



This week's stories from the media

- Australia's great education divide
- Education export bonanza hits \$37.7 billion bonanza
- ATAR obsession leading students astray
- Veronica Mars crowdsources teacher supplies
- Schools offer trolley bags
- Mining program in Whyalla

Education Export Bonanza

Australia's booming education exports have hit a new record of \$37.7 billion in 2018-19, recording double-digit growth for the fourth successive year and cementing the sector's position as Australia's premier growth export.

New figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that education export revenue grew 15.5% in 2018-19 and has doubled in the past five years.

The strong revenue growth is being driven by expanding student numbers from a resurgent India, which has replaced China as the main growth market.

Education has moved decisively ahead of tourism to be by far Australia's largest service export. Tourism earned \$22.3bn in export revenue in 2018-19.

Education export revenue has many components, including tuition fees paid by international students in Australia and their spending on living expenses, accommodation, entertainment, travel and so on.

[Full Story](#)

Australia's Great Education Divide

From orchestra pits and on-site baristas to ripped carpets and leaking roofs, this is the 'infrastructure arms race' between Australia's schools.

An ABC investigation of the MySchool website has revealed the gaping divide between Australia's richest and poorest schools.

Australia's four richest schools spent more on new facilities than the poorest 1,800 schools combined.



The poorest 1,800 schools spent less than \$370 million. They teach 107,000 students.

Half of the \$33 billion spent on capital projects in Australian schools between 2013 and 2017 was spent in just 10% of schools.

These schools teach fewer than 30% of students and are the country's richest - ranked by average income from all sources.

They also reaped 28% (or \$2.4 billion) of the \$8.6 billion in capital spending funded by the government.

Over the past decade, public funding to private schools has risen nearly twice as fast as public funding to public schools.

Recurrent public funding to private schools topped \$14 billion in 2017.

Former chair of the ACARA board, Professor Barry McGaw, said the data now available on the MySchool website, opens up questions we've not been able to ask before.

"And now you can see how little gets spent on government schools, compared to non-government schools."

[More](#)

“...Australia’s four richest schools spent more on new facilities than the poorest 1,800 schools combined...”

ATAR Obsession Leading Students Astray

Australia’s Chief Scientist has attacked the national scoring system for university entry, arguing it discourages high school students from taking on difficult subjects for fear of getting a lower score.

Dr Alan Finkel said Australian universities’ intense focus on the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank as the bar for acceptance was setting students up to perform poorly once they reached tertiary education.

He urged universities to place greater emphasis on students completing prerequisite subjects that would better prepare them for their future careers.

Dr Finkel cited the example of computer science: analysis found 70% of computer science undergraduate courses in Australia do not require an applicant to have studied mathematics.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a score between zero and 99.95 that ranks a student’s academic results against other year 12 students, and is the primary pathway for university admission.

[More](#)

Veronica Mars Crowdfunders Teacher Supplies

Teachers aren’t likely to be able to ask 10 million people for help with school supplies – so US actress Kristen Bell is doing it for them.

The Veronica Mars star is leveraging her Instagram following of nearly 11 million users for good, rallying people to donate to classrooms across the country.

Each #FeaturedTeacherFriday, Bell posts a story about a teacher who dips into their own pockets to help students attend and succeed at school, or who would like to do more for those in their class.

For the latest instalment, Bell signal-boosted the work of Texas teacher Lanie Matula, who she said approaches class with an attitude of compassion and inclusivity.

Matula personally purchases supplies like backpacks, clothes, books and snacks.

She said: “For some of my students, school is the only place they will receive a meal and have as a safe space with someone to trust”.

[More](#)

Schools Offer Trolley Bags

A bag on wheels is usually associated with a trip away rather than a school day, but Adelaide schools are rolling with the idea of trolley bags as an alternative to traditional backpacks.

Walford is the latest school to look at adding roller bags to its uniform list, after students pitched it to the school’s annual “festival of ideas”.

UniSA physiotherapy Professor Steven Milanese was “fully supportive” of roller bag trials but said no type of bag eliminated injury risk.

Prof Milanese said overfilled backpacks were more likely to hurt backs, while dragging overpacked trolley bags over uneven surfaces was likely to lead to twisted arms and wrists.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

Term 3 Edition In School Monday!



Mining Program In Whyalla

High school students are being exposed to the opportunities mining and steel production bring, through a GFG Foundation program designed to excite young people’s passions about working in industry.

GFG Alliance executive chairman Sanjeev Gupta on Friday launched the foundation’s program in Whyalla.

The six-month program involves 16 students, which the foundation has termed “test pilots”, doing a six-month work experience stint through the company’s local steelworks and mining operations.

The first cohort of students are studying Years 9 and 10.

[Read more](#)