



This week's stories from the media

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### Calling All Parents

**Calling all parents! Want to make a difference to the way your child's primary school helps kids feel about their bodies?**

The Butterfly Foundation Prevention Services Team are looking for mothers and fathers across Australia to be part of Parent Reference Group to help shape the development of a new Whole of Primary School Body Image Program.

The Butterfly Foundation is an Australian national advocacy organisation dedicated to changing culture, policy and practice in the prevention, treatment and support of those affected by eating disorders and negative body image.

You will have your say about the body image policies you want to see within Australian primary schools.

The Group will be in operation until March 2020, and will be invited to attend three online meetings and provide feedback on parent materials.

[Full Story](#)

### Student Ideas To End School Bullying

**Showing students real-life examples of bullying on social media and talking to bullies about problems in their lives are among solutions students say would stop the behaviour.**

Students from city and country schools are sharing their ideas to inform a State Government bullying strategy expected later this year.

Student ideas are being collated by the Youth Affairs Council of SA, to add to the results of an online survey of adults run by the government and a report by a roundtable of experts convened last year.

A government discussion paper at the time asked whether police involvement, punishment or banning mobile phones at school would kerb the behaviour. However, young people say retribution isn't the solution.

"Getting a punishment, for the bully, would be embarrassing. It would make their behaviour worse," said Year 10 student Alice Sua, 15.

Year 11 Phoebe Field said bullying often resulted from "people joking but not understanding that it's hurting the other person".

"If you could show them actual examples of bullying they might be able to tell the difference," the 16-year-old said. A social media campaign with high-profile people, or visits to schools, would have an impact, she said.

Year 12 Osman Abdullahi, 16, suggested experts visit schools to talk about the issue.

And Year 12 Farhiya Abdulwahab, 16, urged teachers to "see what's going on" with bullies. "Sometimes they feel like putting their anger on other people would make them feel better and tougher," she said.

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**“...34% of students attend a non-government school, significantly higher than the OECD average of 14%....”**

#### NAPLAN Online Hit By Technical Problems

**Technical problems have disrupted the start of this year's online NAPLAN tests in South Australian schools.**

Students from at least 510 SA schools started sitting NAPLAN tests online on Tuesday - more than 70% of the state's total and way above the national average of about half.

Thousands of old-style test papers will be on hand in case of technical glitches that dogged a national practice session in late March.

The SA Education Department told The Advertiser: “A number of SA schools that participated in NAPLAN online today experienced technical issues”.

It is not clear how many schools are affected or whether they had to revert to paper tests.

Close to 65,000 of the 82,000 SA students taking the literacy and numeracy tests are doing so on computer.

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#### NAPLAN: Experts Tell Parents & Teachers Not To Stress Kids

**With NAPLAN numeracy tests just around the corner for Australian school students, parents and teachers are also rushing to use third-party practice tests for last-minute prep.**

Matific's Numeracy Educator Brent Hughes, who was also a primary school teacher, said there is a limit to how much more study kids can and should do before their NAPLAN numeracy tests.

Mr Hughes said kids are not going to benefit from studying for long hours the night before, especially if they're in Years 3 and 5.

He also said they are not going to learn much more 24 hours before their numeracy test.

“If you're working with primary school students, they should not do more than 15 to 20 minutes the night before the test,” she said.

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*The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.*

#### Impending Crisis In Maths

**Australia is facing “a crisis” in secondary schools as student populations swell and a shortage in mathematics-qualified teachers continues.**

Australia's student population will grow by more than 650,000 annually. The report's authors contend that recent initiatives to channel mathematics graduates into education careers will not be enough to avert a situation that has been developing for over three decades.

The amount of out-of-field teaching in the subject has reached a critical point, “with less than one in four students having a qualified mathematics teacher in each of Years 7 to 10”.

[Full Story](#)

#### Streaming: The Dumb Get Dumber

**The smart stay smart, the dumb get dumber: One teacher's view on streaming kids.**

Separating kids according to their assessed ability is the norm in Australian education. 98% of schools use some form of streaming, with advantages perceived for all parties involved.

In a piece recently published, Oscar Hedstrom argues that the system produces elitism and inequality from the get-go.

A literature review supported by Melbourne University found as much. It also found that the well-being and self-esteem of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds can suffer enormously from streaming.

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#### Fairness Questions In Our Schools

**Education is often hailed as the ‘great equaliser’, but is it? Do schools eliminate inequality or help to reinforce it?**

Today 34% of students attend a non-government school, significantly higher than the OECD average of 14%.

This, combined with the fact that school zoning has been relaxed in recent years, means that parents – particularly middle-class ones – have more choice than ever when it comes to where they send their child.

A culture of “school shopping” has developed to such an extent that parents are often seen as “negligent” if they do not take interest in this decision.

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