



This week's stories from the media

- Parents key to Year 7s' big move
- Students showcase female triumph
- 10 South Australian high schools building a bright future
- SA international student growth beats national average
- Teachers trained to handle sexting
- Preschool funds tied to attendance
- More male teachers needed

Students Showcase Female Triumph

The winners of a research competition to commemorate the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage have been announced, with the winning entries including a short film detailing the historical events that led to women's right to vote and stand for parliament and letter from the point of view of a suffragist.

All South Australian Year 6, 7, 8 and 9 students were invited to take part in the competition and produce a piece of work that demonstrated understanding of the movement and the passing of the landmark Adult Suffrage Bill 125 years ago.

A class of Year 6 students from Highgate School wrote, acted in, and produced a short film reflecting on the trials, tribulations and extraordinary efforts of women and suffragists who fought for change in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Entries were judged on knowledge and understanding, structure and clarity, and evidence of research and use of both primary and secondary sources.

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Parents Key To Year 7s' Big Move

Convincing parents to be positive about the Year 7 shift into high school will be crucial to students' academic success and wellbeing.

A 56-page Year 7 to high School Teaching and Learning Guide says research shows students feeling connected to their high school is the major predictor of academic and health outcomes.

'For families, the Year 7 shift will appear new and different', it says.

'Ensuring parents view the move positively will be critical for developing student dispositions and connection to their new school.'

'Schools must look to engage parents in learning as opposed to simply involving them in schooling.'

High school leaders have also been sent planning tools that ask them to map out everything from curriculum and timetabling down to details like where year 7 lockers will go and whether more canteen staff will be needed.

One in five permanently employed primary teachers who replied to a survey, indicated an interest in shifting to a high school.

The department's project director, Caroline Crosser said the guide, developed with universities and focus groups, would help schools cater for the 'particular learning needs' of emerging adolescents.

She said year 6s in 2021 must be given leadership opportunities in their primary schools and proper graduations as well as Year 7s.

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“...Schools must look to engage parents in learning as opposed to simply involving them in schooling....”

10 South Australian High Schools Building A Bright Future

From the city to the country, 10 public high schools are undergoing multimillion-dollar makeovers.

Some float on stilts, or have architectural flourishes to make them stand out from their surroundings.

Others are low and sleek, seemingly to blend in to the landscape of their campuses as much as possible.

Designs for 10 multimillion-dollar public school upgrades, released by the State Government and at various stages of approval with local councils, are as varied as the school communities they will serve.

Several include new performing arts centres, as well as extra classrooms and major refurbishments of current buildings.

Many also involve demolishing transportables.

Minister John Gardner said the unveiled designs – part of a \$1.3 billion school capital works commitment – meant “schools and their communities can start to see the new vision of their school come to life”.

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SA International Student Growth Beats National Average

New data indicates South Australia’s international student enrolments remain well ahead of the national growth rate average, with figures from the first eight months of 2019 easily exceeding the entire enrolments of 2018.

The data shows international student enrolments are up 14% in South Australia compared to 9.5% nationally, with state enrolments currently at 39,596 – contributing an estimated \$1.8 billion to the state’s economy.

A breakdown of enrolments saw 32% growth in the vocational education and training (VET) sector and 15% growth in the higher education sector.

South Australia’s school sector is also on the rise, growing by 1%, while at the national level, the school sector’s enrolments declined by close to 4%, giving the state’s school sector a bigger share (11.1%) of total international school student enrolments in Australia.

“Importantly, for every four international students who come to SA, one job is created – which provides a real economic boost.”

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Teachers Trained To Handle Sexting

The ‘send nudes’ culture is so rife in schools the federal government has been forced to step in, with the eSafety Commissioner and the AFP developing a guide to help principals.

The guide, is available to all schools online, recommends all teachers be trained in how to handle sexting and warned to not ‘deliberately view the material’ and to learn how to manage the device and when to engage police.

The guide will help principals deal with the sharing of explicit material such as “sexting, naked selfies or nudes” and will improve the quality and number of reports schools provide to police; giving guidelines on managing evidence to help the investigation process.

[Full Story](#)

Preschool Funds Tied To Attendance

Taxpayer funding for preschool could be tied to children actually turning up amid ongoing concerns about poor attendance rates.

At the moment, funding is tied to enrolment numbers, but the high number of children being signed up for the free 15-hour preschool programs isn’t translating into attendance.

As many as 28% of children enrolled in a dedicated preschool don’t regularly attend the full 15 hours each week, Commonwealth education officials told senators on Thursday.

About one-in-three vulnerable and disadvantaged children don’t attend preschool regularly, and about two-in-five indigenous children.

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More Male Teachers Needed

A University of Tasmania study found that male teachers accounted for a mere 18.26% of primary school teachers, down from 30.24% in 1983.

The researchers assert that the presence of male teachers helps “widen the range of gender models” available to children, therefore helping them develop a better sense of their own identity.

The researchers also concluded that engagement with a range of men at school “may be particularly beneficial for students who do not have access to positive male gender representations in other contexts”.

The study concluded that such increases challenge deleterious stereotypes of masculinity and encourage men’s involvement with young children.

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