



This week's stories from the media

- SA schools to recruit 1000 teachers for Year 7 move
- Governing Council Forum
- Homeschooling spike in SA after Covid lockdown
- Private primary schools should be fully-funded by governments
- IB program for Roma Mitchell Secondary College
- Experts urge rethink on screen time
- Degree cost will hit women hardest

**Governing Council Forum**

The education department is hosting an online forum for governing council chairs.

This forum covers parent engagement in learning, and will be attended by department CE Rick Perse & education minister, John Gardner.

Getting parents engaged in their child's learning improves learning outcomes.

It can help children develop stronger social skills, improve their behaviour, and increase their school attendance and completion rates.

We want your input on how we can better support and encourage parents to engage in their child's learning.

Date: Wednesday 26 August

Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm

You can [register your attendance via Eventbrite.](#)

**SA Schools To Recruit 1000 Teachers As Year 7s Move To High School**

More than 1000 jobs will be available as teachers join students when year 7s move to high school.

"It's a tremendous time to be looking to work in the high school system," Education Minister John Gardner said.

"We are looking for teachers who are adaptable and willing to go the extra mile to ensure our high school students receive the best possible education and guidance for their future."

Year 7s will move into high schools at all government schools from 2022.

This will create 800 new teaching positions, with a further 200 forecast from population growth and an ongoing trend of more students attending public than non-government schools.

The move will result in 500 fewer positions in primary schools.

The Education Department has begun to recruit the high school teachers, with the first round only open to permanent primary school teachers at government schools.

"We would like hundreds of teachers to make the move from primary to high school," Mr Gardner said.

Permanent teachers who chose not to move up had "security of employment that's guaranteed", he said.

There had already been significant interest from teachers, which was why the first stage was restricted with applications due by September 23.

Broader recruitment for any registered teachers would open later.

The recruitment drive numbers did not include teachers for new schools at Aldinga, Angle Vale, Goolwa and Whyalla.

[More](#)



***“We would like hundreds of teachers to make the move from primary to high school....”***

### Home-Schooling Spike In SA After Covid Lockdown

**South Australia’s home-schooling numbers are at a record high and experts predict hundreds more parents are unlikely to return their kids to the traditional classroom after the pandemic passes.**

More than 1500 children were registered for home-schooling in the first six months of this year and the figure is still rising.

Home Education Association president Karen Chegwiddden said COVID-19 had accelerated the year on year growth rate of home schooling, taking it from a “fringe” education choice to “mainstream”.

“There are families who may have been thinking of home -schooling as an education option before COVID-19, but now that they have had a risk free trial they are discovering that they love it and they’re not sending their children back to traditional school learning.”

Ms Chegwiddden said parents report their children were happier and performing better at home than at school.

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### Private Primary Schools Should Be Funded By Governments

**To fix inequality in education, governments should fully fund all non-government primary schools, says former NSW Education Minister and now head of the UNSW Gonski Institute, Adrian Piccoli.**

Piccoli suggests government funding be dependent on non-government schools no longer collecting fees from parents and agreeing to abide by the same enrolment and accountability rules as public schools.

The fully-funded non-government primary private schools would still be run by the same organisations as before, and abide by the same educational philosophy.

But no student would be turned away.

Fully funding primary schools would enable parents to access neighbourhood non-government schools at no cost. It would provide welcome relief for parents who now send their children to non-government primary schools, but who are facing difficulties paying fees due to the COVID-19 recession.

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### IB Program For Roma Mitchell

**Students at Roma Mitchell College will be able to study the IB, with the school becoming the second government high school to offer the course to Year 12 level.**

The International Baccalaureate’s diploma, an alternative to the SA Certificate of Education, will be offered at the Gepps Cross college from next year.

Roma Mitchell will join Glenunga International High School and nine non-government schools to offer the internationally assessed diploma.

“This is a wonderful result for educators, students and families in the Roma Mitchell Secondary College community,” Education Minister John Gardner said.

[Full Story](#)

### Experts Urge Rethink On Screen Time

**Policing screen time might not be the most effective way to manage your child’s social media use in 2020. Here is why it might be time parents put their stop watches away.**

The concern is that by fixating on screen time, parents miss opportunities to connect with and support their children, including around safety, identifying misinformation and dealing with cyber-bullying.

“It is important the focus is on what they are doing, rather than how long they are doing it for.”

“It is not going away, technology is going to continue to evolve so we need to look at how best to integrate it into family life rather than just policing it.”

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### Degree Cost Will Hit Women Hardest

**The proposed increase in the cost of humanities degrees has stirred much debate - these changes will disproportionately affect women.**

Social science, communications and humanities are set to double their current cost.

If the idea is to encourage students to leave the humanities and study science instead, it’s a flawed approach. It would take a lot more than simply changing the cost of study to attract women to the field.

Increasing the costs of the humanities, then, might not push people into STEM or into areas such as nursing or education. But it might push them away from studying the humanities, and away from the vital work they do in a range of industries.

[Read more](#)