



This week's stories from the media

- Minister says she can't guarantee safety of children in care
- Bali police warn schoolies
- Widespread victimisation of girls in SA schools
- With Another Families SA scandal we are failing our children
- Principals want break every four years
- Another scandal another review
- Students need life skills

### Bali Police Warn Schoolies

Bali police and doctors tell schoolies to be on best behaviour or end up arrested, poisoned or dead.

Kuta Police chief Wayan Sumarka has a message for the thousands of Australian schoolies who will soon descend on Bali - break the law and you will be arrested.

Dr Meike Magnasofa at the Bali International Medical Centre says drink only from branded original alcohol bottles or risk deadly methanol poisoning.

Up to 6000 Australian schoolies are expected to converge on Bali within the next two weeks.

Officers will have a police post set up at Ground Zero, the site of the 2002 Bali bombing memorial, especially to deal with the revelers.

Chief Sumarka urges schoolies to make the police their friends, saying his officers will be tolerant but firm.

[Full Story](#)

### Minister Susan Close Says She Can't Guarantee Safety Of Children In State Care

The Minister, responsible for the safety and welfare of thousands of children in state care has disturbingly conceded she cannot guarantee they will not "experience another betrayal" once removed from unfit parents.

In the wake of revelations that another Government carer has allegedly abused children, Minister Susan Close says the Government is struggling with the "almost intractable problem (of) how to truly care for children whose parents have failed them".



In an interview with *The Advertiser* Dr Close would not give any details about the process for assessing the suitability of carers to return to work.

She would not comment on:

- What basis the charged man, or other carers, were cleared to return to work.

- What "red-flags" were raised against them.
- Who formed the panel which assessed and cleared the man, what qualifications they had or if independent assessor were brought in.

Dr Close did say she believed that the department's deputy chief executive, Etienne Scheepers, would have been the one to give final sign off on carers returning to work.

Dr Close has attracted criticism for not reading the full report of the Hyde review when she took on the portfolio.

Opposition Leader Steven Marshall described it as "an abject dereliction of duty that renders her unfit for any role in child protection".

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***“...Australian boys know that the kind of behaviours they use are going to be hurtful. The girls take it to heart and the boys know it....”***

#### Widespread Sexual Victimization Of Girls In SA Schools

**Many South Australian girls do not feel safe walking across the schoolyard alone for fear of sexual victimisation by boys, Flinders University research has found.**

Sexual name-calling, embarrassing comments about girls' bodies and spreading rumours about their sexual activity are the main ways that boys are targeting their female classmates.

Almost 700 girls in Years 8 to 10 from five co-ed high schools were surveyed for the study.

While rates of physical incidents such as unwanted touching were low, researchers found it was “psychological aggression” that “particularly undermines girls' sense of safety at school”.

She said the results were concerning in light of other studies that had shown the mental wellbeing of girls was declining and “takes a dive” when they entered their teens, while boys' mental health was more “stable”.

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#### With Another Families SA Scandal We Are Failing Our Children

**South Australians have every right to be asking how a carer singled out by a highly respected former police commissioner for careful scrutiny could be investigated, cleared and put back to work with children - only to be arrested and charged a year later with multiple sex offences involving children in his care.**

Once again, the Government has decided to keep the public in the dark. The silence is strikingly similar to that which followed McCoolle's arrest.

South Australians and their children deserve better than this. They deserve to know such basic information.

There is also another troubling aspect to this sorry state of affairs.

The admission by Minister Susan Close that she did not bother reading the Hyde report until the proverbial hit the fan is of serious concern.

While this isn't quite groundhog day, it is getting perilously close to it.

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#### Principals Want Break Every 4 Years

**Primary principals want a term off for every four years' service to do educational research and improve their own “wellbeing”.**

The study leave would be on top of regular school holidays, which run to 12 weeks each year, and long service entitlements.

SA Primary Principals Association president Pam Kent, who has just returned from an international conference of school leaders in Toronto, said she had discovered sabbaticals were available to principals in parts of Canada and other nations.

“Just by having the time off it would serve their wellbeing as well. It's a form of rejuvenation,” she said.

[Full Story](#)

#### Another Scandal Another Review

**Eleven Families SA carers were allowed to return to work with children despite being “red-flagged” in a high-level review by, including one man now charged with multiple counts of child abuse.**

The Government was unable to say if the eight others who are still suspended continue to be paid.

In a 10-minute press conference that was cut short amid ongoing questioning, Ms Close said the charged man “was directed away from the workplace” as soon as allegations were raised and the new review triggered.

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#### Students Need Life Skills

**Students should be encouraged to acquire life skills by offering them incentives that will boost their Year 12 scores, a leading social researcher says.**

Many say students need to be taught financial skills such as how to budget, invest, secure loans, handle money and do tax returns.

And preparation for the workforce, including how to approach job interviews and deal with rejection, is another familiar theme.

Just over 60% support NAPLAN testing and a majority say Year 7 should be in high school. SA is the only state where Year 7 students remain in public primary schools.

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