

New super schools face test on scores

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SOUTH Australia's controversial super schools are underperforming - with students testing well below national standards, an analysis of test results shows.

The latest national literacy and numeracy test results show students from super schools are performing below those attending schools in a similar socio-economic community.

A leading parent body, which warned the State Government about the risks to education standards in super schools four years ago, said results were disappointing.

SA Association of State School Organisations has continued to urge the Government to reconsider its decision to close dozens of small schools and funnel students into large hubs. Director David Knuckey said

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the Government should have listened to parent concerns and developed strategies to combat negative impacts of larger schools so the basic skills of today's students were not compromised.

Education Minister Jennifer Rankine did not respond yesterday to specific questions about the performance of the super schools.

"A number of the super schools were built in areas of high disadvantage, which is often linked with lower academic achievement," Ms Rankine said.

"Regardless, it is important that these students receive the best possible education."

SA's LARGEST SCHOOLS

School	Net funding per student	Year 3 Reading	Year 3 Numeracy	Year 5 Reading	Year 5 Numeracy	Year 7 Reading	Year 7 Numeracy	Year 9 Reading	Year 9 Numeracy
PUBLIC									
Norwood Morialta High School	11,689	-	-	-	-	-	-	573	583
Brighton Secondary School	12,861	-	-	-	-	-	-	582	582
Glenunga Int.I High School	12,025	-	-	-	-	-	-	634	662
Christies Beach High School	15,633	-	-	-	-	-	-	527	524
Golden Grove High School	12,609	-	-	-	-	-	-	564	564
Magill School	8,797	429	405	524	525	576	594	-	-
Woodcroft Primary School	8,333	411	379	467	449	527	510	-	-
Playford Primary School	8,701	383	350	481	449	514	507	-	-
Mawson Lakes School	9,350	399	372	513	504	548	545	-	-
Burnside Primary School	8,614	470	434	542	525	590	593	-	-

PRIVATE									
Nazareth Catholic College	12,105	415	376	485	478	543	527	585	588
St Michael's College	12,418	411	378	491	501	532	540	580	588
St Ignatius College	14,816	463	448	543	517	584	585	617	625
St Peter's College	23,995	501	463	530	515	608	626	619	662
Mercedes College	15,082	454	406	535	495	564	561	629	616
Westminster School	20,199	468	440	524	518	579	582	600	620
St Aloysius College	12,700	453	397	515	501	575	547	592	580
Christian Brothers College	14,391	424	422	502	503	543	548	581	579
Tatachilla Lutheran	11,688	395	381	494	490	540	530	575	576
Prince Alfred College	21,701	426	423	528	535	573	583	613	641

School	Year	Year 3 Reading	Year 3 Numeracy	Year 5 Reading	Year 5 Numeracy	Year 7 Reading	Year 7 Numeracy	Year 9 Reading	Year 9 Numeracy
SUPER SCHOOLS									
Blair Athol North B-7	2011	342	350	409	428	471	478	-	-
Blair Athol North B-7	2012	333	319	405	401	504	491	-	-
John Hartley B-7	2011	346	319	406	396	478	479	-	-
John Hartley B-7	2012	320	299	410	402	469	458	-	-
Woodville Gardens B-7	2011	363	327	456	461	485	506	-	-
Woodville Gardens B-7	2012	369	348	465	452	500	504	-	-
Roma Mitchell	2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	520	520
Roma Mitchell	2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	520	520
Mark Oliphant College B-12	2011	343	338	407	418	499	479	509	520
Mark Oliphant College B-12	2012	344	312	448	428	500	482	518	520
National average	2011	416	398	488	488	540	545	580	583
National average	2012	420	396	494	489	542	538	575	584

Australian Education Union SA branch president Correna Haythorpe said feedback on the schools had been fairly positive but it was not a one-size-fits-all model.

SA Primary Principals Association president Steve Portlock said principals were very supportive of the super-school project because each replaced smaller schools

where the facilities had become run down.

"These schools were created with students who come from schools that were in tough areas with many complexities so the fact you put them together adds to the complexity," he said.

"These results don't show the feeling in the schools of high optimism and pride and

I don't think it's an indication of the learning programs being offered."

Opposition education spokesman David Pisoni said the Liberal Party had raised its concerns about super schools ever since the project was first announced.

He added: "There is plenty of research (showing) large schools in low socio-econ-

omic areas increase distance between families and schools.

"The more family involvement in a child's education, the better the outcomes."

The Advertiser also analysed the results of 20 of the state's largest schools.

It found private schools with a high number of enrolments were outperforming large public schools.

Women need to sleep more

IF the woman in your life woke up grumpy this morning, don't be too hard on her.

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As well as a higher risk of heart disease, depression and psychological problems, sleep-deprived women have extra clotting factors in their blood, which can lead to a stroke.

The state of a man's health does not appear to be closely linked to how much they sleep.

- Daily Mail

Work to start on KI terminal

WORK on a new \$4 million ferry passenger terminal at Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island begins tomorrow, in what Tourism Australia says is a major boost for the state.

Ferry operator Sea-Link will contribute \$2.5 million to the cost and the State Government \$1.5 million.

The terminal will feature a cafe, gift shop, visitor information services, restrooms and luggage storage and is hoped to be completed by the end of the year.

Tourism Australia managing director Andrew McEvoy said the project was important to growing international tourism for the state.

"Kangaroo Island ... features heavily in our global marketing campaigns and this type of infrastructure is vital if we are to deliver on the promise," he said.

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