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## **MORE PERMANENT EDUCATION JOBS**

Almost 450 long-serving temporary employees in the State's education system have been offered permanent positions.

Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith said today that 446 School Services Officers (SSOs) and Early Childhood Workers (ECWs) would be made permanent at State schools and preschools.

Dr Lomax-Smith says the move is part of the State Government's commitment to building an expert workforce in South Australia by attracting and maintaining highly skilled professionals.

"We recognise the enormous value our SSOs and ECWs offer to schools and preschools and this initiative benefits these employees and their school or preschool communities," she says.

"Providing permanent roles to these long-serving employees recognises their skills and their valuable contribution to their local community.

"It also provides continuity for school and preschool communities. They have welcomed the move to retain employees who have played a vital role in helping to educate children and students.

"We will continue our work to find more opportunities for permanency."

Dr Lomax-Smith says the appointments include 12 Aboriginal SSOs and ECWs, which is part of the State Government's commitment to the recruitment of Indigenous people to the public sector.

More than 2,800 South Australians working in schools and preschools have won permanent jobs under the Rann Government.

Early Childhood Development Minister and Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Jay Weatherill says the announcement recognises the important role of early childhood workers.

"Permanency makes jobs in our schools a more secure career choice and brings greater stability to school communities," he says.

"The State Government also places strong emphasis on providing job opportunities for Aboriginal people, which is supported by this initiative."