

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORTS CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**

Good Shepherd Lutheran College will be supporting this year's Child Protection Week by displaying around 800 cardboard cut-outs of people at the entrance of the College.

The idea behind the visual display is to demonstrate the students' awareness of the theme "Child protection is everyone's business" - with the images depicting the types of people who the students might go to for help.



Child Protection Week runs from the 2 to 7 September and the College plans to spread the message through a range of activities for Prep to Year 12 students on each school day throughout the week.

According to Good Shepherd Counsellor, Beryl Wetwood, the aim of the activities is to both teach and reinforce concepts of feeling safe and who to go to if students feel unsafe and need help.

"Often as adults we believe that children know when behaviour they are exposed to is right or wrong but this is not always the case," says Ms Wetwood.

"In many cases, we need to actually tell children that certain things are not okay and that they need to speak out."

"It is about making children feel safe and reassuring them that there is always someone who is willing to listen and to turn to for help."

The week's activities include various presentations as well as a visit from the local police for the younger students.

For the older students, the focus will be on the importance of safe social networking.

"Since social networking has become so prevalent in the lives of our children - it is important for students to be educated about the risks of being online, and where and whom to go to when they are feeling unsafe," says Ms Wetwood.

"Cyber bullying and online chat rooms are potential dangers which are now a reality these days so it is an issue that needs to be addressed openly."



Aside from the learning and teaching opportunities, Good Shepherd students will also be using the last day of Child Protection Week to help raise much needed funds for the Smith Family which helps to educate disadvantaged children.

Ends.

**For further information on Child Protection Week go to:**

<http://www.childprotectionweek.org.au/component/content/article/31-general/1-welcome>

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