



This week's stories from the media

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8 Year-Olds To Learn About Suicide

Three-year-olds in childcare and students from preschool and kindergarten upwards will be taught about suicide awareness and mental health as part of a \$53 million Mental Health in Education program to be announced by the Turnbull government today.

More streamlined "postvention" strategies, with crisis teams deployed to schools when a suicide occurs, will also be put in place to prevent contagion suicides as childhood mental health issues soar.

While the word "suicide" won't be used directly with three-year-olds, discussions around feelings of "not wanting to be here" or "wanting to die" could be addressed in the right context.

Specific "suicide" discussion could occur with kids as young as eight, according to experts. Health Minister Greg Hunt will today announce teachers from childcare educators right through to Year 12 will be provided additional mental health and suicide training in their university degrees or VET education.

[Read the article](#)

Shutting Down The Cyberbullies

An innovative Australian campaign to stop online bullying is winning awards around the world and helping teens get their lives back on track.

Gone are the days when leaving school for the day put you out of reach of the unwanted attention of your classmates. The rise of social media over the past 15 years has seen increasing pressures on children and teenagers to belong.

The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner has been trying to address the issue of cyberbullying since it formed in 2015.

Last year, the office launched a new campaign, Rewrite Your Story, to combat the prevalence of cyberbullying in our schools.

The campaign has released a new short film every month for the past eight and has plans to release three more.

Each film addresses cyberbullying from a different angle. The lack of repetition in this approach is perhaps what makes the campaign so successful.

There is bound to be one video that a teenager can relate to. The videos, while not reaching viral status, have been exceptionally well received on social media, generating serious discussion online regarding the topics raised in the films.

Impressively for such a young organisation, recognition of this campaign has come on the world stage with two international awards for the films, most recently at the World Media Awards in Hamburg where the films won a gold medal.

To back up the campaign, the office launched a dedicated webpage targeting teens, also titled Rewrite Your Story.



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“...The Gonski review is charged with looking at the most effective teaching and learning strategies....”

Port Lincoln Shows The Way In Immunisation

Port Lincoln tops the state for fully immunised children and Glenelg has the lowest vaccination levels, latest data shows.

In good news for country SA, a new report reveals 93.7% of one-year-olds, 90.8% of two-year-olds and 93.4% of five-year-olds were fully vaccinated in 2015-16.

This is compared to rates across metropolitan Adelaide which are below the national averages. The report shows just 92.7% of one-year-olds, 90.4% of two-year-olds and 91.9% of five-year-olds were fully immunised.

Port Lincoln had the highest vaccination rate in SA at 96.5%, compared to postcode 5045, which includes the seaside suburb of Glenelg, that had the lowest rates of fully vaccinated five-year-olds at 84.1%.

SA Health chief medical officer Professor Paddy Phillips said the latest report was an important reminder that all children should be fully immunised.

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Labor Questions Funding Shortfall

New figures suggest the number of students attracting extra money for disabilities will double to 400,000 next year under the government's education reforms, but Labor is questioning why funding only increases by \$100 million.

Under the current system, about 200,000 students attract the same loading or additional payment for disability, regardless of how much support they need in the classroom.

The Education Department argues the flat rate of up to \$25,000 can dramatically overcompensate students who require minimal help but may be inadequate for those with extensive needs.

The proposed \$18.6 billion Gonski school funding revamp plans to shift from different state definitions of disability based on a medical diagnosis - which excludes some children - to a nationally consistent definition which relies on teacher judgments, medical reports and discussions with parents.

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When Will We Learn

Whether it's the mind-boggling affront of Australian students being leapfrogged by Kazakhstan or sliding further behind Singapore, the reception is always the same: an outcry followed by hand-wringing.

Put bluntly: despite record spending levels, Australian students are going backwards.

The mission of the Gonski 2.0 review is to examine the best ways to leverage that school - funding to reverse the nation's academic decline.

The Gonski review is charged with looking at the most effective teaching and learning strategies to improve the performance of all students from disadvantaged to academically advanced.

[Full Story](#)

High Schools Kids Mentor Primary

Learning program encourages STEM mentoring between high school and primary students.

MacRobertson Girls' High School, located in Melbourne, has joined forces with STEM-based education resource provider Stile to assist in the transferal of science skills from older, high achieving mentors and younger, eager-to-learn proteges.

It's called the Gifted Outreach Program.

"Via peer-to-peer learning, the initiative provides these students with unique learning opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to them, helping them to reach their full potential," Stile says.

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Improving Sleep In ADHD Children

Children with ADHD are much more likely than other kids to struggle getting to sleep, and staying asleep. Up to 73% of Australian parents report their child with ADHD has problems sleeping.

Research has shown that children with ADHD are more prone to having disturbances in their circadian rhythm, which means it's difficult for them to fall asleep at the desired bedtime.

The circadian rhythm is influenced by cues in the environment like sunlight, temperature, and the timing of meals.

Exposure to artificial light, particularly blue light, is one factor known to influence the circadian rhythm, as it stops the production of melatonin in the brain.

[Read the story](#)