



This week's stories from the media

- First SA high schools to take Year 7s
- No jab no play
- Principals worried about supply and quality of teachers
- Are your schools anti-bullying campaigns making it worse
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No Jab No Play

A discussion paper gives South Australians an opportunity to say whether non-vaccinated children should be excluded from kindy and child care.

It proposes that children need to be appropriately immunised, on an immunisation catch-up program or be exempt for medical reasons, in order to enrol or attend early childhood care services.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade said the discussion paper was the next step in strengthening state-based laws to improve childhood immunisation rates.

While immunisation rates in South Australia are considered good they are still falling short of the 95 per cent coverage in most areas.

The Early Childhood Services and Immunisation Discussion Paper will be released for four weeks for consultation.

[Full Story](#)

First SA High Schools To Take Year 7s

South Australian Year 7 students will begin to transition into high school from next year.

Three schools from different parts of the state have been included in a program to provide information to other similar schools about the program to move Year 7s into high school.

More than 360 families have registered interest for the pilot program from the involved schools - Mitcham Girls High School, Wirreanda High School, and John Pirie Secondary School.

Premier Steven Marshall and Education Minister John Gardner visited Mitcham Girls High to chat with students interested in attending the high school in Year 7 next year.

Premier Steven Marshall said the response proves South Australians are ready for Year 7 to be taught in a high school setting.

"I am confident these families will see the benefits of having their child take part in a specialist learning from Year 7," Mr Marshall said.

Mr Gardner said the Year 7 move would give students more opportunity to succeed.



"To deliver a world-class education system, we need our Year 7s to be taught by specialist teachers in the specialist setting offered to high schools, as designed in the national curriculum," Mr Gardner said.

Schools are sending enrolment packs to families this week, with the final enrolment process to be completed by June 21.

[More](#)

Read SAASSO's interview with John Pirie Secondary School's principal in the current edition of *School Post!*

“...Music is so important, it’s life changing, it connects us with the world...”

Principals Worried About Supply And Quality Of Teachers

Principals are concerned about managing the quality, supply and capabilities of their teachers in the coming years, new research has found.

More than 150 principals across the country were asked their reflections on their school now and in five years’ time, in a new State of the Sector report.

With an ageing staff population combined with large numbers of graduates lasting only a few years on the job, principals named teacher capability as the top workforce challenge not just today, but into the future.

In particular, principals had concerns over the quantity and quality of teachers for key subject areas, specifically maths, physical sciences and senior secondary teachers.

Almost 40% of principals felt the quality of physical sciences teachers available in the labour market was not sufficient, and almost a third expressed similar concern about maths teachers.

[More](#)

Are Your Schools Anti-Bullying Campaigns Making It Worse

However well-intentioned, some school anti-bullying campaigns actually make the issue worse.

That’s the warning from University of Queensland researcher Karyn Healy.

Some of the problem, Healy said, stems from the fact most anti-bullying programs cite a theoretical base to support the approach but not an evaluation of the specific program.

She gave the example of emphasising bystander action in which an onlooker stands up for the victim of bullying. This type of campaign is bolstered by a 2001 observational study that revealed just over half (57%) of the interventions stopped bullying.

Yet a 2010 synthesis of many studies found programs encouraging students to help actually made bullying worse.

[More](#)

The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next generation.

NAPLAN Technical Problems

Delivery of the national testing of Australia’s school students will come in for its own examination after technical issues plagued NAPLAN earlier in the month.

Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan has ordered an independent review over the next month to look at what went wrong with the online tests.

It will focus on the delivery of the platform and what factors contributed to some schools having problems.

When the testing took place across the country in mid-May, some students lost connectivity and others were unable to log in at all.

[Full Story](#)

Music Teacher Of The Year Award

Applications open for the 2019 ARIA Music Teacher of the Year Award.

Nominations are open to the public and any music teacher working at a school, kindergarten, early childhood centre, youth centre or private tuition music school is eligible.

Last year’s award was bestowed to South Australian teacher Scott Maxwell from Grant High School.

“Music is so important, it’s life changing, it connects us with the world, it connects us with each other, it connects us to ourselves and it brings our consciousness into the present,” Maxwell said.

[More](#)

Parent Infant Reading NAPLAN Link

Parents who read to their child aged one to two years daily are gearing them up for stronger literacy, language and numeracy results at school.

That’s the message from new Charles Sturt University research.

“The positive findings from our study suggest that parents should not only be informed about the long-term academic benefits to be gained from parent-child book reading during infancy, but they should be encouraged and provided with support to engage in high levels of parent-child book-reading daily,” Dr. Michelle Brown said.

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