# Appendix 2: Review protocol

Reviews were conducted according to PRISMA guidelines, and included: searches of electronic databases searching reference list. There were no limits placed on study design and sample size.

**Data sources:** Six electronic databases (A+ Education, EMBASE, ERIC, PubMed, PsycINFO, and Scopus), Theses at National Library of Australia and official websiteswere searched with the assistance of librarians.

**Search terms:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Database** | **Search group** | **Search terms** |
| **A+ Education** | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia | bullying OR cyberbullying AND Australia AND (child\* or adolescen\* or teen\* or youth or young people or school student\* or kid\*)N=187 |
| **EMBASE** | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia | '(bullying\*':ab,ti OR 'cyberbullying\*)':ab,ti AND ('(child\*':ab,ti OR 'adolescen\*':ab,ti OR 'teen\*':ab,ti OR 'youth':ab,ti OR 'young people':ab,ti OR 'school student\*':ab,ti OR 'kid\*)':ab,ti) AND 'australia':ab,tiN=42  |
| **ERIC** | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia  | TI ( bullying\* or cyberbullying\* ) AND AB ( child\* or adolescen\* or teen\* or youth or young\* or school student\* or kid\* ) AND AB australiaN=33 |
| **PUBMED** | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia | *(bullying\* or cyberbullying\*) AND (child\* or adolescen\* or teen\* or youth or young people or school student\* or kid\*) AND Australia**N=185* |
| **PsycINFO** | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia | *(bullying\* or cyberbullying\*) AND (child\* or adolescen\* or teen\* or youth or young people or school student\* or kid\*) AND Australia* N=381 |
| **Scopus** | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia | *TITLE-ABS KEY ( ( bullying\*  OR  cyberbullying\* )  AND  ( child\*  OR  adolescen\*  OR  teen\*  OR  young\*  OR  youth  OR  student\*  OR  kid\* )  AND  australia )  AND  ( LIMIT-TO ( AFFILCOUNTRY ,  "Australia" ) )  AND  ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE ,  "ar" ) )  AND  ( LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA ,  "MEDI" )  OR  LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA ,  "SOCI" )  OR  LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA ,  "PSYC" )  OR  LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA ,  "NURS" ) )  AND  ( LIMIT-TO ( EXACTKEYWORD ,  "Australia" ) )* *N=70* |
| Theses at National Library of Australia<http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/theses> | Prevalence of bullying among children and adolescents in Australia | title:(bullying OR cyber OR bullying) key words:(child OR adolescen OR teen OR youth OR young OR people OR school OR student OR kid) key words:(Australia)**Search limited to:**Australian Content: Australian[Format: Thesis](http://trove.nla.gov.au/result?q=title%3A%28bullying+OR+cyber+OR+bullying%29+%28child+OR+adolescen+OR+teen+OR+youth+OR+young+OR+people+OR+school+OR+student+OR+kid%29+%28Australia%29+&l-australian=y&openFacets=true) N=6 |

***Additional searching:***

* Reference list review (of any article pulled for possible inclusion)
* Official websites were searched to identify country - level data for level and prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying among Australian children and adolescents.
* Contact with study authors
* Any article deemed suitable by reviewer is included for closer examination.

***Inclusion criteria:***

Studies were included if they were published in a peer-reviewed journal and reported prevalence data (proportion of the population experiencing traditional and/or cyber bullying in childhood or adolescence in Australia.

**1. *Question of interest*:** What is the prevalence of bullying in children and adolescents in Australia?

*Population*: It includes children (birth -12 years) and adolescents (13-<=18 years)

*Exposure*: Definition of bullying and cyber bullying follow definition of traditional bullying and cyber bullying and included bullying victimization (being bullied), perpetration (bullying others), both the victimization and the perpetration (victim-perpetrator), and all direct and indirect forms of bullying, including cyberbullying.

*Exposure Measurement*: Data directly collected from subjects: self-reported questionnaire (paper based or online), face to face interview and mixed methods.

*Age range for exposure*: 0-18 years. Classification: under 15 includes childhood 0-12 and early adolescence 13-15 and above 15 includes late adolescence 15-18.

*Comparison*: Not applicable.

*Outcome*: Prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying expressed as per cent or numbers. When only reported as a percentage, it has been converted into a number.

**2. *Study designs of interest*:** Prospective and retrospective cohort, cross-sectional and case-control studies included.

No limits on year of publication or language.

***Exclusion criteria:***

Articles initially excluded if they are duplicates or if the title clearly demonstrates that the exposure and outcome of interest are not the focus of the article. Articles are then excluded based on the following:

* Studies not focusing on prevalence of bullying
* Studies focusing on prevalence of bystanders/witness experience
* Studies focusing on siblings bullying and bullying among clinical populations including children with mental health disorders/Autism disorders
* Studies focusing on specific type of bullying such as physical, verbal and social
* Studies using teacher or parent reports, or where child self-report has to match teacher or parent reports
* Studies using opt in recruitment strategy
* Studies focusing on prevalence of bullying after anti-bullying intervention
* Letters/comments/editorials/news
* Studies not conducted in Australia
* The study is a review article.
* Where there were multiple papers that reported on the same study population the study that reported more detailed prevalence information was included.

***Data extraction sheet***

The data extraction sheet was first pilot tested on 10 studies and then revised accordingly to include:

***Identification of study:***

1. Record the first authors’ last name, initials
2. Record the journal name
3. Record the year of publication
4. Record the volume and page numbers

***Characteristics of study:***

1. Study design
2. Quality score
3. Data collection date
4. Sample size
5. Number of cases
6. Sex
7. Age range (under 15 includes childhood 0-12 and early adolescence 13-15; above 15 includes late adolescence 15-18)
8. Classification by age
9. Study
10. Representing sample
11. Location
12. Reported frequency of bullying
13. Assessment of exposure
14. Data source
15. Type of involvement in bullying
16. Prevalence of bullying

***Other data:***

1. Number of data points from each study