



This week's stories from the media

- What our leaders said about school climate strike
- SAASSO Survey
- Researchers warn against sending kids to bed with phones
- Getting serious about fun
- Tiny school turns fortunes around
- 15% of families reported to authorities
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SAASSO Survey

As the teenager who started the student climate protests is nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, some of our leaders are condemning the protests and warning students against taking part.

Meanwhile, with a federal election looming, education promises are starting to flow.

Should students who miss school to protest climate change be punished?

Should students with an ATAR below 80 be barred from entering the teaching profession?

Do we need a Royal Commission into the abuse of disabled people?

Should HECS debt be waived for teachers who work for four years in remote Indigenous communities?

[Take the survey](#)

What Our Leaders Said About School Climate Strike

Tens of thousands of students turned out on Friday, a school day, to protest inaction on climate change.

The students are campaigning for the transition to 100% renewables by 2030, stopping the Adani coalmine and all new fossil fuels.

But a number of senior government politicians condemned the decision to protest during school hours.

New South Wales education minister Rob Stokes surprised many when he told Sky News in the lead up to the rally that it is against the law for students to strike.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said a strike during school hours was "grossly irresponsible."

She also criticised opposition leader Michael Daley who told students that we are at a "crossroads" on climate and backed the strikers.

Federal education minister Dan Tehan said the strikes were orchestrated by professional activists and children were missing valuable class time.

South Australian Premier Steven Marshall said striking during school hours was "outrageous".

Schools took various approaches to the strike, with some marking children absent for attending the strike whereas others encouraged students to take part.

Some schools left it up to parents to decide if children were allowed to go



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“...We’ve got carers who are as young as seven and eight years old...”

Researchers Warn Against Sending Kids To Bed With Phones

Children as young as seven are using mobile phones in their bedrooms during the middle of the night, a new survey by South Australian researchers has found.

But it is the shock statistic, that as many as a quarter of youngsters aged just seven and eight are on a mobile phone between 10pm and 6am - that has experts worried.

“Using smartphones at night is now common among children at that age and it will be a concern for parents and carers because not only does phone use impact negatively on sleep, but we are finding that it also increases angry or hurtful communication”.

“(Technology at night) is having a big impact on the amount of sleep children are getting and the quality of sleep; children will wake up in the middle of the night, check their phone and send text messages.”

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Getting Serious About Fun

In an Australian-first, researchers at Monash University are launching a comprehensive project to see whether we should be taking fun more seriously.

To be conducted over five years, Conceptual PlayLab will be the nation’s largest ever study into play-based education.

Its focus: how parents and teachers can weave storytelling and creativity into their learning environments to enhance the skillsets of the next generation of STEM students, and inspire future leaders.

The model will be tested primarily through a free app, designed around a new learning model called Conceptual PlayWorld.

Through it, parents and teachers will be provided resources and knowledge to help them immerse infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers into a shared conceptual playworld of dynamic challenges, imagination and games.

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Tiny School Turns Fortunes Around

A tiny Aboriginal school in the state’s north, which had not had a student achieve the SACE since 2012, suddenly has three completers - and they’ve all finished way ahead of schedule.

Marree Aboriginal School Year 12s Savannah Willis, 17, Jeconan Wingfield, 16, and Shaqkodan Warren, 18, already have the 200 subject credits needed for the SACE.

The 23-student R-12 school has turned around its fortunes under principal Maurice Saah, who gained immediate attention by reintroducing uniforms.

A surprisingly broad range of SACE subjects, including all the sciences, are taught by five teachers, including Mr Saah, who specialises in maths.

[Full Story](#)

15% Of Families Reported

Up to 15% of South Australian families are involved with the child protection system and the number of children being removed from their parents is outstripping population growth.

Responding to the emergency, the State Government will create a new unit to better support struggling families.

Figures released for the first time by Government show up to 67,000 families, caring for almost 95,000 children, were reported to child protection authorities in the six years to June 2018.

Experts warn children in those families “frequently” display self-harm or suicidal behaviours, anxiety, criminal behaviour or health issues.

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Remarkable Kid Carers

It’s estimated there are 35,000 people in SA aged under 25 who are caring at home for a loved one who has a physical or mental illness.

Nationally, 272,000 young people are registered as carers, which means they look after a loved one due to illness, disability, mental health, or drug or alcohol problems.

One assessment suggests two children in every classroom are playing a carer’s role in some capacity.

“There is an incredible number of young people who are helping in some way at home. Some are the full-time primary carer (and) we’ve got carers who are as young as seven and eight years old”.

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