



This week's stories from the media

- SA students falling behind national averages in NAPLAN
- Disgraced SA teachers
- SA sets 10-year deadline to close Indigenous gap
- SA students experiences with bullying
- Teacher arrested over child sexual offence
- SA school funding

Disgraced SA Teachers

A south Australian teacher who had a preoccupation with sexual partners wearing school uniforms and one who left kids on camp alone overnight while he went to a hotel are two of 13 local teachers to be struck off or face other disciplinary action in the last year.

Detailed in the Teachers Registration Board Annual Report, five teachers were disqualified from being registered as a teacher permanently for actions including child exploitation and unlawful sexual intercourse.

A teacher who was found guilty of unprofessional conduct for leaving a group of students in a "self-reliant night on an outdoor education activity" while he stayed at a hotel, had his registration renewed with conditions imposed.

Other complaints included a teacher found guilty of the purchase, supply and use of cocaine, and a teacher who showed inappropriate text messages of a highly sexual nature to Year 11 students.

[Read the story](#)

SA Students Falling Behind National Averages In NAPLAN

South Australia's education sector must "lift its game" or risk more students failing to acquire the skills they need in life, research has found.

A Grattan Institute report shows learning standards based on NAPLAN testing continue to slip. SA students in Years 3 and 5 were a month behind the national average in reading and numeracy.

A quarter of SA students in Year 9 last year needed help to achieve literacy and numeracy skills to "satisfactorily progress through school".

Falling below national minimum standards set by NAPLAN, students in this bracket were identified as being "at risk of finishing school without the basic skills for life and work", according to the report.

The state had the second-lowest percentage of high-achieving Year 9 students, with just one in six students recording results in the top two bands - a drop of 1.4 per cent in the past five years.

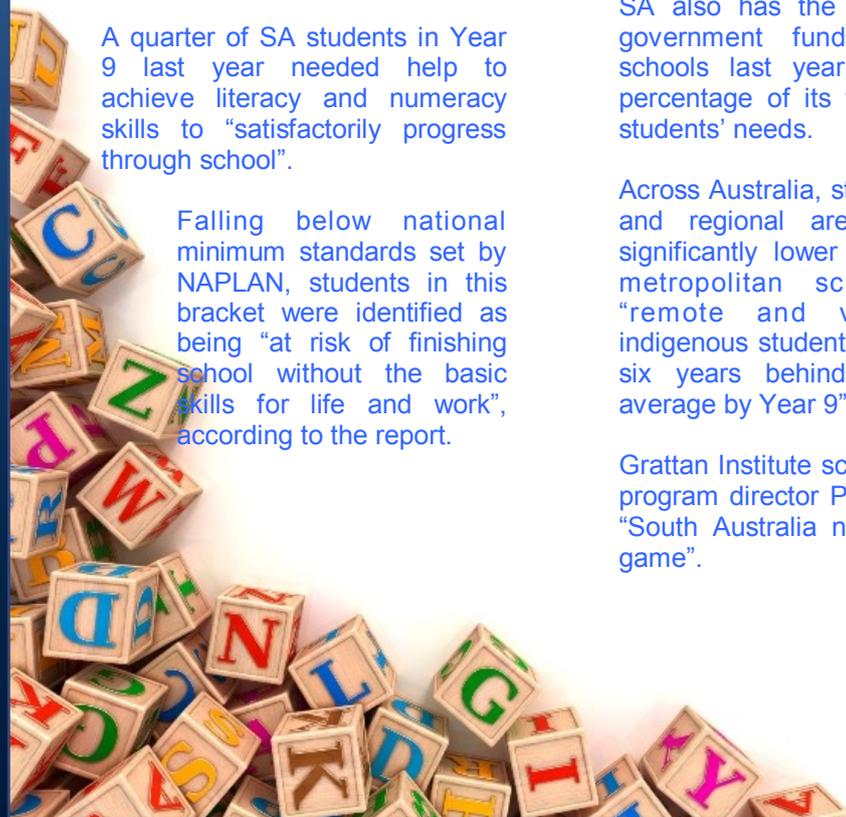
State Education Minister John Gardner said the results were "disappointing" and highlighted the importance of the new Government's reforms.

SA also has the second-lowest government funding to state schools last year based on a percentage of its target to meet students' needs.

Across Australia, students in rural and regional areas performed significantly lower than those in metropolitan schools, while "remote and very remote indigenous students can be up to six years behind the national average by Year 9".

Grattan Institute school education program director Pete Goss said: "South Australia needs to lift its game".

[More](#)



“...They kids found out something before us parents, which is not on....”

SA Sets 10-Year Deadline To Close Indigenous Gap

South Australian Aboriginal students will reach the same literacy and numeracy standards as their non-Aboriginal classmates by 2029 under the Education Department's new draft plan for closing the gap on Indigenous education.

The draft strategy, released for public consultation by the department on Friday, also outlines a 10-year target for Aboriginal students to achieve their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) at the same rate as non-Aboriginal students.

According to the draft strategy, the number of Aboriginal students completing their SACE has increased from 238 in 2013 to 386 in 2017. However, 35 per cent of Aboriginal young people are leaving school before Year 12 and are therefore unable to achieve their SACE.

This year's Closing the Gap report showing South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Years 3, 7 and 9 are yet to meet the national target in literacy, and children in Years 3 and 7 are yet to meet the national target in numeracy.

[More](#)

SA Students Experiences With Bullying

Kids want their teachers to pay better attention in the classroom and for older people to be better role models to help curb rampant bullying, a new report has found.

The insights will be unveiled in a new report by South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Ms Connolly's report states children and young people describe most bullying as negative interactions about issues including physical appearance, race, identity and sexuality.

Despite growing concerns about the impact of online abuse the report said bullying is occurring most frequently face-to-face.

The report shows children and young people said they want guidance on how to have difficult conversations with their friends, teachers to be more supportive in their responses to bullying and adults to lead by example.

[More](#)

Teacher Arrested Over Sex Offence

Parents at a state primary school are outraged having been told one of the teachers has been charged with sexual offending - but they are not allowed to be told their identity.

This week, the principal of a southern suburbs school wrote to parents saying a member of staff was arrested on October 10.

In the letter, the principal urges parents to keep the matter confidential and not mention it on Facebook.

A mother of children at the school told The Advertiser she felt the Department had failed parents by delaying disclosure.

“They kids found out something before us parents, which is not on”.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The Term 4 edition of School Post hits schools soon!



SA School Funding

An unprecedented amount of cash is being spent in South Australian schools as educators - in both the public and private sector - compete to create the state's most contemporary, cutting-edge classrooms and facilities.

More than a billion dollars is being invested in SA schools through the education department's capital works program. Highlights include the new \$100m Adelaide Botanic High School, on track to open in 2019 and aimed at “providing students from inner-city suburbs with greater access to high quality secondary learning”.

In addition, major school upgrades totalling \$692 million are being funded for 91 public schools.

[Read more](#)