



This week's stories from the media

- School funding chaos as minister won't sign
- School's out
- SA private schools get \$110 million boost
- Principal pleads for cutback in skills, increase in knowledge
- P-plate fatalities quadruple
- How to keep kids safe at school
- Australia's problem-solvers

School's Out

For Thomas Chandler and his mates, Schoolies can't get here quick enough, and this weekend is simply about celebrating the end of school life with good friends.

"It's the one chance we get to come together as a year level – not just with school friends but with mates from across Adelaide and South Australia."

About 500 volunteers will help the expected 8000 school leavers.

The state's school leavers have been warned to restrict and control social media posts during the festivities.

Kids Helpline Virtual Services Manager Tony FitzGerald says it's vital youngsters think of social media as a digital tattoo – "what goes online, stays online".

"Think before you share photos and videos, remembering once it's posted, it's no longer private and could be viewed by friends, family and strangers."

[Read the story](#)

School Funding Chaos As Minister Won't Sign

Funding for South Australian schools to the tune of billions of dollars is hanging in the balance as a political feud between the state and federal governments escalates.

State Education Minister Susan Close is refusing to sign up to the new school funding agreement – known as Gonski 2.0 – because she claims it rips \$210 million from schools over the next two years.

But her failure to put pen to paper could effectively hold the Turnbull Government to ransom to strike a special deal with the state because without her signature, it could stop the flow of federal funding to SA schools.

The \$210 million cut has been strenuously denied by Education Minister Simon Birmingham because it factors in money promised by the former Gillard Government which was never budgeted.

Senator Birmingham slammed the Weatherill Government for its "reckless" decision which he says could stop more than \$16.6 billion over 10 years flowing into SA schools.

"Being lectured to on school funding by Jay Weatherill and Susan Close lacks credibility when independent Productivity Commission data shows they slashed \$56 million from government schools, even when federal funding was growing."

Under federal law if SA does not agree to sign up, the Federal Government could not make payments of financial assistance under the Act in relation to any government school, non-government school, block grant authority or any non-government representative body located in the state.

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“...what goes online, stays online....”

SA Private Schools Get \$110 Million Boost

The State Government has announced a \$110 million funding boost for Catholic and independent schools over the next four years.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the boost for Catholic and independent schools constituted a “massive investment in the future prosperity and wellbeing of our state”.

SA Catholic Education Commission SA chair Dennis Ralph told reporters his sector was pleased by the announcement.

“We’re delighted at the benefits that will come to the 46,000 students in our Catholic schools spread across South Australia,” he said.

“The parents and the communities in our 103 schools will be very pleased indeed to receive this financial assistance so that we can build on the excellence and the quality that is in Catholic Schools.”

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Principal Pleads For Cutback In Skills, Increase In Knowledge

Educational institutions prioritising teaching skills over knowledge is “seriously fuzzy thinking”, says Elizabeth Stone.

The principal of Queenwood School for Girls, an independent school in Sydney, presented her views on this at the launch of the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation.

She’s right in that there’s a definite move toward demanding expertise in and even assessing skills like critical thinking, communication and teamwork.

Stone says this is often premised on the fact that facts are widely accessible via the internet, so they need not be taught.

“The evidence shows further that sophisticated thinking skills can only be applied to a deep body knowledge, previously acquired and securely held in long term memory,” she said.

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P-Plate Fatalities Quadruple

Parents are being urged to give their graduating children road safety tips as the number of P-plate drivers killed this year has almost quadrupled the 2016 tally.

Eleven P-plate drivers have died in crashes, including five aged 16-19 - compared to three for the same period last year.

“The overwhelming cause of fatal and serious injury collisions is driver behaviour and this also applies to P-plate drivers,” he said.

In the lead-up to Schoolies celebrations, SA Police is calling on parents to “sit down and speak with their teenagers about the risk on our roads, in particular rural roads with their higher speed limits”.

[Full Story](#)

How To Keep Kids Safe At School

Schools play an important role in helping kids stay safe online.

Yet unfortunately, most traditional IT solutions are inadequate.

While no magic silver bullets exist for cybersecurity today, these five approaches can help:

- Safe online learning
- Networks at the ready
- Make email safe for education
- Focus on email compliance
- Protect your school's data

[More](#)

Australia's Problem-Solvers

Australian students are some of the world’s best collaborative problem-solvers.

The PISA report included an assessment collaborative problem solving for the first time, and ranked Australia 10th out of 52 countries, behind Canada and New Zealand but ahead of the United States (13th) and the United Kingdom (15th).

“The report makes it clear that some of the most important factors in these collaborative problem solving results is in the strong, positive relationships that exist between students, teachers and parents.”

Australia’s weak points were a gap in performance between boys and girls, and a low sense of belonging in schools.

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