

Forced marriage survey

# Teach kids their rights

**TIM WILLIAMS**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

TWO in three SA parents and school workers want students to be taught about forced marriage, despite warnings from educators that schools cannot cure all social ills.

A federal parliamentary committee in July called for federal and state governments to consider having schools tackle the issue.

A survey by parent group SA Association of State School Organisations found 65 per cent of almost 1000 respondents backed the proposal.

SAASSO director David Knuckey said children should be taught about their rights.

Both SA and federal governments say schools can teach about forced marriage – but it's not a compulsory topic. The committee found some new migrants were unaware forced marriage is illegal. It heard schools were often where child brides as young as 12 had been identified. But some educators, including the

SA Primary Principals Association, have been wary of further crowding the curriculum.

The vast majority of survey respondents were parents and around 400 of them worked in schools. Of the 115 principals who took part, 68 per cent backed the proposal, versus 57 per cent of teachers.

The SA Education Department said forced marriage was included in SA's child protection curriculum documents. Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham said teaching about forced marriage was "entirely consistent" with the Australian Curriculum's focus on "respectful relationships".

He said the Turnbull Government had boosted penalties for forced marriage, had a "relentless focus" on prosecutions, and was rolling out national prevention and awareness programs with Anti-Slavery Australia.

Mr Birmingham said the Government was considering the committee's recommendations.



NO FEAR: Peter Drew with one of his Aussie posters of Monga Khan. Picture: MARK BRAKE

## Art of pushing beyond borders

**TIM LLOYD**

POSTER boy for multiculturalism, Adelaide artist Peter Drew is calling for people to enter the 2017 Governor's Multicultural Awards.

Drew's arresting posters plastered across Australian cities won him a gong last year.

In Scotland four years ago for art posters, the themes of his posters started to emerge.

"In 2013 there were a lot of issues such as stopping the boats making the headlines

and I responded to that." He abandoned exhibiting in art galleries to concentrate on taking his art straight to the streets, which he regards as the democratic ideal.

He has created different posters that challenge the notion of Australianness, the latest being dedicated to Monga Khan with the word AUSSIE beneath it. The draper came to Australia from India more than a century ago and as such, is more Australian than most.

In Sydney the posters have

been defaced, scratched with swastikas, and covered with anti Muslim slogans.

"My favourite response is when someone is a little unsure of their reaction because that provokes discussion.

"Once you start talking about Monga Khan's story and they see it for what it is, you can see their fear dissipate, and that's what I aim for."

Entries are now open at [www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/programs/governors-multicultural-awards](http://www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/programs/governors-multicultural-awards)

## Madonna can't get materials

URNS out it's not so easy being the Material Girl.

Madonna, below, has taken to Twitter to vent her frustration after a week-long battle with FedEx – because the US courier service doesn't believe she's actually Madonna.

She said she'd been arguing all week to get a package released but later added the specific issue was with customs in her new home of Portugal. It worked though – within an hour FedEx had reached out to resolve her problem.



## School 'link to adult website'

A VICTORIAN school is blaming a typo for accidentally sending its students a link to a pornography website.

Peninsula Grammar says a missing letter in a booking link sent to secondary students about a breakfast event meant those who clicked on it were redirected to "an inappropriate adult website".

The school started deleting the emails, sent on Tuesday, from students' accounts as soon as it became aware. "At the same time we emailed all students requesting that they do not click on the link," principal Stuart Johnston said.

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