



Media Release

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Australian workforce infested with bullies

Survey reveals most people have been bullied at work

Workplace just like High School

77% bullies have more successful careers

A high majority of Australians (74 per cent) have been bullied in the workplace, with 77 per cent saying bullies were more likely to get ahead at work, according to a CareerOne.com.au survey.

Of those who had been bullied, 65 per cent said they were intimidated, threatened and verbally abused by either a colleague or manager.

Conducted by CoreData in partnership with CareerOne.com.au, the national survey of 1,518 respondents also found:

- 72 per cent of respondents likened their workplace to high school - 53 per cent said their workplace had a "cool group" and 54 per cent a "boys club".
- 71 per cent of respondents who had been bullied said they dreaded going to work.
- 70 per cent said bullying behaviour negatively impacted on their work output and motivation and 46 per cent claimed being a victim of bullying had made them physically ill.
- Less than 1 per cent reported that they took legal action or confronted the bully yet 22 per cent claimed to have quit a job because of a bully.
- 57 per cent reported that they currently work with someone they considered to be a bully and 67 per cent currently work with someone they would fire given the opportunity.
- Women were more likely to be bullied than men - 79 per cent versus 69 per cent.
- 54 per cent of respondents said a person's personality is what made them susceptible to being bullied.
- Of those who had been bullied, 82 per cent said the culprit was their boss/manager, 50 per cent a co worker and 10 per cent a subordinate.

"Bullying is about work culture and it is the responsibility of employers to stamp it out by creating a zero tolerance to such behaviour," CareerOne.com.au editor, Kate Southam said.

"Workplaces are not playgrounds – bullies often get rewarded by management who are in favour of aggression and people who dominate rather than skill and talent."

"We hear about overt bullying but that is the tip of the iceberg. An employee who rolls their eyes when a colleague speaks or criticises a colleague in front of others to stop them having a voice is not in the interests a thriving and profitable company in the long run."

"The important thing is how people choose to deal with the situation if they find themselves being treated unfairly or bullied. The fact that less than 1 per cent took legal action or

confronted their tormentor indicates a great many people are getting away with bullying colleagues," Kate said.

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