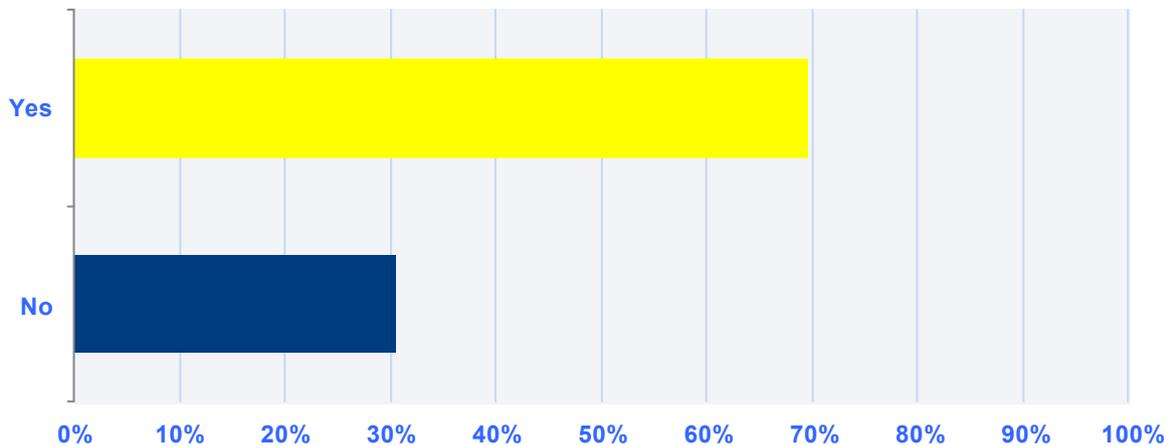




### Does South Australia Need An Independent Education Ombudsman?



SAASSO recently asked parents and educators their thoughts on the need for an Education Ombudsman, moving Year 7 to high school and whether all high school students should be given a laptop.

91.12% of respondents were parents and 41.08% work in schools.

Asked if South Australia needed an independent Education Ombudsman:

- 69.43% voted 'YES'
- 30.57% voted 'NO'.

Principals were least supportive of an ombudsman, with only 27.08% voting yes. Teachers were most supportive, with 75.71% wanting an ombudsman.

School support and other staff also endorsed an ombudsman, with nearly 68.79% voting in favour.

Asked if Year 7 should be moved to secondary school - bringing SA in line with the rest of the country:

- 61.11% voted 'YES'
- 38.89% voted 'NO'.

Non-school staff were more in favour of moving year 7 - at 63.75%.

80.21% of school principals voted to move year 7s to high school, compared with 57.63% of teachers.

Asked if every high school student should get a laptop from the State Government - at a cost of \$70 million:

- 48.43% voted 'YES'
- 51.57% voted 'NO'.

School staff (42.42%) were less interested in laptops than non-staff (52.25%).

Principals were most opposed with 72.92% voting against laptops. Comments showed school leaders were concerned about the ongoing cost imposition to their schools. 44.07% of teachers want the laptops in their classrooms.

Principals, teachers and parents all expressed concern that there were many other ways \$70 million could be better spent in school, than on laptops.

Many were also of the opinion that laptops are outdated.

## Selected Comments



I'm a teacher and a parent and as both I need someone to complain to about the education department.

Tablets instead of laptops.

Who is paying for the insurance for when the laptops are lost?

If that money was given to public high schools, we would have over a million dollars each to make real improvements. These laptops will be gone in 12 months.

The ombudsman office better have a big budget!

Moving year 7 would be a nightmare task.

Find me 15 year old who doesn't already have a computer / tablet....

The laptop scheme will end up costing schools more than the computers are worth.

As a principal I understand the benefits of computers, but the money could be spent on far more useful resources.

Give the laptop funds directly to schools and let them spend it based on their actual needs.

All schools got laptops a decade ago and literacy standards have gone down. Think jay!

Department is rotten to the core.

Yes to ombudsman. No faith in decd.

Up go our school fees!

Who pays for the software for the laptops?

Give the \$70 million to schools.

If they cover the going computer costs.

Jay keep the laptops and scrap school fees instead.

What next jay, dial up modems for every child?

Schools are demanding parents pay for iPads and jay wants to give them laptops?

Will these laptops teach our children to read and write.

Our school already demands a computer in year 8. Year 10 is too late.

Mr Weatherill instead of giving every child a laptop, how about giving them a decent education?

\$70 mill on laptops when the entire world is using iPads! Brilliant.

I have experienced the Dept. investigating itself and was confronted by secrecy, cronyism, incompetent investigative techniques, cover-ups, deceit, and in the end, downright lies. Bring on the Ombudsman or an Education ICAC.

Desperately need an ombudsman.

This is an equity issue- would be happy if it was just for students in government schools as if families can afford privates schools they may well be able to afford a laptop.

We need lots of things n schools before laptops.

Why are we using tax dollars to give private school children free computers?

Bullying is already out of control. Putting year seven in high school will only make it worse.

And how many schools will Weatherill close to pay for the laptops?

If only jay could give students some literacy and numeracy skills they could keep after graduating.

How about cutting the fees for our free public education instead.

We need more special needs support, not laptops that will all disappear in six months.

They already have tablets.

Use the laptop money to pay teachers.

An ombudsman with power to protect school staff from decd.

Give the \$70m direct to schools.

We need a lot of things in schools before laptops.

Laptops? What year is jay living in?

Education is the worst department in the public service. There needs to be a royal commission.

Getting cooperation from decd is impossible. An ombudsman is vital.

Get rid school fees or instead.

Many students are not at a maturity or educational level ready for high school in Year 7. Quality of some high schools is not at a level where I would want to send a child too for Year 7. Many are better off at their primary school. An alternative option would be to give parents a choice.

Grade 7 is too young to be posed to 18 year olds

Now jay is borrowing from the Kevin Rudd education platform? Heaven help us.

SA needs it's own education icac

Teachers need an ombudsman to stop bullying from principals.

Spend the \$70 million on teaching kids to read and write.

Laptops? Why not give them a Commodore 64. Get with the times jay.

Resourcing for tech support? what happens at the end of 3yr life? Does this become recurrent funding or is it like previous schemes eg DER?