



Class Action For Anger

SAASSO has called for greater say by parents and Governing Councils in determining school behaviour policies.

The education department is reviewing its guidelines around suspending and excluding students.

The Secondary Principals Association has called for greater parent involvement in student behaviour management particularly for repeat offenders. This is in concert with calls to give principals "tougher disciplinary responses".

SAASSO supports a more cooperative relationship between schools and parents, to ensure that both are working to complement each other.

SAASSO stated that "no two schools were the same and their unique problems could only be solved when the local community was empowered to deal with them"

Principals also want anger management and rehabilitation courses to form part of school discipline processes.

SAASSO Director David Knuckey stated that "schools confront challenges unimaginable 10 years ago" and that "schools should be free to try new techniques to deal with these challenges".

Local challenges - local solutions?



Childcare Panic

More than half of SA's licensed childcare centres are still to meet the Federal Government's tough new standards.

The new standards include:

- Increased staff to child ratios
- Higher qualification standards for staff

Childcare SA president Barbara Langford said, "For most childcare centres, it's a fairly massive change and that's why everyone is really panicking".

Operators are fearful they will have to raise fees by as much as \$20 per child, per day to meet the demands of the new National Quality Agenda.

DECS says that most centres are not yet meeting the standards and that some existing centres currently graded as "high standard" would fail under the new benchmarks.

Higher standards = higher costs

Budget Blues

The much-feared state budget was handed down this week, with savage slashes in public service jobs - education being one of the hardest hit.

Despite 'rumours' of forced closures, small schools were spared ... perhaps because under the Education Act, the government can't force schools to close; this can only be decided by the Governing Council and the local parents.

There was little good news in the budget for our struggling public schools. 97 new buses, fitted with seatbelts was the only major announcement.

Some pain, little gain

Special Needs Student Told To 'Move On'

The Advertiser reported that parents of one Adelaide's special needs child are considering legal action after being told they have to change schools.

The 7-year old boy who has developmental dyspraxia, has thrived at Braeview Junior Primary since enrolling in 2008.

DECS has written to his mother, however, stating that there is no place for him in the school's special needs unit next year and he has to transfer to another school.

Dignity for Disability MLC Kelly Vincent said "the problem was all too common". Ms. Vincent added, "I think Wendy and her son are victims of an Education Department that is under-resourced".

In both our State Election and Federal Election Submissions, SAASSO called for an urgent and immediate review of special needs unit funding, precisely to end the disgraceful situations that occur when there simply aren't enough spaces in units and schools ... which has even resulted in children having to sit at home, because there is simply nowhere for them to go.

[No dignity here](#)

CE's Early Dismissal

The Chief Executive of the education department has been dismissed by the Rann Government, with one year to go in his five-year contract.

Deputy CE Gino Degennaro will take over the role as caretaker, as of Monday, until a replacement is found.

[And the buck stops ... where?](#)

Schoolyard Health Alarm

Parents and the Governing Council at Tintinara Area School have expressed disillusionment and frustration at the government's handling of potentially hazardous chemical exposure at their school.

Contaminated soil, containing arsenic - possibly asbestos - lay exposed for weeks.

The contaminated area was exposed when a building was demolished to make way for a new structure as part of the BER.

Parents told The Advertiser that "the soil was left uncovered, leaving it susceptible to wind and only partly fenced off from the rest of the school, with many openings for children to access the dirt".

One parent said, "If this was a private building site, company or organisation, there would be hell to pay over the risk to school children...."

[Full story](#)

Sex Education At Five?

A guide produced by the State Government suggesting that children under 5 should be taught about sex has raised the ire of parents.

The Health SA guide claims children have "sexual feelings from birth" and recommends parents teach toddlers that "masturbation feels enjoyable".

Parenting, medical and psychological experts have responded with criticism, saying the guide is "inappropriate, confusing and robbing very children of their innocence".

[Full story](#)

This is the last Education Update for term 3. It will return in October at the start of term 4