



This week's stories from the media

- Half of year 7 bullies become victims in high school
- SA high school students underfunded
- Drugs in Adelaide schools
- Childcare: SA Families Will Save Up To \$2800 A Year
- Gender-Neutral language
- Teaching program is a gem
- SA schools spiralling critical incidents

SA High Schools Underfunded

South Australian secondary students are underfunded by almost \$1800 each a year compared to the national average, and the gap must be closed before Year 7 is moved into high school, teachers say.

The teacher's union highlighted Productivity Commission figures showing combined state and federal spending per public school student was \$18,648 nationally in 2015-16, and \$16,868 in SA.

"The AEU calculates that SA would need to spend over \$109 million on SA secondary schools to achieve the national average, before spending the estimated \$300 million it will cost to move Year 7."

Education Minister John Gardner said the Marshall Government would raise funding "in line with our commitments as per the Gonski agreement".

He said the move of Year 7 to high school, to be done by 2022, would in itself result in more funding because high schoolers are funded at a higher level than primary students.

[Read the story](#)

Half Of Year 7 Bullies Become Victims In High School

Young bullies beware: Students who victimise others in Year 7 are at severe risk of having the tables turned on them in high school, Flinders University research has found.

More than half of Year 7 bullies, 55%, become victims in high school, making them just as likely to be targets as those who were bullied in their last year of primary school.

And new bullies and new victims emerge in every year of high school, pointing to the need for age-appropriate "peer relationship" programs to continue at all year levels.

Students who were neither bullies nor victims in Year 7 were three times less likely to be victims in high school than those who had been in any way involved in bullying in primary school.

The study found boys were far more likely to be high school bullies than girls.

"It may be that students who had been victims of bullying responded by bullying other students as they matured," according to lead researcher Dr Grace Skrzypiec.

"Alternatively, it may be that students who had bullied other students became victims of bullying as the limitations of their (own) social and emotional capabilities were manifested."

The complex shifting of roles meant schools should not attach simple "labels" to individual students as either bullies or victims.

"I wouldn't want high schools to think they need to identify kids who were bullies in Year 7 and do interventions just for them in high school," she said.

[More](#)



“...2017 saw 134 incidents of sexual abuse in SA public schools...”

Drugs In Adelaide Schools

Two students a week are being excluded for long periods from public schools over drugs, as the State Government prepares protocols for police to use sniffer dogs more often on campus.

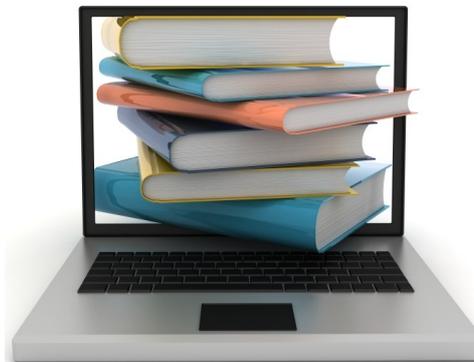
Latest figures from the Education Department's behaviour snapshot of Term 2 last year show 21 students were excluded, up from eight in the same term the previous year and 19 in 2015.

Of the 21 cases, 15 involved illicit drugs and six prescription drugs.

Excluded students cannot attend their regular school for up to a term, or the rest of a semester for students aged over 16.

While there were more exclusions, the number of short-term suspensions for less serious drug incidents fell from 38 to 17 in Term 2, 2017.

[More](#)



Childcare: SA Families Will Save Up To \$2800 A Year

A typical South Australian family with two children in childcare will be up to \$2800 a year better off under a new system launching next month, modelling reveals.

But thousands of families are yet to sign up for the new system, putting their payments at risk.

The saving of \$1400 per child, based on average childcare prices and usage, is higher than the national figure of \$1333.

While many families are set to be hundreds if not thousands of dollars a year better off, transitioning to the new system isn't automatic and families need to make the switch to the new system through myGov.

The modelling shows a South Australian family with two young children, using the average of 25.7 hours of long day care a week per child, would receive subsidies of \$16,984, up from \$14,184.

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Gender Neutral Language

Students are being marked down for using “mankind” and “he or she” in essays in the - latest university crusade against sexist language.

Unis have officially banned words such as “manpower” and “workmanship”, instructing students and staff to use gender-neutral language.

The essay guide for political science says students must not use “female pronouns” for objects, such as referring to a boat as “she”.

But the Oxford Dictionary states that “she” can “refer to a ship, vehicle, country or other inanimate thing regarded as female”. And the Macquarie Dictionary defines “mankind” as “human beings collectively”.

[Full Story](#)

Teaching Program Is A Gem

Kalgoorlie has proven quite the gem for a government-backed program that parachutes accomplished career changers and high-achieving university graduates into teaching jobs in disadvantaged and hard-to-staff secondary schools.

Since Teach for Australia's John Inverarity selected Kalgoorlie in 2016 to be the first regional location in Western Australia to send trainee teachers, known as associates, it has placed 11.

So far all five who have graduated from their fast-tracked teacher training (with master's degrees) have stayed on in their schools.

It is not a bad feat for a city known for its transient workforce.

[Read the story](#)

SA Schools Spiralling Critical Incidents

The public education system recorded a significant rise in serious violent incidents.

And concerned principals say primary schools are now having to deal “for the first time” with incidents of students self-harming.

The Education Department says the increases in violence and other types of “critical incidents”, including self harm, reflect both better reporting and the social challenges that are “manifesting in our schools”.

Schools also made significantly more reports about self harm, verbal abuse, bullying, property damage, online offences and injury / illness.

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