



This week's stories from the media

- Teachers strike likely as tensions escalate
- Schools shutdown looms
- Teacher strike could shut down schools
- School program on endometriosis
- Preschool for children with cancer
- Six TAFE courses non-compliant
- Suspension powers failing students

Schools Shutdown Looms

Schools across the state could be hit by a half-day teachers' strike next week, with the SA teachers' union balloting its members to gauge support for the shutdown.

Union state president Howard Spreadbury confirmed to InDaily that members were being balloted, but refused to elaborate, even on the reasons why the industrial action was being considered.

"I'm not going to comment at this stage," he said.

"We'll put something out when it's determined."

State schools and preschools, though, have confirmed the possibility of a half-day strike on the morning of next Thursday, November 29.

The move follows last month's after-school-hours protest outside the Education Department, during which the union accused the Liberal Government of a "lack of respect" during ongoing enterprise bargaining negotiations.

[Read the story](#)

Teachers Strike Likely As Tensions Escalate

Industrial Relations Minister Rob Lucas is staring down the teachers' union over a strike threat, saying the public school system it has "effectively controlled" has delivered "appalling" academic results and needs change.

Mr Lucas said the Government needed more flexibility in how to spend record education funding in order to lift academic results. "What we're saying to the teachers' union is there's a big commitment from taxpayers to put extra money in. Let's talk sensibly about how we can best spend the money to improve learning outcomes," Mr Lucas said.

"What the union's said to you is working wonderfully at the moment has delivered appalling literacy and numeracy outcomes."

"We are actually wanting to speak up on behalf of students and parents and grandparents."

"The way we currently run the system hasn't worked as well as it should."

"We're saying look at the results. You (the union) show us where ... the system you've effectively controlled with Labor governments for 20 years has produced Rolls Royce education results. They can't demonstrate that because the evidence isn't there."

SA has long been the worst performing mainland state in NAPLAN testing, which the former Labor government said was largely due to socio-economic factors.

Mr Spreadbury said the union wanted smaller classes, more support staff, better incentives to keep teachers in the regions and a higher rate of permanency. But Mr Lucas said the union was "sadly misguided" if it thought striking would have any effect.



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“...Kids with cancer often have to be isolated from others as their immunity is so low - they can't go to childcare, kindergarten or school....”

Teacher Strike Could Shut Down Schools

The state's public schools could be forced to shut down next week if a teachers' strike goes ahead.

The teachers' union is running a ballot to determine if members will strike for a half day on the morning of Thursday, November 29.

Parents will not know if the industrial action will proceed until two days before, because the ballot will not close until 4pm next Monday.

Industrial Relations Minister Rob Lucas said there was “no logical, sensible, rational, plausible reason” for a strike in light of the Government's commitments to record spending on schools. But the union says most funding is focused on infrastructure rather than other pressing needs.

Education Minister John Gardner said he hoped teachers would not choose to strike and that “the union has got to put our students' interests first”.

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School Program On Endometriosis

Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia to run school program teaching girls symptoms of endometriosis.

Girls in high schools across the state are about to get a pep talk on period pain, thanks to a long-awaited funding commitment.

Female Year 9 and 10 students at 80 public and private schools will take part in the Periods, Pain and Endometriosis - or PPEP - Talk program.

It aims to inform young women about when to seek medical advice for period pain and raise awareness of endometriosis, a gynaecological disease that affects one in 10 women and can cause pain, nausea, fatigue, organ damage and infertility.

Authorities hope to avoid years of pain by slashing the average nine years that patients wait for a diagnosis. Delays often occur because symptoms are mistaken for digestive complaints or downplayed as “normal” period pain.

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Preschool For Children With Cancer

The first preschool for children with cancer in the southern suburbs has opened in Aberfoyle Park.

Jolyn Phillipps was inspired to start Lion Hearts Learning in an effort to combat the isolation children with cancer and their families often feel after her three-year-old daughter Codee-Jo was diagnosed with leukaemia 19 months ago.

Last month, she started Lion Hearts Learning at her home in partnership with Playgroups SA.

It is attended by about six children, who either have cancer or have an immediate family member with cancer.

[Full Story](#)

Suspension Powers Failing Students

Expanded disciplinary powers Queensland principals were granted are harmful and failing against their intended aim, an expert has argued.

Professor Linda Graham, a researcher in inclusive education analysed rates of suspension from 2006 to 2017.

Graham suggested that widening suspension powers opens students up to the risk of being sent out for the wrong reasons.

Potential reasons behind misuse of the powers include improving a school's performance in tests and masking ineffective teaching.

Graham's study revealed that suspensions per student increased by 16.67.

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Six TAFE Courses Non-Compliant

Hundreds of TAFE SA students will have to complete extra tests after units in six courses were found to be non-compliant by a national audit.

About 300 students will need to complete further assessment as a result of the Australian Skills Quality Authority's findings, including 22 students who had already completed their courses.

It's the latest rap over the knuckles for the troubled institution but a huge improvement from last year's ASQA report, where it suspended 14 substandard qualifications.

Mr Gardner said noncompliance findings would have no impact on students' qualifications.

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