



Stand united against bullying on **Friday 15 March 2019**

This week's stories from the media

- Student climate strike 4
- Striking students told to turn up
- Helping girls feel safe on the streets at night
- How to mentally prepare principals for the job
- Three high schools to trial Year 7 next year
- Parents frustrated at rezoning

Striking Students Told To Turn Up

Pupils from hundreds of schools in over 55 cities and towns across Australia are downing pencils to call on politicians to stop Adani's coal mine, say no to all new fossil fuels and power Australia with 100% renewable energy by 2030.

However, not everybody supports the strike, with some schools warning of consequences for truancy and education ministers such as NSW's Rob Stokes declining to back the political movement.

However, striking pupils have won the support from other political leaders, such as NSW Labor leader Michael Daley who told ABC: "They do have a democratic right of assembly, they do have a right to protest."

Tomorrow's strike will spread over 100 countries and shapes as a "milestone moment" in a grassroots campaign to goad world leaders into confronting the threat of global warming, activists and experts say.

[Read the story](#)

Student Climate Strike On National Day Of Action On Bullying

Students should stay in school for the national anti-bullying day on Friday instead of skipping it to rally about climate change, SA Education Minister John Gardner says.

About 2800 people - school and uni students and others - have shown interest in attending the Adelaide School Strike 4 Climate outside State Parliament.

The rally will be one of dozens around Australia on the same day as countless others in more than 80 countries.

But in Australia they will unintentionally clash with the annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

About 155,000 students from almost 400 SA public and private schools will take part in anti-bullying activities.

Mr Gardner said every day of school missed was "a lost opportunity for learning".

He said students had a right to engage in political activities but it would be "more meaningful" on their own time.

Adelaide rally organiser Doha Khan, 17, who is in Year 12 at Glenunga International High, said politicians' inaction on climate change was a form of intergenerational bullying.

"In a way this protest is taking a stand against bullying and inconsiderate behaviour," she said. "Their policies are taking away someone else's right to a safe climate future."

Doha said the strikes were "an application of everything we have learnt in school" about climate science and being "community-minded citizens".

She said she emailed Mr Gardner a month ago, hoping to meet and gain his support, but received no reply.

[More](#)

Take a stand against bullying.

“...Nearly half of young women aged 15-19 feel unsafe walking around after dark....”

Helping Girls Feel Safe On The Streets At Night

A Mission Australia survey, released yesterday shows that nearly half of young women aged 15–19 feel unsafe walking around after dark.

Additionally, a fifth of young women cite ‘personal safety’ as a concern.

Mission Australia’s Gender Gaps – Findings from the Youth Survey 2018 report also found that young men experience these issues, but to lesser degrees. For instance, less than a fifth of them are afraid of walking at night, and around 14% are generally worried about personal safety.

Young women were twice as likely to report personal safety as a possible barrier to moving out of home than young men (28% compared to 14%).

Mission Australia James Toomey said the findings, based on nearly 30,000 responses, are alarming. They have “a major impact on young females’ public engagement” and, as a result, young women “feel less connected to their communities than their male peers”.

[More](#)

How To Mentally Prepare Principals For The job

Amid growing concerns about the mental health of those in the teaching profession, a recent article in *The Age* underscored a looming crisis: a critical shortage of principals in Australian schools.

Another worrying trend from a separate study showed that one in 10 principals had thought about self-harm in the week prior to being surveyed, or indicated that they had a very poor quality of life.

The University of Oxford conducted research on the demands in ‘caring’ professions (i.e. teaching, nursing, etc.) and found that rather than focusing on combating stress, focusing on improving resilience has a far greater effect on productivity.

In fact, data from the World Health Organization found that resilience training has 13 times the efficacy of medication such as anti-depressants.

Principals who are committed to building resilience in their own life are more likely to master stress and minimise their risk of developing mental health problems.

[More](#)

Three High Schools To Trial Year 7

Mitcham Girls High School, Wirreanda Secondary School and John Pirie Secondary School will from next year accept Year 7 enrolments.

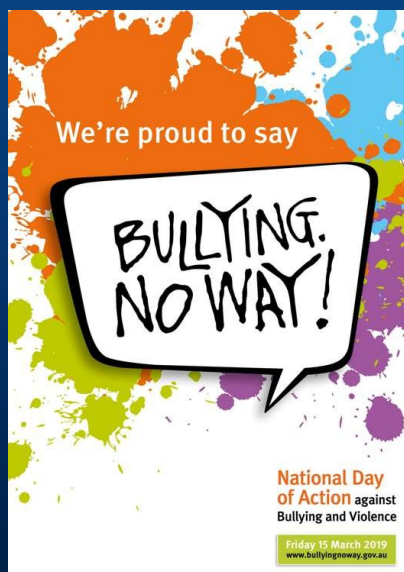
The three schools will pilot the transition ahead of a mooted 2022 statewide rollout, with some Reception to Year 12 government schools already offering Year 7 in a high school setting.

Announcing the selected schools this morning, Education Minister John Gardner said the pilot would help identify workforce and curriculum issues that could arise from the transition.

The schools, have begun consulting with families and feeder primary schools this week.

[Full Story](#)

National Day Of Action



Parents Frustrated At Rezoning

Parents of Year 7s hit hardest by the city high school rezoning say the “case management” scheme supposed to help them is unresponsive, late, and lacking critical information.

Families have only received letters from the Education Department about the case management process in the past few days.

Those letters fail to detail the special entry options at Adelaide High and Adelaide Botanic High that the Government has spruiked as a way they might still get into a CBD school.

Parents also say messages to a department email address, given to them by their primary schools, have not been returned.

[Read more](#)