

16806 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

37 years as a public school teacher and was heavily involved in Values Education. I know that no education system stands a chance if a child of any age feels unsafe. Safety was and will always be the number one value common to all. I dedicated my professional career to ensuring that my students knew they had a safe environment inside the classroom and beyond the gates. 2 Education Ministers in SA have written to me to express their gratitude that I have developed a highly reflective safety upper arm band to be used when taking students out and about in the community. I developed the armband not only for the safety of the students but for the sanity of the teachers as well. I was that teacher who took her responsibilities seriously. There was no 'one way' to tag students once they left the school yard. I want to see a nation wide consistency with regard to this. I have worked tirelessly to assist in this area. Fear of losing a student and the fear of losing the teacher by a student exists. I know that as a department we owe it to our clients to keep them safe. Once the student knows they have some strategy to assist them with their fears then learning can take place. The armband is called Boomaband and can be viewed at www.boomaband.net.

Yours sincerely, Thea Ikonomopoulos , Founder at Boomaband.