

# Fines for truancy 'useless'

PROSECUTING the parents of serial truants and absentee students would be a waste of time and money because families "need help, not threats", parent groups say.

The Education Department is considering punitive measures against parents in response to data showing one in three school absences across the state go unexplained, rising to almost 60 per cent in the Elizabeth area.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said targeting parents would be "treating the symptom, not the problem".

He said stronger efforts to stamp out bullying would be more effective at lifting attendance rates than targeting victims' parents.

Education Minister Susan Close said prosecutions should be "a last resort only".

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