



This week's stories from the media

- State Government review of VET in schools
- Principals optimistic despite job demands
- Teachers offered pay rise
- SA work experience scheme broken
- Schools failing to prepare students
- Ways to encourage girls to play sport
- Teachers want more special needs, ICT training

Principals Optimistic

It's perhaps never been harder to be a school principal, or assistant or deputy principal.

According to the 2018 Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Well-being Survey, one in three school leaders are seriously distressed.

In trying to keep their heads above the proverbial water, more than half of the 2365 participants surveyed were working 56 hours a week - far too much to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

At a time when 70% of school principals are approaching retirement, such statistics are troubling indeed.

It might seem surprising, then, that most principals are still incredibly optimistic about the current state of education and the future.

A recent report by education workforce research and analytics company PeopleBench found that Australian principals are still remarkably positive.

Full Story

State Government Review Of VET In Schools

A State Government review of VET in schools aims to make it more attractive to students and ensure skill shortages can be filled.

A State Government review of vocational education in schools aims to change the image of trades as an inferior option to university.

A discussion paper released on Thursday says most of the fastest-growing job areas require vocational rather than degree qualifications.

Education Minister John Gardner says there has been a "worthy desire" to boost university access, but over the past 20 years that has come at the expense of recognising the value of trades that "tend to lead to long-term jobs and careers".

"Now more than ever we need to raise the status of skilled and technical qualifications to ensure that we are investing in areas that meet our state's skills needs and provide great career opportunities for more young people,"

The discussion paper breaks down the issues around VET in schools into four key areas:

- perception
- access
- quality
- relevance.

Of the top 50 occupations with the best growth outlook, 82% will need VET rather than university qualifications.

By 2022, almost 250,000 VET qualifications will need to be delivered in SA to meet the skills requirements of businesses.

The proportion of young South Australians in post-school education, training or jobs fell from 70.6% in 2006 to 67.1% in 2016.

More



“...Of the top 50 occupations with the best growth outlook, 82% will need VET rather than university qualifications....”

Teachers Offered 2.35% Pay Rise

Teachers, principals and school support staff could receive a pay rise in the State Budget under a new agreement offered by the State Government.

Teachers would be paid \$30-\$40 a week extra under a pay deal offered to the 28,000 educators.

The offer of a 2.35% pay rise ends a 12-month long impasse where frustrated teachers took strike action due to delays in the State Government putting a formal deal on the table.

Treasurer Rob Lucas said the pay offer – which will put a \$699 million dent in the Budget's bottom line – included incentives for teachers to move to the country and funds for special classes in mainstream schools.

“In exchange, the Government is seeking greater flexibility in relation to the recruitment and selection of teachers, including specific projects such as the transition of Year 7 into high school,” he said.

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SA Work Experience Scheme Broken Survey Finds

South Australia's high school work experience system is “broken” and urgently needs overhauling, a survey has found.

Businesses, schools, students and community groups surveyed found the scheme had “major flaws” and was failing to deliver.

The survey found organising a placement was stressful for students and that those in regional and rural areas had limited choices.

Schools found organising work experience “burdensome” while many businesses did not have a formal program, often because of legal issues and a lack of staff available.

Education Minister John Gardner called on stakeholders and the community to come forward with ideas about how to improve the system.

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Schools Failing To Prepare Students

Schools are failing to prepare Australian students for university and the jobs of the future as literacy and numeracy skills face “sharp falls”, a Productivity Commission has found.

A report into university enrolments revealed that removing a cap on placements has boosted take-up, but many new students were ill-prepared and struggled.

It found the literacy and numeracy skills of school students - on the decline since 2003 - “should be of concern”, and could severely impact the university prospects of children from disadvantaged groups.

[Full Story](#)

Way To Encourage Girls Into Sport

The recent Australian Youth Conference Report found nearly 50% of girls quit sport by the age of 17.

Only 55% of girls aged between 11 and 17 years played sport, compared with 69% of boys.

The report identified the main reason for girls to give up on sport was because they think they are “not good at sport” or they have “too much schoolwork”.

How to engage girls in sport:

1. be a role model
2. get involved
3. create a positive environment
4. develop whole school approaches
5. flexible sport choices outside of school.

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Teachers Want More Training

Australian teachers aren't getting the professional development they need to tackle advanced ICT, teaching in multicultural settings and educating students with special needs.

That was one of the takeaways of the OECD 2018 TALIS, which asked educators around the globe about working conditions and learning environments at their schools.

While 99% of teachers and 100 per cent of principals said they took part in one professional development activity in the year prior to the survey – both figures slightly above the OECD average – Australia expressed a “particularly high need” for training in teaching students with special needs.

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