

Students shine a light on the darkness of cyberbullying

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Cumberland Business Chamber general manager Narell Stoker with Bossley Park High School students and coordinator Mirjana Elvy.

THREE Bossley Park High year 11 students want to rid their school of cyberbullying and believe the best way to do it is to make their concerns heard.

This week Jeremy Carnovale, Emily Sells and Navishkar Ram presented a slide show to the school on facts, prevention and outcomes of cyberbullying, and they will have their work showcased at St John's Park Bowling Club today.

Through a speech and slide show, the trio explained the need for people to think twice before they post nasty comments online and spoke about a Sydney student who committed suicide after an online incident of bullying.

The presentation, part of the students' involvement in the Max Potential program - a mentoring program for local youth - also coincides with an overall school focus on cyberbullying.

"The best way to raise awareness is continually bringing it up," Navishkar said.

"It's so prevalent in society, particularly among young people and the more it's talked about the more people become aware of when it happens."

Max Potential mentor Narelle Stoker, general manager of the Cumberland Business Chamber, said the students' presentation had potential to be adapted throughout the state.

"If this makes a small change with the school then it will make a huge impact on the Department of Education," she said.

For the past 22 weeks, Jeremy, Emily and Navishkar have met with mentors like Ms Stoker as part of the Max Potential program where they have undergone personal leadership development.

Max Potential enables community leaders to form a partnership with local students whereby they can pass on their experience and leadership skills.

Ms Stoker said the participants were given advice that would put them in good stead for their 2012 HSC examinations and career decisions.

"These kids are leaders anyway so they have not made huge steps, but rather subtle steps which will take them far," she said.

"It's not huge steps but small changes that make big differences."* The 2011 Max Potential student showcase is on today at St Johns Park Bowling Club from 10am to 5pm.

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