

**Government Closing Child Service**

Parents fear wider consequences of the Government closing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Enfield.

Concerned parents of mentally ill children are campaigning to keep vital State Government services open, fearing their kids will "slip through the cracks" if they are not provided adequate treatment options elsewhere.

On Friday, the State Government will close the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Enfield, which treats some of the state's most vulnerable young people, including children living with personality disorders, depression and anxiety.

In a letter to Health Minister Peter Malinauskas, the Public Service Association's Natasha Brown outlined major concerns about the planned closure this week.

Ms Brown told The Advertiser the Enfield site offered services that were "not offered elsewhere to the same extent or not offered elsewhere at all".

[Read the story](#)

This week's stories from the media

- Schools program could spare women years of endo pain
- Government closing child mental health service
- Radical gender course to be axed
- Talk to kids about same sex marriage result
- Literacy grants
- Needs of high achievers not met
- Reforming teachers

Schools Program Could Spare Women Years Of 'Endo' Pain

Greens MP Tammy Franks is urging the SA Government to fund a school program that could save young women years of pain by slashing the time some wait for a diagnosis of endometriosis.

The gynaecological condition affects one in 10 women and can cause painful periods, organ damage and even infertility.

However, awareness of the disease remains low and the average wait for a diagnosis is eight years.

Ms Franks has used Parliament to call on the State Government to fund a program which has run successfully in New Zealand for 20 years, teaching girls how to spot the signs and symptoms of the serious condition.

The ME program offers students a one hour session and Ms Franks said it had led to a "significant" lift in early diagnosis and management.



She cited a recent study of students in Canberra which found that about one quarter of girls missed school because of painful periods.

"We need early intervention to help women so they aren't waiting years in pain for a diagnosis, so they aren't missing school or work due to chronic illness and so, if they choose to be, they can be mothers," she said.

The ME program was trialled in 10 Adelaide schools earlier this year, funded by the Pelvic Pain Foundation.

Ms Franks wants the State Government to fund an extension of the trial next year.

[More](#)

“...There have been more than 100 reviews of teacher education in Australia since the 1970s....”

Radical Gender Course To Be Axed

The NSW government will dump a contentious sex education course for senior high school students that teaches radical theories about gender and sexuality.

The imminent scrapping of Crossroads, which presents gender as a social construct and sexuality as constantly changing, was flagged yesterday by Education Minister Rob Stokes after a departmental review urged closer scrutiny of sex education materials and greater oversight by school principals.

The review was conducted by William Louden, former dean of education at the University of Western Australia, who also led the federal government's review of the controversial Safe Schools program. Mr Stokes said he would adopt all Mr Louden's recommendations.

Mr Stokes's move to ditch the Crossroads curriculum follows a decision by both the NSW and federal governments to withdraw support for Safe Schools, a nominal, anti-bullying program embedded with radical theories about sex and gender.

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Talk To Kids About Same Sex Marriage Result

The results of the same-sex marriage postal survey are in: 61.6% voted yes to legalising same-sex marriage.

Many parents might now be experiencing a dilemma as to whether they need to discuss this result with their children.

Start by having open communication and letting your child know that you are willing to answer their questions.

Conversations should be brief and factual, and the level of detail you provide will depend on your child's age and level of interest in the topic.

Don't shy away from discussing with young children. Keep discussions simple and honest with younger children, and focus conversations around love and caring relationships.

Encourage children to try to understand both sides of the debate. Do not lecture them or try to convince them. They will likely form their own views over time.

[More](#)

Literacy Grants

Entries are now open for a new round of grants that are aimed at improving digital literacy at 50 schools across the country.

Teachers at all Australian primary and secondary schools are invited to get creative and submit a one minute video detailing how a \$10,000 technology grant would help their students become more innovative and achieve better STEM learning outcomes.

Applications for the first round of the HP Kids Fund will close on February 5 2018.

All applicants will receive a six month subscription to Code Camp World – an online teaching forum – while runners up will receive a Code Camp session to teach kids coding in the classroom.

[Full Story](#)

Needs Of High Achievers Not Met

Is our education system failing high achievers? Experts say that's unfortunately the case.

ACER says the issue is a “failure to recognise true variability in students' levels of capability and achievement”, as well as “delivery of the same year-level curriculum to all students of the same age”.

There is a vast gap between the abilities of high performing students and the lower percentile, as well as an alarming disparity between the results of Australian students and those in nearby nations.

“In each year of school in Australia, the most advanced 10% of students are five to six years ahead of the least advanced 10% of students.”

[More](#)

Reforming Teachers

There have been more than 100 reviews of teacher education in Australia since the 1970s.

The Commonwealth government's latest Initial Teacher Education reform agenda appears to be motivated by responding to an apparent plateau in Australian primary and secondary school students' performance in literacy, numeracy and science subjects in comparison with that of other developed nations.

The Conversation notes that during 1995–2015, “high-performing countries such as Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong and Japan made steady improvements, while countries including Canada, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and the US have improved and now outperform Australia”.

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