



This week's stories from the media

- Parents slam teacher burnout bonus
- What new child care means for you
- Adelaide's public enrolment squeeze
- Fewer females studying economics
- What languages should kids learn
- SAASSO surveys
- Students becoming disengaged

### What New Child Care Means For You

Mums and dads receiving family tax benefit payments won't get any less than they are receiving now under the Government's new omnibus savings bill.

Family Tax Benefit payments will be frozen at current rates for two years under the proposed changes from July 1.

It will mean families will continue to receive the same payments they are getting now until July 1, 2019, but the payments will not increase at the rate of indexation as they normally would.

The government claims it will save \$2 billion over four years through temporarily freezing the payments at current rates to secure the \$1.6 billion it needs to bring in child care reforms.

About 840,000 families with children in childcare will be impacted by the changes.

Reforms include a bonus subsidy for disadvantaged families; those with children at risk of abuse or neglect, experiencing temporary financial hardship, or grandparent carers on welfare.

[Read the story](#)

### Parents Slam Teacher Burnout Bonus

Parents have overwhelmingly rejected State Government plans to offer \$50,000 "burnout bonuses" for older teachers to leave the profession.

More than 90% of parents who responded to a survey by the SA Association of State School Organisations (SAASSO) opposed the move.

The wide-ranging survey by the key parent group also found just a quarter of mums and dads believed anti-bullying policies at their children's schools were effective.

More than 80% also wanted unvaccinated children banned from preschool - in line with a Federal Government push for bans in every state.

As well as a parent backlash, the survey found 70% of 76 principals who took part opposed the payouts, while 60% of teachers gave support.

Overwhelming majorities of parents and principals said the Government should focus on rewarding good teachers and making it easier to fire bad ones.

"Parents were clear that they find it ridiculous to have to financially induce under-performers and people who were no longer invested, to stop teaching their children," SAASSO director David Knuckey said.

The survey found:

One in 7 teachers and more than a third of parents did not know if their school had an anti-bullying policy;

More than 40% of teachers who took part believed their school's anti-bullying plan was ineffective;

Three quarters of parents did not want students to call teachers by their first name;

Fewer than 10% of parents backed the use of emojis in NAPLAN test questions.

[More](#)



**“...One in 7 teachers and more than a third of parents did not know if their school had an anti-bullying policy....”**

### Adelaide's Public Enrolment Squeeze

The days of parents sending their children to the closest neighbourhood primary school may soon be a thing of the past.

It started in Adelaide's east. In 2015, Linden Park Primary announced it was restricting enrolments to new Reception students in a bid to curb swelling enrolment numbers.

Last year, Rose Park and Burnside primary schools followed suit. Parkside Primary started the 2017 school year with about 50 students based in its library until it received more transportable classrooms later in this year. And the pressure on enrolments is spreading.

Northeastern principals and governing council chairs now say something needs to be done to address a local enrolment squeeze.

Shadow education spokesman John Gardner said the pressure of growing enrolment numbers was a “profound” issue for the northeastern suburbs, including in his electorate of Morialta.

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### Fewer Females Studying Economics

Science isn't the only field with a leaky gender pipeline: economics suffers similar issues.

An analysis of data from the NSW Education Standards Authority by Danielle Wood, chair of the newly established Women in Economics Network, found that the number of female Year 12 students studying economics for the HSC has fallen by 21% over the past five years.

The trend is similar in other states, Wood said.

Furthermore, data from the federal Department of Education suggested that there is a declining share of women studying undergraduate economics at university, from 43% in 2001 to 39% in 2015.

And this number declines drastically when one looks at the senior management of Australia's major economic bodies. At the federal Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia, only two of the seven most senior positions at either organisation are filled by women.

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### What Languages Should Kids Learn

There are several different ways of thinking about what languages we should offer at school. Research suggests that Australian school children may not be studying the right ones.

Excluding English, the three most commonly spoken languages are Mandarin, Spanish and Arabic.

The big investment countries are India, Indonesia and Malaysia. Thus the top three would be Hindi, Indonesian and Malay.

Australia's top trading partners are China, Japan, the US and South Korea. The top three second languages would be Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.

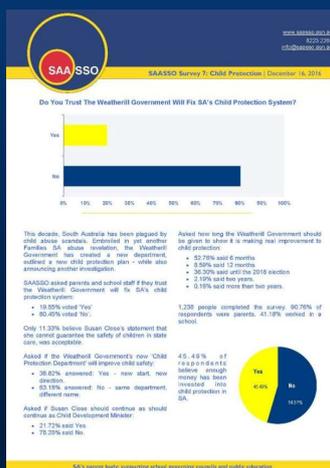
Top languages taught in SA: Japanese, French and Indonesian.

[Full Story](#)

### SAASSO Surveys

SAASSO surveys collect the opinions and perspectives of SA's public school parents and staff.

If you have a question to ask or topic you would like us to survey email: [info@saaso.asn.au](mailto:info@saaso.asn.au)



### Students Becoming Disengaged

Around one in five Australian school students don't find school engaging, which means they are less likely to learn properly.

A study showed that in year 7, 70% of students observed found school engaging, but in year 9, this dropped to 55%.

Disengagement results in rowdier classrooms and bullying becoming more prevalent.

A 2012 study revealed that just 60% of students in South Australian high schools found school engaging. While over two thirds of teachers reported disengaged behaviours on an “almost daily basis”.

[Read more](#)