

# Election Aftermath

By David Knuckey

**Well, the election is over and already we hear that we will have our collective belts tightened in the upcoming State Budget; to pay for all those election promises. So, to recap, what were we guaranteed by the Rann Government during the campaign?**

## **Special Needs Education**

A big talking point during the campaign and part of SAASSO's election submission, special needs education is seriously lacking in appropriate resourcing at present. The Rann Government promised six new special units to be built within existing schools, two of which will focus on autism. Dignity for Disability estimates the six units will provide placement for perhaps 40 students.

## **Science & Maths Teachers**

Perhaps the biggest issue limiting the quality of education in SA, is the growing problem of our public school teachers simply not being qualified in the subjects they are teaching. Recent studies reveal that up to 40% of our teachers are teaching classes they are not proficient in.

To combat this, the Rann Government pledged an extra 155 specialist math and science teachers for our secondary schools – actually 100 of these will be current teachers who will receive some re-training and the remainder being top graduates fast-tracked into teaching.

## **Road Safety**

With our state's road toll creeping back up in recent years, the Premier pledged to expand the existing Road Awareness & Accident Program to run in 90% of schools.

## **School Behaviour Crackdown**

In some sweeping moves, the Rann Government promised to:

- employ more truancy officers to send children back to school
- give greater powers to principals to suspend children
- build six good-behaviour centres to send disruptive children to.

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## **Secondary School Expansion**

Discarded education minister, Jane Lomax-Smith stated late in the campaign that the government had listened to school communities and so were going to expand four high schools; Adelaide, Marryatville, Glenunga & Brighton. This plan will create 800 new places across the four schools.

## **Children's Centres**

Ten one-stop-shop Children's Centres will be built offering, preschool, childcare, health and parenting services at primary school sites across the state from Port Pirie to Victor Harbor. ■