justice In Your Community. Other events in NSW during Law Week include open days at courthouses, an open-air expo at Sydney's Martin Place and seminars on family law, domestic violence, mental illness and how the law affects senior citizens.

The incoming Attorney General, Greg Smith said he was looking forward to taking part in Law Week activities.

"Law week promotes the rule of law and what lawyers do to serve the needs of the community," Mr Smith said.

For further information about Law Week and what is happening in your area, visit: www.lawweek.com.au.