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Road Safety Project example

Secondary School

After identifying mobile phone and pedestrian safety as an area of need, one metropolitan-based secondary school contacted AISNSW Student Wellbeing consultants to discuss the appropriateness of their idea for a funding project after reading the [application guidelines](#) provided on the AIS website.

This secondary school is situated in a densely populated area with high traffic flows on all perimeters. There is significant construction surrounding the school and over, new residential buildings along with a busy 4-lane road and consistent bus route. Adolescent use of mobile phones has increased significantly over the last decade and the currency of road safety in the media reflects the need for advocacy campaigns focusing on safety of self and others. Recent statistics show that pedestrians under the age of 20 are significantly affected by the distractibility of hand-held mobile phone use (Transport for NSW, 2018). The school identified that this issue was ongoing and would be expanded to the senior school. This addressed the sustainability criteria when applying for funding.

The project, *Adolescent Pedestrian Use of Mobile Phones – Consequences of Distracting Behaviours* was facilitated by the Year 7 Advisor, Head of PDHPE and the Director of Innovation and Technology. In conjunction with teacher leadership, work was led by the Year 7 Student Representative Council (SRC) with student voice from the entire Year 7 cohort included.

Staff attended a half-day professional learning workshop with the AIS Student Wellbeing consultant. Project funding allowed for teacher release time (as the consultant support comes as part of AISNSW funding). This session provided guidance as to what the project should consider; the links to the new PDHPE K-10 syllabus and [Transport for NSW, Centre for Road Safety](#).

Staff were also encouraged to take advantage of the no-cost online learning modules AISNSW provides for teacher professional learning. This allowed staff to immerse themselves in accurate information as well as statistics that would enable them to guide and direct the students throughout the project.

A Year 7 online student survey allowed insight into student use of phones to and from school. Results guided the SRC to understand the genuine safety concerns which place students and other road users at most risk.

Assets created as part of the year-long project:

- Video I-Movie played at the Middle School Assembly launch and accessible on the school intranet
- Posters designed, laminated and placed throughout the school campus
- Laptop pop-ups on all student laptops each afternoon
- Digital signage posters to be shown on the school corridor digital monitors each afternoon as students preparing to leave the school grounds
- Updated Year 7 PDHPE units of work related to the new syllabus using a project-based learning approach

The school developed a close connection with their local Council to work in partnership for safer roads in and around the school. An invitation was offered to Council for a representative to give a presentation to Year 7 about Road Safety. It was important for the students to understand that this project they are leading is part of an already-established area of concern around road safety education for all ages within the local community.

An article was written and submitted to local newspapers to further raise awareness of the project and the important message it contained. This was highlighted in the School's newsletter to parents.

The project leader was invited to co-present a workshop with AISNSW Student Wellbeing Consultant at the AIS Student Wellbeing Conference. Subsequently, connections were made with another local school who expressed interest in continuing the conversation to support student safety and wellbeing.

To conclude the year-long funding project, the school was required to submit a report to AISNSW and include relevant documentation (new units of work, surveys, pop-up screen and poster examples as well as photographs). In addition, the school made a short presentation at the Student Wellbeing/PDHPE Project Symposium at AISNSW in Sydney. This event was attended by all project leaders as well as representatives from Transport for NSW, Centre for Road Safety Education.

