

Secondary entry #10: Northlakes High School



NORTH TALK



You must be careful of your personal information online.

Predators online prey on powerless

By HAYLEY ANDERSON and KARI BULLMAN

ONLINE predators are everywhere around us. They decrease safety on the internet and can cause harm to teenagers. Online predators target mostly young people and often ask for inappropriate or explicit photos and videos. Online predators can appear as everyday people but they are very dangerous. They can even take on a fake persona, usually pretending to be young to entice teenagers to talk to them.

Senior Constable Darren Fleming, a youth liaison officer, said "On average there are 5000 online safety incidents per year, and around 2000 so far in 2015." At various high schools in the Hunter and the Central Coast region, there is at least one case of "sexting" per week.

Recent studies state that the age groups affected are as young as 8- to 9-years-old. This is a big issue in our technological society, and can really affect the life of the victim. It is a huge concern for parents who aim to keep students safe.

The social media site Facebook, can be a feeding ground for online predators and is the source of most of these cases. It is recommended that the victim seeks parental advice as soon as issues arise.

Student support officer, Amanda Morgan, advises "If you don't like what you're hearing, turn it off. Give your phone [or device] to your parents for the night, so they can help you deal with it."

Many suffer in silence

By OLIVIA CLINK and EMILY SETKA

AUSTRALIA has a domestic violence problem. It is largely a hidden epidemic. Behind closed doors and through covered windows it is likely that someone may be suffering. But you won't know, they aren't going to tell you.

Two in five women and one in three men suffer at the hands of someone close to them on a daily basis and most of those people will keep the situation quiet. Shame, fear and other reasons prevent them from coming forward or escaping their situation.

The statistics in Australia are alarmingly high. As this article is read, 42 women will become a victim of domestic violence. That's in just one minute. That equates to over 200 women becoming a victim of domestic violence in an hour. Last year just under 1 million children were adversely affected and 81 women were killed by domestic violence. Only 12 per cent of the people who have committed acts of domestic violence have been given the correct punishments.

It is believed that sufferers of domestic violence are unwilling to bring their abusers to justice as they don't want to sit through the torture of listening to their own stories over and over again. The survivors have to relive the atrocities



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ies that have happened to them with no obvious benefits. However, a recent law has been passed for those brave enough to tell their truth about domestic violence. Video statements are now able to be used instead of written statements which is enabling sufferers to come forward with minimal pain or fear of retribution.

The problem is not just physical

violence, it may also be sexual, financial, emotional or even social abuse. The worst part of this problem is that it affects everyone involved, not just the victim. Children of families with a history of domestic violence are negatively affected in many ways. An anonymous source detailed the fear of their childhood, "I hated when they started arguing. I would get scared,

especially when they started throwing things at each other. I just wanted the yelling to stop."

Rosie Batty was involved in the most publicised case of domestic violence which resulted in the death of her son. As a result of what she has endured she is now leading a national campaign to put a stop to this atrocity that is plaguing our country.



Warn children of the potential dangers from strangers so they are better educated.

We must keep our children safe

By KEEWEN LEE and CONOR SMITH

THERE is a scary trend taking hold in the local area. It seems that children of school age are no longer safe in the Central Coast and Hunter regions. Reported cases of attempted abductions of young people are becoming more and more common.

Children can be walking to school or just in their

street when they are approached by strangers attempting to take them. Already, there have been several reported cases this year of attempted abductions or kidnapping cases of young people from all over the region.

Police are being overwhelmed with cases of missing children and with each new case they are appealing for parents to discuss the

'Safe Places, Safe People' message with their children.

One of the most publicised cases is the disappearance of William Tyrrell who went missing in September last year. The police still have not found William. They have investigated on many different occasions but with no conclusion as to where he may be. This situation is not confined to local areas or even the nation.



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