



This week's stories from the media

- Mandatory consent education in all schools from 2023
- School sports and excursions return
- Driving lessons give at-risk youth a head start
- SA school career guidance to be modernised
- Call for relaxed boarding rules
- A Finnish perspective

### School Sports & Excursions

**School sports, excursions and extra-curricular activities will return at the end of the month, as the government eases Covid-19 restrictions.**

Education Minister John Gardner announced that from February 28, excursions can be scheduled - particularly encouraging outdoor trips.

Inter-school sport competitions are also being welcomed back.

Schools also can welcome back extra curricular activities, including choir and band practice, music lessons conducted by non-school staff, and work experience.

While from February 28, senior secondary students can attend school camps and outdoor activities forming part of the curriculum, junior year levels aren't expected to reschedule camps until the end of March.

Also from the end of this month, outdoor assemblies can recommence, along with school tours.

[Read](#)

### Mandatory Consent Education In All Schools From 2023

**As of 2023, consent education will be made mandatory for all Australian secondary school students.**

The landmark decision was made last week after state and federal education ministers unanimously agreed to include it in the new national curriculum.

According to a summary obtained by SMH, learning content will be age-appropriate, with young kids to be taught about obtaining permission & setting boundaries.

Teenagers will learn about consent, power imbalances, coercion and gender stereotypes.

According to Dr Allie Carter from UNSW's Kirby Institute, who led a report on teaching consent to young people in schools, consent programs typically focus on the negative impacts of sexual activity rather than healthy relationships.

"We also found that programs rarely moved beyond the individual and interpersonal level, to include discussions of social structures that can influence how young people negotiate sexual encounters with one another," Carter said.

"Very few programs have tended to involve young people themselves in co-design, and we know from the practice of sex education, involving young people in the design of the curriculum is really important to meeting their needs."

"It's really just about having young people at the table from the beginning to inform the content."

[More](#)



**“...Teenagers will learn about consent, power imbalances, coercion and gender stereotype....”**

### Driving Lessons Give At-Risk Youth A Head Start

**This month, St John’s launches its pilot driver training program in partnership with Credit Union SA.**

The program will see at-risk young people undertake formal driving lessons through the RAA and then build up their required 75 hours with volunteer driving supervisors from the credit union.

The driver training program is also funded by Credit Union SA.

Currently, the criteria for eligibility for driver training is that the young people have been connected to St John’s Foyer Port Adelaide crisis accommodation or their post-accommodation support program, Next Step.

Around 40 youth use this crisis accommodation each year.

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### SA School Career Guidance To Be Modernised

**South Australian students will check out their future career options with online games and take virtual visits to businesses in a \$20 million plan to modernise guidance.**

Reports to parents on their child’s career prospects, a game-based program for secondary students to explore employment options and an online questionnaire for year 9s are among the strategy’s measures.

An Education Department spokesman said that until now, the careers system had “varied widely” across public schools.

The department will establish a “professional career service” likely to feature central staff and contractors.

Education Minister John Gardner said the strategy would help students make high school choices in harmony with their career aspirations.

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### Call For Relaxed Boarding Rules

**Regional parents are calling on boarding schools to relax their COVID-19 restrictions, claiming their children are isolated, missing classes, and facing frequent long-distance round trips.**

Boarding houses are following SA Health advice to limit boarder’s extracurricular activities like sport and time spent out of the school like going to the shops.

Australian Boarding Schools Association’s Richard Stokes said individual boarding schools did not feel they had much say on the advice.

A number of federal and state politicians have called for more reasonable conditions for boarders.

[Full Story](#)



### A Finnish Perspective

**It is rare for a teacher to leave the profession in Finland.**

Teaching is one of the top career choices for young people in Finland.

While teacher pay there is similar to that of Australian teachers, the conditions under which Finnish teachers operate are very different and comprise the main reason for the popularity (and success) of the profession there.

Finnish teachers were surveyed about what it would take to make them reconsider their choice of career.

Salary was rarely mentioned and the most popular response was the loss of their professional autonomy.

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