



This week's stories from the media

- SA's top teachers
- Split over end of free childcare
- Teacher Registration Board reforms
- Severe bullying not improved by school interventions
- Kindness Curriculum
- Parents worried about the effect of remote learning on kids
- Robot helping kids stay connected

Split Over End Of Free Childcare

Free childcare for families during COVID-19 is costing taxpayers \$131 million a week, and is not likely to be extended beyond June.

South Australian family daycare providers are backing the Federal Government to end the support package on June 28, with the sector saying it was "not very viable" for most operators.

But childcare centres argue it should be extended until September.

About 3750 SA children are enrolled in family daycare across 420 providers, while about 45,900 children attend centres.

Education Department official Dr Ros Baxter fronted a COVID-19 Senate inquiry, saying there were "mixed views" about the package depending on the economic impact on the business.

New figures reveal the 12-week package supporting more than 62,000 SA families has already cost \$917 million of the allocated \$1.6 billion.

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SA's Top Teachers

The Advertiser and Sunday Mail's top public school teachers have been announced.

Greg Brown - Christies Beach High School.

Hannah Lace - Colonel Light Gardens Primary School.

Tamsin Martin - Coomandook Area School.

Mikaela Cacciotti - Ingle Farm East Primary School.

Charlotte Holland / Nik Skrob - Ingle Farm Primary School.

Donna Wallis / Heidi Kerr / Christie Gapp / Rozanna Clarke - Kalangadoo Primary School.

Tom Davidson / Amy Williams - Kangaroo Inn Area School.

Melissa Day - Mitcham Primary School.

Penny Harris - Morphett Vale Primary School.

Kate Nolan - Mt Barker South Primary.

Mark Elkins - Newbery Park Primary School.

Ann Marie Tillet - Para Vista Primary School.

Joshua Bradbrook - Paralowie R-12 School.

Michelle Williams / Isabella Dihm - Penola Primary School.

Deb Hampton - Pimpala Primary School.

Bryce Ingham - Reynella Primary School.

Emma Macleod - Seaview Downs Primary School.

Marilyn Grosser - Springbank Secondary College.

Lezanne Rademeyer - Stradbroke School.

Ian Benjafield - The Heights School.

Skevi Datsopoulos - Vale Park Primary School.

Caroline Fishpool - Wirreanda Secondary School.

[More](#)



“Free childcare for families during COVID-19 is costing taxpayers \$131 million a week, and is not likely to be extended beyond June....”

Teacher Registration Board Reform

Reforms that would remove the right of independent schools, Catholic Education and South Australia’s universities to nominate members of the Teachers Registration Board will be fought out in parliament.

The reforms in a Bill now being debated also would empower the board to adopt codes of conduct and professional standards for the first time and strengthen child protection requirements.

“The Bill has been subject to long and detailed consultation about how we can best meet the needs of South Australian teachers, schools, students and families,” Education Minister John Gardner said.

The board - a statutory authority funded by teachers - would be given new functions including accrediting initial teacher education and formal recognition of quality teaching.

Mr Gardner said the changes would make the board more flexible and that membership would be based on “knowledge, skills and experience” rather than representing stakeholders.

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Severe Bullying Not Improved By School Interventions

A new study using data from 223 student surveys across 24 Australian schools has found that school interventions did not help to resolve severe cases of bullying and group bullying.

UniSA’s Professor Ken Rigby found that school interventions “reduced or eliminated the practice [of bullying] in 67% of cases” but showed no “evident improvement” in 33%.

Rigby’s research found that in around 8% of cases victims reported that bullying worsened after school intervention.

Ensuring schools offer emotional support and advice, and work closely with parents, are also effective strategies.

Professor Rigby’s study is the first to both explore bullying victims’ perceptions of school interventions and suggest ways in which interventions can be more successfully undertaken.

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Kindness Curriculum

Trying a little tenderness might just be the answer for students navigating home and school life in this time of coronavirus.

Developed in partnership with Kaplan Australia before COVID-19, the program’s content has been 12 months in the making.

“It’s based on 12 attributes that we believe make kindness what it is, so things like trust, honesty, collaboration, empathy, positivity, perspective and humour.”

Each of the 12 identified attributes has a corresponding group activity of 30 minutes to 40 minutes, suitable for each age group.

The Kindness Curriculum is available free of charge at thekindnesscurriculum.com

[Full Story](#)

Remote Learning: Parents Worried

The COVID-19 pandemic has left parents worried about the long-term fallout of remote learning and how their kids will catch up.

The inequity across schools in Australia has been laid bare by the home learning era with private school parents significantly more likely to be offered time with their child’s teacher compared to public schools.

Public school students were more likely to receive basic worksheets as their main remote learning method, as opposed to interactive online classes according to a new survey.

The report found 49% of public school students learnt remotely via worksheets as opposed to just 28% of private school students.

[More](#)

Robot Helping Kids Stay Connected

Belle is an OhmniLabs telepresence robot – an innovation service developed by MissingSchool, officially named SEE-BE.

Under a three-year pilot program and with a \$600,000 grant from the St. George Foundation, it has so far empowered 86 children to stay connected to their regular learning community.

While some students confessed they initially found the robot a little “creepy”, overall the classroom response to SEE-BE has been one of great excitement.

MissingSchool knows the isolation kids with serious illness experience, and the profound mental health risks that cluster around it – anxiety and depression being the most common.

[Read more](#)