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MYSTERY: Police outside the Kapunda home where Chantelle Rowe, left, and her parents were found dead yesterday.

Main picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

# Parents want CCTV cameras in playgrounds CCTV cameras in playgrounds

SCHOOL councils want surveillance cameras in schools to help fight bullying and crime

Parents are lobbying to install closed-circuit television cameras on school grounds, as concern mounts about bullying and harassment between students.

They believe the CCTV cameras, which would not



cover classrooms or changerooms, do not breach privacy regulations; but the Education Department and teachers say there are better ways to manage student behaviour.

The department has installed cameras in eight schools in an effort to reduce theft and vandalism.

However, it believes behaviour management programs and anti-bullying policies are the best solution to curb bullying.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said several school councils were asking about installing CCTV cameras.

"The primary reason parents consider installing cameras is to address bullying or harassment, student behaviour issues and, perhaps more specific, theft and property

damage," Mr Knuckey said. The Education Department said it had funded CCTV cameras in seven secondary schools and one primary school between 2002-2006.

But it said they were used strictly in schools that were considered "at high risk of theft and vandalism".

Mr Knuckey said councils, which were predominantly

made up of parents, were more fearful of bullying behaviour than of the potential backlash from having CCTV installed on school grounds.

The association says cameras should be placed in areas where bullying or crime is likely, such as near toilet blocks or computer rooms.

**Continued Page 8** 

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### Panel leads indigenous poll talks

THE Federal Opposition has called on Prime Minister Julia Gillard rather than an expert panel to take the lead in recognising indigenous Australians in the constitution.

Ms Gillard announced yesterday that an expert panel would be set up to consult on the best possible option for a constitutional amendment to be put to a referendum.

The panel would re-

The panel would report to the Government by the end of 2011. The timing of the referendum has yet to be determined.

"The first peoples of our nation have a unique and special place in our nation," Ms Gillard said. Deputy Liberal leader

Deputy Liberal leader Julie Bishop reaffirmed that it had been coalition policy to recognise Aborigines in the constitution's preamble. But she said the Prime Minister should not hand over responsibility for building consensus.

# Spy school as parents demand CCTV cameras in playgrounds

#### From Page 1

"Parents are conscious of privacy concerns - nobody wants to create a Big Brother environment in public schools," he said.

"However, with the prevalence of bullying and the devastating effects it can have on children, parents are going to give serious consideration to any idea that may help the school deal with these behaviour-related problems."

South Australian Secondary Principals Association president Jim Davies said schools were considered a public space and school communities were more accepting of security measures than in past generations.

"The reality is, CCTV is more commonplace all over the community now," he said. "We're all subject to it – some sort of scrutiny in public life."

Mr Davies said schools that installed CCTV usually did so to prevent bad behaviour,

## Education

#### Liftout starts Page 29

rather than to spy on children. He said most cameras were on the perimeter of school grounds and near "vulnerable" areas such as computer and technology hubs, as a safeguard against intruders.

An Education Department spokeswoman said cameras were one in a range of measures that could help prevent theft and vandalism.

"However, CCTV works best in well-lit areas and is not effective where offenders may obscure their faces with clothing," she said. "DECS' major strategies to reduce crime in schools are the installation of intruder alarms and providing targeted mobile patrols to high-risk sites.

"There is no current DECS roll-out of CCTV as a means of addressing or monitoring student behaviour."

The Australian Education Union's SA branch said it did not support a widespread call for security cameras to be installed in all schools, as it could create an "intimidating environment" for students.

Branch president Correna Haythorpe said more longterm solutions to alleviate unacceptable behaviour should be sought.

"Fundamentally we believe in providing a safe, positive learning environment for our children ... but if there are behaviour and violence issues, we need to get to the nittygritty of why these issues are occurring," Ms Haythorpe said.

"One of the things we've called for is more counsellors in schools to help address these issues. Cameras might provide a record of the incident but it won't get to the

crux of why it is occurring."
This year Western Australian teachers called for surveillance cameras to be installed across the state, to protect them from violent outbursts from students and parents.
The WA State School

The WA State School Teachers Union put forward a motion to have at least five video surveillance cameras installed in all schools.

PAGE 18: Editorial

#### **POLL, YOUR SAY**

Should schools have CCTV in their yards?

24-hour news adelaidenow.com.au

### Coles buckles over pork

SUPERMARKET giant Coles has caved into heavy pressure from Australian pig farmers and will buy pork from overseas only if it is produced in sow-stall free conditions

free conditions.

Under Coles' previous policy, it was placing overseas pork farmers at an advantage over Australian producers.

ralian producers.
Australian pork farmers yesterday welcomed Coles' decision to apply its sow-stall free fresh pork policy to include all forms of Coles branded pork products by 2014.

pork products by 2014.

The policy has been extended from fresh pork to include processed ham and bacon products produced in Australia and overseas.

Australian Pork chief executive Andrew Spencer said the amount of imported pork sold under the Coles brand was significant and if it was Australian pork, it would be a significant help.

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