



This week's stories from the media

- Student jobs to count for learner profile
- No job no play
- 4 in 10 kids facing sexual harassment at school
- Unprecedented demand from children fleeing unsafe homes
- Low risk of students and teachers transmitting Covid at school
- Single sex vs. co-ed
- Students more than a number

No Jab No Play

As the new “No Jab, No Play” law comes into effect in South Australia, The Advertiser has mapped the wildly different vaccination rates across the state.

Dramatic changes to early childhood services come into force from Friday with the “No Jab, No Play” legislation excluding children up to the age of six from early learning services who have not been fully vaccinated having a bigger impact on some areas than others.

SA tails the national aspirational rate of 95% coverage.

In the one-year age bracket, areas under 93% include Adelaide City with 89.7% as well as Port Adelaide West, Eyre Peninsula and South West, and Outback North and East.

Areas above 95% include the Mid North with 97%, Port Adelaide East, Burnside, Prospect, Walkerville, Tea Tree Gully, Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Barossa, Yorke Peninsula, Limestone Coast and Murray Mallee.

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Student Jobs To Count For Learner Profile

Work at Maccas after school? Volunteer for the RSPCA? Captain the netball team? You may have skills a uni or employer wants to know about more than whether you passed ancient studies.

Students who gain experience outside school, such as part-time work or community service, will have those skills added to their school-leaving certificate under a major change to assessment.

The new certificate, called a Learner Profile, would include SACE results and be used toward entry into university or vocational studies and job applications.

The change will be at the centre of the SACE Board's three-year strategic plan being published in August and come into effect as early as 2023.

South Australia was “well placed to take a lead role nationally in pioneering a new approach”, Education Minister John Gardner said.

The Learner Profile would include subject results, literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and qualities such as leadership demonstrated in and outside school.

Abilities such as entrepreneurship and problem-solving would be given a rating under the new scheme.

The SACE Board would now work on the structure of the Learner Profile.

It would capture evidence of learning outside the school, such as working on a family farm.

Prof Westwell said the change would give students an incentive to study subjects such as languages where complementary learnings could be evaluated alongside grades, rather than picking subjects to boost their Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

It was a complex change and pilot programs would help iron out issues, he said.

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“Abilities such as entrepreneurship and problem-solving would be given a rating under the new scheme....”

4 In 10 Kids Face Sexual Harassment At School

Students across Australia are being forced to face sexual harassment at school, with almost half saying they've experienced sexual jokes, jibes or innuendos in the past term alone.

A Macquarie University study of more than 4000 Australian students found 42% of boys and 40% of girls reported such behaviour from peers in the past school term.

One third of students surveyed were from non-government schools and two thirds from state schools.

Researchers found the most common form was making sexual jokes, comments, gestures and looks, which were experienced by 31%. 17% said they had been poked, pinched or grabbed in a sexual way, 15% said they had been brushed up against sexually and 13% had sexual rumours spread about them.

Other examples experienced by more than one in ten teenagers included sending sexual pictures or messages, flashing, calling someone “gay” and commenting or ranking their private parts.

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Unprecedented Demand From Children Fleeing Unsafe Homes

A SA charity which supplies essential supplies to children entering the child protection system or escaping domestic violence says demand for its service has doubled during the pandemic due to an “unprecedented” rise in the number of young people fleeing dangerous living situations.

Backpacks 4 SA Kids, which works with the Department for Human Services, SA Police and other not-for-profit organisations to provide haversacks of basic items such as clothing, toys, toiletries and books to vulnerable children across the state, says it has already spent its entire 2020 budget and is now asking the public to help it meet excess demand.

Founder Rachael Zaltron said in April and May last year her Para Hills West-based charity supplied 498 backpacks to children in need, but over the same period this year during the peak COVID-19 lockdown it handed out 1021 packs.

She said usually Backpacks 4 SA Kids provided most of its backpacks to children in the 10 to 16 age group, but since the coronavirus pandemic demand had increased in all age brackets.

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Low Risk Of Catching Covid At School

Effective tracing and epidemic control measures are essential for safe opening of schools during Covid-19 pandemic.

In an Australian study, an analysis of data collected between January and April in NSW found there were very low levels of transmissions in schools when control measures were in place.

The study looked at real world data from January to April tracking Covid-19 spread within 25 sites.

In 7 sites that underwent additional study, the child-to-child transmission rate was found to be 0.3% and 1.0% for child-to-staff.

The staff-to-child transmission was 1.5% and staff-to-staff was 4.4%, suggesting that children are less likely than adults to spread the virus.

[Full Story](#)

Single Sex Vs Co-Ed

There are just 6 all-boys schools remaining in SA. Do single-sex schools still have a place in 2020? Our state's top educators have their say.

One thing is clear: all kids are different and what suits one child, may not suit the next, regardless if they are a boy or girl.

Professor in Education at UniSA Judith Gill said the trend away from single-sex schools reflected a growing preference for a co-educational experience that better reflected the world beyond school.

However, Adelaide principal of girls-only Seymour College Kevin Tutt, who spent 20 years in the co-ed space ahead of 16 years as headmaster at boys-only Prince Alfred College, argues there are many benefits to a single-sex education, particularly for girls.

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Students More Than A Number

A recent review of pathways after secondary school into work, further education and training recommended all students leave school with a learner profile.

Students should leave school with a Learner Profile that incorporates not only their ATAR score (where relevant) together with their individual subject results, but that also captures the broader range of evidenced capabilities necessary for employment and active citizenship that they have acquired in senior secondary schooling.

Another paper recommended completely replacing the ATAR with a learner profile, as opposed to having the ATAR be part of the profile.

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