

Beating bullies with community theatre

@ Mater Maria College

IT'S community theatre with a serious message.

Mater Maria Catholic College took its anti-bullying play, *The Power of Some*, to Maria Regina Primary School in Avalon last week.

The play, which is put on by year 11 drama students, raises the issues of bullying, drama teacher Michael Rulli said.

"It's short and sharp and targets the effects of bullying and how to deal with issues. The emphasis is to take the power away from the bully, so that the victim feels supported."

The play combines music, comedy and

dance to deal with four types of bullying, Mr Rulli said.

"The play tackles cyber bullying, physical bullying, social and verbal bullying. Students learn valuable lessons."

"The message is that it is not dobbing, it is asking for help. The play also focuses on the bully's followers so they disempower the bully by supporting the victim. That's the where the title of the play comes from," he said.

The play was performed at 14 peninsula schools last week. It has been put on by the Mater Maria College for 10 years. After each performance, the young audience took part in a question and answer session, Mr Rulli said.

Beverley Hudec



The play's signature song is Bully-Free Zone.