



This week's stories from the media

- Students suffering anxiety depression seek Year 12 exam help
- All-girl schools survey
- Parents told to talk to students about suicide
- Kids should be taught about media and advertising
- Parents to pay for transport
- Don't rush Children's Commissioner

All-Girl Schools Survey

Should South Australia offer more all-girl schools?

SA lags behind other states & much of the world in its attitude toward all-girl public schools - with just two single sex schools.

Evidence shows girls can suffer significant disadvantage in coed schools; impacting on academic achievement, STEM, sport participation, self-esteem, confidence, gender-roles & body image.

Given the challenges facing our state's young women & with a new high school coming for Adelaide, SAASSO is asking you if it's time for the Weatherill Government to update its attitude toward girls' education?



[Take the survey](#)

Students Suffering Anxiety, Depression Seek Year 12 Exam Help

Hundreds of students suffering anxiety, depression and other psychological conditions are seeking special help and conditions to complete Year 12 exams.

Experts say the pressure to succeed at school is triggering underlying mental health problems, and warn that the number of teenagers affected will continue to grow.

More than 1000 students made 1153 applications last year for provisions such as extra time, rest breaks, or sitting exams alone, SACE Board figures show.

Stressed students are also reaching out to crisis lines and intervention programs, including Centacare Catholic Family Services, which receives two to three reports a week of suicidal schoolchildren - some as young as nine.

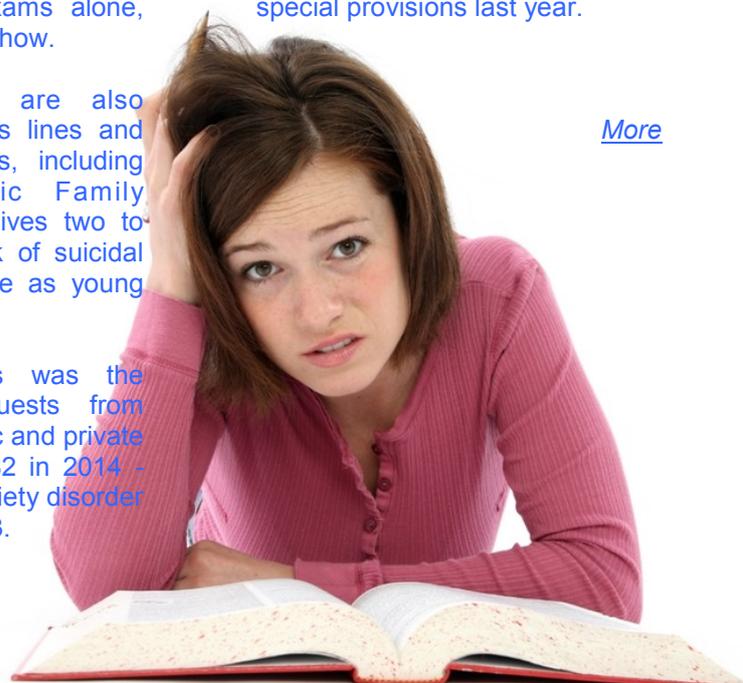
Psychological illness was the basis of 312 requests from students across public and private schools - up from 282 in 2014 - including a rise in anxiety disorder cases from 111 to 133.

Psychologist Darryl Cross said Year 12 and exam stress was a trigger for underlying psychological problems.

Dr Cross said some schools lacked the resources to deal with mental health issues, and some compounded the pressure students felt because they were "all about (students) getting great ATARs (university entrance ranks) so they can market themselves as a great educator".

About one in 12 students who did a subject with an exam applied for special provisions last year.

[More](#)



“...junior primary students needed to be taught key distinctions between fantasy and reality....”

Parents Told To Talk To Kids About Suicide

Children as young as nine are revealing suicidal thoughts at school, prompting experts to advise parents to confront the issue with young people rather than fear the conversation.

Family violence, anxiety, peer pressure and school exam stress are among the top reasons.

Centacare Catholic Family Services says it receives reports from schools that two or three children or teens each week reveal they are considering suicide.

The organisation's Ascend Youth Suicide Intervention Program provided help to seven primary school-aged children in the first half of this year - including three deemed to be at high risk - and 13 high school students. Among them were three young people who had already attempted suicide.

“This year I've seen two nine-year-olds - it's heartbreaking,” Centacare suicide intervention trainer Elaine Reynolds said.

[More](#)

Kids Should Be Taught About Media & Advertising

Children should be taught about the influence of media and advertising from the moment they start school, a UniSA expert says.

Dr Lesley-Anne Ey said her research with junior and lower primary students showed they had already absorbed stereotypes such as boys being dominant and in charge, and girls needing to be sexy.

Dr Ey said children were not explicitly being taught to analyse media influence until Year 5 under the Australian Curriculum, which was far too late.

Even then it tended to focus on easier topics such as junk food advertising, instead of media impact on body image and gender roles.

Dr Ey said she was “really surprised” that young girls considered it natural for boys to be in charge of games.

Her research on young children's internet use has shown that students need more scenario-based education.

[More](#)

Parents To Pay For Transport

Parents would pay for an annual public transport pass as part of compulsory student fees for the new city high school, in a proposal to reduce traffic congestion.

A traffic impact assessment on the Frome Rd school also raises concerns over the safety of students riding to school because of the number of accidents involving cyclists in the area.

It comes amid revelations the State Government is spending \$10.5 million – more than a tenth of the total \$100 million cost of the project – on fees for architects, risk managers and other consultants.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The Term 4 edition of School Post is in school now!



Don't Rush Children's Commissioner

Social service agencies, children's advocates and the Australian Medical Association are urging the State Government to amend what they argue is flawed legislation to create a Children's Commissioner for SA.

They say the legislation - introduced more than a decade after the establishment of such a position was recommended to the Government – is being rushed through Parliament.

Council for the Care of Children chair Simon Shrapel told InDaily he and other advocates had been disappointed that “after all this time we have got this unseemly rush”.

[Read more](#)