



This week's stories from the media

- School closures have damaged student learning
- Interstate parents want SA government to ease border rules
- Childcare workers should protect kids by having flu jab
- Period poverty
- The challenges of being a principal during Covid-19
- Adelaide High School \$23m building development

Remote Parents Border Concerns

Remote parents are at a crossroads desperately trying to figure out a way to get their kids back to school interstate.

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association wants help from the SA Government to see isolated students return to school from interstate without having to quarantine for 14 days.

"To be trying to deal with this is an anxious time for our families."

"Perhaps there's another way that we can do this for rural families."

Farmers have been declared essential workers, their children should be too.

"Remote families with students who attend boarding school in South Australia are faced with a complex dilemma," said the president of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association NT branch, Sarah Cook.

"Parents can't afford to be away from their family lives, their farm, their businesses and responsibilities for 14 days, but children cannot quarantine alone."

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School Closures Have Damaged Student Learning

School closures have wiped valuable weeks from students' learning, and disadvantaged students will be hardest hit.

This has happened because Victoria, Tasmania, ACT, NSW and Queensland ignored consistent expert medical advice that it was safe for schools to remain open.

Instead they closed schools for most students for almost a whole term.

Children from disadvantaged backgrounds have been set even further back as a result.

They tend to have less access to support, resources, and internet, so they were always going to be hurt disproportionately by public school closures.

The cost of school closures to disadvantaged students amounts to between two and three weeks of lost learning in numeracy, and between one and two weeks of lost learning in reading.

This will exacerbate existing inequities, with disadvantaged students already being behind by 37 weeks in numeracy and 35 weeks in reading compared to the typical Australian student by the age of 15.

Most parents kept their children home - amid the naive, unreasonable government expectation that parents could simultaneously work from home and supervise their children's education - with serious economic consequences.

The South Australia, WA, and NT governments should be commended for following the Commonwealth's lead and only closing schools for one or two weeks, meaning disadvantaged students would be just minimally affected.

But the other five governments should reflect on the unnecessary educational damage inflicted.

[More](#)



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Flu Jab Childcare Workers

Experts are calling for governments to make it mandatory for childcare workers to have the flu shot after educators were quietly dropped from national advice to make ‘no jab no pay’ compulsory.

While the coronavirus crisis prompted the federal government to enforce the influenza vaccine for aged care workers, News Corp reports the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee’s initial advice to childcare providers was staff and parents would not be allowed to enter a childcare centre without having had the flu shot but it was quickly amended to a recommendation.

News Corp understands the advice was amended after concerns from state governments and the sector about the cost, the logistic difficulties of enforcing the plan, as well as problems securing supply.

But leading vaccination advocates say young children who cannot get the flu shot rely on adult’s immunity and that governments should urgently reconsider as Australia heads into winter, with the double header of potential flu and COVID-19.

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Period Poverty

One in four miss school over lack of access to pads or tampons.

More than 70% of female students have to use toilet paper because their school does not provide sanitary products or asking staff for them is too embarrassing, a survey shows.

Almost a third of those who improvised said they could not afford pads and tampons.

In SA, most public schools have emergency supplies of pads and tampons on request from the office or teachers.

“Every high school and primary school should have access to menstrual products that do not create shame and embarrassment or taboo,” said the survey’s author, SA Commissioner for Children and Young People Helen Connolly.

The survey found one in four respondents did not attend school while menstruating for a number of reasons.

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Principal Challenges Of Covid-19

The majority of school principals are highly satisfied with their jobs

However, the most recent Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing Survey highlights that they are increasingly suffering from a range of serious health problems related to the stress of their jobs, including burnout, sleep and anxiety disorders.

This has only gotten worse for many principals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current pandemic exposes not only fault lines in the current school funding and equity model, but school principals’ tendencies to excel at looking after everyone else’s wellbeing but neglecting their own.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The Term 2 edition of School Post is out next week!



Adelaide High Development

Adelaide High School will get a new, modern \$23m building dubbed the Hive, as the school increases its capacity by hundreds of students.

The new building will include learning areas, a canteen cafe, teacher preparation areas and outdoor learning areas.

Adelaide High will increase to about 1800 students up from 1500 now, Treasurer Rob Lucas said.

As well as the Hive building, the project will include a new flexible, specialist learning area, upgrade of the student courtyard and general landscaping including paving and planting trees.

“This additional investment - which will support 120 jobs at its peak - will improve learning conditions for students and staff.”

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