

Unqualified Teachers In Our Classrooms

Have you ever wondered how many teachers really know the subject they are teaching?

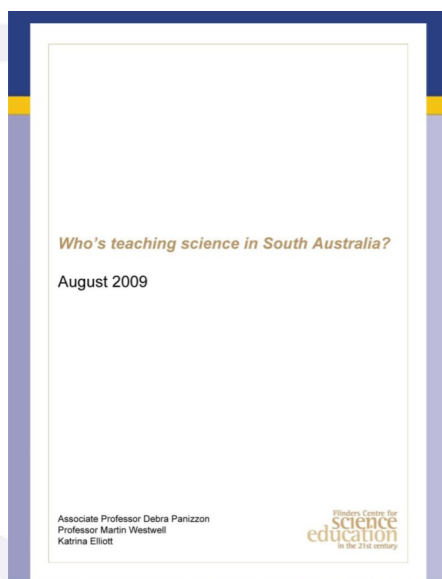
Research conducted by Flinders University has revealed up to 40% of science teachers in South Australia's high schools are not qualified in their subjects.

A survey of more than 600 teachers found:

- 42% of Year 11 and 12 physics teachers don't have a university qualification in that field.
- The rate was 28% among chemistry teachers and 25% among biology teachers.
- 16% of Year 8-10 general science teachers were unqualified.

The startling results have renewed calls for teacher subject-specific qualifications to be mandatory for teacher registration.

[More results from the study](#)



Money For Counsellors Is Needed

A few weeks ago we reported that SA schools were in desperate need for counsellors.

Now, primary school principals are calling for a funding model change to allow all primary schools to receive money for employing a counsellor.

Currently, primary schools in socio-economic status categories one to five – one being the most disadvantaged – receive funding for school counsellors. But schools in the more advantaged categories six and seven do not.

There are 153 category six and seven public primary schools in SA, out of a total of 419.

[More](#)

Prepaid Visa For Teens

Teenagers on MySpace are being offered a reloadable prepaid Visa card to securely spend their money online. But as parents look for new ways to teach their children about money, the card could be a double-edged sword.

Family financial expert Justine Davies says the idea had merit and could potentially help parents educate teenagers about credit card responsibility. However, allowing teenagers the freedom to purchase what they want, when they want, could lead to the basis of future financial problems.

The new cards have a maximum balance of \$1000, cost \$5.95 and are available to teenagers aged 13 and older with MySpace accounts.

[You have to give Visa credit](#)

National Literacy and Numeracy Week

National Literacy and Numeracy Week runs from 31 August to 6 September and aims to raise community awareness of the importance of developing effective literacy and numeracy skills.

The theme for 2009 is *Getting the Basics Right*. Schools across Australia will participate in a range of activities.

[Details](#)



Violence In Schools

We have heard the recent stories of violence occurring in schools, but now violence from the outside community is spilling into school grounds as well.

Incidents this year where 'outsiders' have entered school grounds, forcing lockdowns, has prompted calls to increase security by installing extra security cameras or other forms of surveillance.

[Big Brother](#)

New Law For Young Drivers

Starting Monday 31st August, learner and P1 license holders will be banned from any use of a mobile phone while driving – including the use of hands-free technology.

Drivers caught breaking the new law will face a fine of \$218 and three demerit points.

BER Funding

The third and final round of primary school funding was announced this week.

A total of 2746 Australian primary schools will receive \$4.6 billion for major infrastructure projects – this includes 233 SA schools who will receive almost \$357 million for 308 projects.

It was also revealed this week that the estimated total of \$14.7 billion in BER funding has blown out to \$16.2 billion. Why? - because the Government relied on old school data when estimating calculations and due to the design of the program some schools were able to double-dip.

The government also released revised guidelines for BER projects. Revisions include state governments having to demonstrate value for money in their contracts with builders and purchasing of materials. The revisions followed concerns about hasty decisions delivering the wrong buildings at inflated costs.

[All the details](#)

Youth Allowance Update

Following on from last week, the Federal Government has announced that the controversial youth allowance changes will now be delayed six months.

This means current gap year students who need to move to attend university, will be entitled to claim independent status for Youth Allowance under the existing system until June 30, 2010.

[Details](#)