

### Police Push For P-Plate Drivers

Following last week's story on road safety education in schools, a controversial national police plan to offer probationary drivers 'time off' for good behaviour has won Federal Government support.

The proposal will see P-plate drivers given credit on the amount of time they have to spend on their P's if they complete advanced or defensive driving courses after they receive their license.

The plan is to be launched this week, and police are asking all parties at the federal election to adopt the idea as part of their platforms.

Under the scheme, the Federal Government would seek national consensus from state and territory governments for uniform laws for learner and provisional drivers.

However concerns have been raised that 'short cuts' and advanced courses for young drivers could lead them to believe they have skills beyond their abilities.

[Details](#)

### Australian Family Packs - Out Now

Family Packs are complimentary sample packs of varying household products delivered together with a full colour magazine (Australian Family), to families with young children via preschools, early childhood centres and primary schools across Australia.

The latest edition is available now.

[Details](#)



### Senior English Curriculum

The draft senior national curriculum is now out for public consultation and teachers, students, parents and experts are encouraged to provide feedback on the content and guidelines.

The English course for Year 11 & 12 students will come with suggested text lists, covering a blend of classics and modern literature, aimed to engage and challenge students.

There are different lists for the English and literature courses, and genres include:

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Plays
- Poetry
- Film

Last week, 'The Advertiser' heard from five English educators and experts who outlined their thoughts on a sample of texts to be used.

They were asked if the list included the best texts for today's students to be studying, and if there was anything missing.

Responses were mixed. While the majority believed there was quite a variety, others stated they would like to see titles that are more accessible and contemporary.

[Full Story](#)

### Teachers Taking On Parent Role

A survey by *EducationNow* revealed that principals believe teachers are increasingly being expected to teach topics that should be the responsibility of parents - from dog, fire and road safety, to budgeting and gambling.

They say many parents expect teachers to give their children constant, individual attention, and up to 10 students in every classroom have their own 'individualised learning programs'.

SA Primary Principals Association president Steve Portlock said parents' expectations of schools were increasing.

President of the Australian Primary Principals Association, Leonie Trimper, said "we'd be optimistic that the new Australian curriculum will support us in our endeavour about what teachers should be spending their time on."

State Education Minister Jay Weatherill said "principals have indeed raised with me that issues generated in the home are increasingly spilling into the classroom" and says teachers should not be expected to bear the burden alone.

[More](#)

### 'Youth Friendly Doctor' School Visits

Adolescents can learn more about their health and wellbeing at school through the Youth Friendly Doctor program.

A network of accredited 'youth friendly' doctors are available to visit students in years 9 & 10, on request, as part of the programs 'in school visits'. Students can find out about topics such as the services a GP provides and accessing Medicare.

[More](#)

### Impact of Technology In Schools

Continuous and rapid advancements in technology are dramatically impacting and changing the landscape of schools.

Educators say teachers are increasingly calling on students to help them grasp new technologies.

This is leading to a positive role reversal in classrooms where students are demonstrating the benefits of new technology in the classroom using:

- Computers
- Smart phones
- iPads
- iPods
- Interactive web portals and whiteboards

University of Southern Queensland ICT and education specialist Associate Professor Peter Albion raised the idea that learning was no longer confined to a classroom.

He said students and teachers were '24/7 learners' who gain knowledge and skills through interacting with one another, taking risks and pushing their potential.

However, concerns have been raised about the need for support, training and development to allow schools and teachers to engage with this technology to its full potential.

[Full Story](#)