



This week's stories from the media

- SA public education awards finalists
- New plan to stem teacher shortage
- SA improves in NAPLAN writing tests
- Widespread racism in schools
- Reading for pleasure
- One in 10 kids care for someone with disability or drug issue
- Melbourne school bans bins

### New Plan For Teacher Shortage

A new report proposes a \$1.6 billion reform package to “double the number of high achievers who choose to become teachers, and increase the average ATAR of teaching graduates to 85, within the next decade”.

In addition to offering \$10,000-a-year-scholarships to encourage students into the profession, some teachers will be able make \$80,000 a year more under the role of Master Teachers.

Instructional Specialists would earn \$40,000 extra a year.

The Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) president, Professor Tania Aspland, said: “The proposals in the Grattan Institute report will help make teaching more attractive to higher academic achievers, who place particular emphasis on the pay, intellectual challenge and promotional paths of potential careers...”

Education deans are keen to make teaching more attractive by encouraging students with ATAR scores over 80 to consider a teaching career.

[Full Story](#)

### SA Public Education Awards Finalists

**Many teachers will tell you that one of the most rewarding aspects of the job is witnessing those “aha” moments when a student makes a breakthrough and masters a concept.**

It means even more for Lisa Watkins because for her students, those moments can be years in the making.

Her students have global development delay or autism. They usually stay with her for three years from Reception to Year 2 so she forms a “very close bond” with them.

Ms Watkins, 29, of Swallowcliffe School, is a finalist in the Early Years Teacher of the Year category in the SA Public Education Awards, nominated by a colleague for her empowering of students through alternative communication methods.

From a record 1900 nominations, there are 30 finalists in 10 categories including early years, primary and secondary teaching, leadership, innovation and community engagement.

Other finalists include:

Lucy Standish from Kilparrin - community engagement category.

Sam Moyle from Brighton Secondary - secondary teacher.

The department's STEM Aboriginal Student Congress Design Team - system excellence.

Winners will receive \$10,000 funding for their own professional development, and runners-up \$2000 funding. The awards ceremony will be on October 11.

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***“...more than 9% of the sample were looking after a family member with a disability or another serious health issue....”***

### SA Improves In NAPLAN Writing Tests

South Australian students have significantly improved in NAPLAN narrative writing tests but the state has again recorded overall results that lag behind the rest of the country.

SA scored above the Australian average in Year 9 writing – a first for any category in any year level since 2016 – and also made significant gains in writing in Years 3 and 5.

However, the uplift in writing was a national trend.

“We are giving schools the support they need to deliver better literacy outcomes for students and while we readily acknowledge there is still a long way to go, the early signs are positive,” acting Education Minister Rob Lucas said.

He said the Government’s policies aimed at lifting results included literacy coaches, phonics screening checks, teacher professional development, expanded school breakfast programs and free dyslexia workshops for parents.

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### Widespread Racism In Schools

One in five African students has been threatened by another student and almost half of East Asian students have been called names, according to a survey of 4600 state school pupils across Victoria and NSW.

Racism and religious intolerance remain widespread in Australia’s primary and secondary schools, researchers from Australian National University have found, with discrimination coming from both students and teachers.

This form of bullying can have serious lifelong consequences, according to lead researcher Associate Professor Naomi Priest, contributing to mental and physical health problems and even undermining future employment opportunities as students become discouraged and disengaged.

The researchers found that one third of students had been subjected to racism from other students – from teasing to physical violence – and six in 10 witnessed it. Professor Priest said she was not surprised by the results.

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### Reading For Pleasure

As we end Book Week, which has run since 1946, an important lesson is simply reading for pleasure.

Education Review spoke to senior lecturer at Monash University, Dr Jennifer Rennie, who is also the president of the Australian Literacy Educators Club.

A primary teacher, she argues “reading for pleasure needs to be back on the table”. Yes, the skills are important too, but enjoyment is where it all begins.

‘I think the danger is related to having too much of an emphasis on these skills and knowledge, which are important for readers, but forgetting the idea that reading can in fact be an enjoyable experience, and this can become lost.’

[Full Story](#)

### One In 10 Kids Care For Someone

One in 10 Aussie kids care for someone with a disability or drug dependence – they need help at school.

Children who care for a family member with a disability, mental illness or dependence on alcohol or other drugs are less likely to complete, or do well in, secondary school.

In a school-based survey of 5,220 Australian children aged 8-14, more than 9% of the sample were looking after a family member with a disability or another serious health issue.

More than half of these young carers had responsibilities for a family member with a mental illness or dependence on alcohol or other drugs.

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### Melbourne School Bans Bins

Melbourne Girls’ College has decided to remove all bins from its classrooms and yards – meaning that any waste the 1400 students produce during the day must be taken with them.

The aim is to encourage students to move towards producing no waste at all. It’s sound logic.

There will also be food inspections. Volunteer students will stalk the hallways taking a peek into lunchboxes.

Students with ‘zero waste’ boxes will receive tokens to go into a draw to win prizes, like keep cups.

The school wants to encourage parents to buy fewer packaged items, and to reuse containers.

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