

Ban the bullies: School staff want to get tough

ELISA BLACK

MORE than 80 per cent of public school principals would like serious school bullying to be reported to police, a new South Australian survey has found.

The survey, conducted by the South Australian Association of State School Organisations Inc (SAASSO), reported 81 per cent of principals surveyed supported serious bullying offences being reported to police, as did 85 per cent of teachers.

Asked if serial bullies should be banned from using

computers and mobile phones at school, 82 per cent of respondents voted yes, with parents supporting the ban more than non-parents.

SAASSO director, David Knuckey, said the survey, which had 1034 responses – including 91 principals – revealed deep concerns about the “devastating impact of bullying”.

“The responses also show dissatisfaction with existing policies and strong support for a fundamental shift in how we combat the scourge of bullying,” he said.

The survey release follows

the Advisory Roundtable held last week by the Attorney-General with a range of experts, including SAPOL, to consider whether or not legislative reform was required to address bullying, as well as what other legislation could be developed relating to the safety, welfare and education of young people.

Education Minister John Gardner said the Marshall Government was taking serious action to address bullying.

“The number of children and young people experiencing bullying on a regular basis

is concerning, and we must do everything we can to stamp it out,” he said.

“Our students deserve to undertake their studies in a safe and nurturing educational environment, free from harassment, discrimination and bullying.”

He said the Education Department was developing a comprehensive anti-bullying strategy to address all forms of bullying.

“This approach will include a strong focus on addressing cyber-bullying,” he said.

“As per our election com-

mitment, we have already undertaken an audit of anti-bullying policies in more than 500 schools around the state.

“The Education Department is now working with those schools that need support to ensure their policies meet expectations and are publicly available for their school community.”

To inform the anti-bullying strategy, the Education Department is currently seeking community input on ways to better protect children and young people from bullying, through the YourSAy website.

Shock jock son pleads blue on drug bust

A FORMER police officer and the son of Sydney shock jock Ray Hadley is applying for his drug possession charge to be dealt with on mental health grounds.

Daniel Hadley, 28, was off-duty when he was allegedly busted with a small amount of cocaine at a pub in Rouse Hill in Sydney's northwest on August 3.

His arrest followed a NSW Police professional standards investigation focused on prohibited drugs allegations.

At Parramatta Local Court yesterday his matter was adjourned until December 12 so an application could be made for the charge to be dealt with under the Mental Health Act.

The act allows a magistrate to dismiss charges against people with a mental health disorder or intellectual disability.

Hadley resigned as a senior constable after being charged.

Ray Hadley was brought to tears in August saying he felt inadequate as a father for not addressing his son's mental health struggles.



Good news as twins meet team who will perform separation

GRANT MCARTHUR

CONJOINED Bhutanese twins Nima and Dawa Pelden had their first examinations by the Melbourne medical specialists who will soon attempt to separate them – and the news was all good.

The 14-month-old sisters will be back at the Royal Children's Hospital today for a more intensive examination that will produce the highly-detailed scans of their shared body parts needed to plan the complex operation.

Doctors had intended to conduct their first assessment of Nima and Dawa by video link to the Children First Foundation's Miracle Smiles retreat where they are staying with their mother Bhumchu Zangmo, so they could recover from the marathon travel from Bhutan.

But, when one of the sisters woke with a slight cough and another of the children from the retreat was already travelling in to the RCH for an ap-

pointment, the opportunity was used to visit the hospital for a more thorough physical examination about midday.

During the two-hour examination specialists likely to be involved in their care including surgeons, anaesthetists, clinical nutritionists and general paediatric doctors assessed the girl's condition and gave the all-clear to undergo today's more detailed checks.

Early this morning Nima and Dawa will be placed under general anaesthetic so they can undergo hi-tech scans that will be used to build up a 3D image of their internal structures, providing the clearest indication of where they are joined and how the RCH surgical team will separate them in the coming weeks.

Based on scans undertaken in Bhutan it is believed the girls have a connected liver and possibly bowel, but the extent of the connections or whether other organs are compromised is not yet known.



WORN OUT: Twins Nima and Dawa with nurse Tshewang Choden.

Picture: ALEX COPPEL

Flushing out menopause

CHILDLESS women are a fifth less likely to suffer hot flushes during the menopause than those who have been pregnant, a study found.

Even if they do endure flushes, these are likely to be less frequent. Meanwhile mothers diagnosed with high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia or diabetes during pregnancy were found to have greater risk of flushes than those with healthy gestations.

Researchers in the US questioned 2249 women about their experience of hot flushes, which affect up to four in five females during the menopause and can last for years.

South Australia, wake up to your news.

