



This week's stories from the media

- SA public school teachers vote to strike on Thursday
- Strike may harm teachers' cause
- Don't vote Liberal teacher gets a caning
- Labor promises free tampons in Victorian schools
- RAA offers free driving lessons
- What students really think of you
- Australia's child protection crisis

### Strike May Harm Teachers Cause

Now that South Australian school teachers have voted to strike, it would be a great time to actually explain their specific demands to the public, writes Tom Richardson.

All I'm saying is, now that SA's teachers are officially striking again, it might be a great time to actually explain, y'know... what specifically they're striking about?

Because the thing is, with this particular round of industrial action, I'm a bit lost.

State president Howard Spreadbury confirmed to me that members were being balloted, but refused to elaborate.

He wouldn't even explain why the industrial action was being considered.

Which evidently suggests he was content for parents not merely to be given just two days to make alternative arrangements, but to have no prior warning of the prospect whatsoever.

[Read the story](#)

### SA Public School Teachers Vote To Strike On Thursday

More than one in five public schools and preschools that have so far reported to the Education Department will be shut on Thursday morning when teachers go on strike.

The half day stop-work action will go ahead after enterprise bargaining negotiations with the State Government stalled.

Schools and preschools will reopen by 12.15pm on Thursday.

An Education Department spokesman said while some government schools and preschools would remain open and operating as normal, the strike would result in others closing.

He said some schools and preschools will open with reduced staffing by offering a modified learning program and, in some cases, an Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service will be available to families that book a place.

Principals and preschool directors will be writing to families this week to let them know what will happen at their child's school or preschool.

Teacher union president Howard Spreadbury said members did "not take industrial action lightly".

Treasurer Rob Lucas said striking would do nothing to "change the budget position".

He said education was receiving \$200m more this year compared with last year, which would be used to fund government priorities such as literacy, numeracy, phonics checks and entrepreneurship.

"We're not going to fund the priorities union bosses dictate," he said.

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***“...Can you please hire teachers that really want to inspire us...”***

### **Don't Vote Liberal Teacher Gets A Caning**

The Commissioner for Public Sector Employment is investigating a public school teacher who vowed to “ensure that the next generation of voters in my classroom don't vote Liberal” in a Facebook post she thought would be private.

Erma Ranieri, a statutory officer who sets professional standards across the public sector as commissioner, said she was seeking a “full account” of the actions of South Australian teacher and union delegate Regina Wilson.

Ms Wilson's post on the Australian Education Union's Facebook page, revealed in The Australian on Wednesday, has reignited a national debate about political interference in the classroom by union-affiliated teachers.

“The code of ethics is clear about impartiality and professional conduct standards,” Ms Ranieri told The Australian.

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### **Labour Promises Free Tampons In Victorian Schools**

All Victorian state schools will have free pads and tampons in female, unisex and accessible bathrooms. Health Minister Jill Hennessy said the program would be an Australian first from term three next year.

“We want to break down the stigma of menstruation and ensure it does not impact on a student's ability to be comfortable at school and ready to learn.”

“This is about giving female students the dignity they deserve, and helping families with the cost of living along the way.”

The government says students who do not have access to sanitary products often cannot concentrate in class, may not feel comfortable doing physical activity, or may miss school altogether, creating unnecessary stress and potentially delaying changes of products, increasing the risk of toxic shock or cervical cancer.

“Labor believes that tampons and pads are as basic and necessary as toilet paper and soap.”

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### **RAA Offers Free Driving Lessons**

More high school drivers will be on the road than ever before thanks to a program which will offer free driving lessons to students from selected schools.

Students at high schools in the western suburbs will be the first to benefit from the roll out, with Seaton High, Findon High and Le Fevre High set to be the first schools to participate. Eighteen students are already taking part in the pilot program with nine already passing.

The program offers driving lessons with qualified RAA instructors and will include the entire 75 hours of driving experience required to progress to a P-licence.

[Full Story](#)

### **What Students Really Think Of You**

UNICEF Australia commissioned a survey of over 1,000 14 to 16-year-olds, in schools across Australia, to determine what they think should change in our education system.

Overall, Australian teens think schools need better teachers, and they want the curriculum to be more relevant to their lives.

The survey found a strong correlation between student achievement and perceptions of skilled teachers. Over half of the highest achieving students mostly attributed their success to teachers. A majority of low-achieving respondents said they needed more teacher support.

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### **Australia's Child Protection Crisis**

SA's ongoing child protection challenges reflect a national “crisis” in services which is forcing some agencies to resort to glossy advertising campaigns and mass hiring sprees in a desperate attempt to attract staff to key frontline roles.

An investigation by The New Daily has revealed child protective services across the country are battling to attract new talent and combat staff attrition in crucial positions.

Last year, one out of every 32 children received child protection services, according to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report.

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