



This week's stories from the media

- Premier's lesson over early schools closure call
- New Covid rules
- Dramatic slump in child vaccination rates
- Acting minister under fire for 'dud teachers' comment
- Which university is safest
- England's mandate of 32.5 hours of teaching per week

New Covid Rules

Premier Peter Malinauskas unveiled a "significant" easing of rules that will free tens of thousands of people from isolation.

With up to 100,000 people confined to their homes, close contact rules will be halved, mask mandates will go by Good Friday.

Summary of the changes announced on Friday, March 25.

Effective immediately:

- Quarantine for household close contacts reduces from 14 days to 7 days (applies to people currently quarantined, subject to a negative RAT).

From 12.01am on Saturday, March 26:

- Period that someone who has had Covid not considered a close contact increases from 8 weeks to 12 weeks
- Definition of close personal interaction increases from 15 mins to 4 hours.

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Premier's Lesson Over Early Schools Closure Call

Premier Peter Malinauskas says he has made it "crystal clear" that he rejects a teachers' union call for term one to end early due to pandemic fatigue.

Mr. Malinauskas said he "fundamentally opposed" calls from the Australian Education Union to prematurely end term one.

"Our teachers are under the pump, but so are a lot of other South Australians."

"I would have every single public servant with a working with children check out in schools acting as temporary chalkies before I close the schools down."

The union wants the final week of term one – beginning April 11 – to be replaced with pupil free days to give "fatigued" teachers more time to recoup and plan lessons.

As of Wednesday, just under 500 public school teachers and 287 SSOs were absent from classrooms due to COVID-19 quarantine requirements.

When asked on ABC Radio Adelaide if he would support the union's request, Malinauskas said: "Not if I've got anything to do with it – and I do".

"I just can't countenance the idea of extending the school holidays by an entire week – the amount of disruption that would cause parents, cause students, cause people who don't have fixed incomes."

"I essentially ruled it out as an option," he said.

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“...I would have every single public servant with a working with children check out in schools acting as temporary chalkies before I close the schools down....”

Dramatic Slump In Child Vaccination Rates

More frightening figures on SA's flagging child vaccination efforts have triggered a rush to plan a new campaign.

Latest SA Health figures show 597 children aged 5 to 11 were inoculated with a first jab last week despite thousands more school students falling ill.

In stark contrast, more than 21,000 children were vaccinated in the last week of January.

Almost 58% of SA's 148,253 eligible youngsters are immunised with either Pfizer or Moderna but the rate has barely risen in five weeks.

Figures show 23.4% of children are double-jabbed.

Chief public health officer, Nicola Spurrier, issued "strong advice" for parents to book their children in immediately.

[More](#)

Acting minister Under Fire For 'Dud Teachers' Comment

Teaching experts have criticised acting federal Education Minister Stuart Robert for making a "shameful" statement claiming "dud teachers" are to blame for declining education standards.

On Thursday, while attending The Independent Schools Australia National Education Forum, Robert spoke about the decline of education results in Australian schools.

He said that student results would improve if this "brutal reality" was confronted.

"If you knock down the bottom 10% of dud teachers, you will actually get our PISA results back to where they should be," he said.

Australian Education Union Federal President Correna Haythorpe said the minister's "shameful" comments were an insult to public school teachers across the country.

[More](#)

If you want your children to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales....

Albert Einstein

Which University Is Safest

Bond University in Queensland has the highest reported prevalence of sexual assault among students, according to a safety survey of Australia's 39 major universities.

Bond's prevalence of sexual assault among students is 13.2%.

Flinders University ranked at number 20, with 4.2%.

Adelaide University ranked at 23, with 4%.

UniSA ranked at 36, with 2.1%.

Federation University Australia had the lowest rank - 39 - with 1.9%.

[Full Story](#)

Daylight Savings Ends

The clocks will turn back this Sunday, April 3rd, at 3am - giving you an extra hour of sleep.



England Mandate 32.5 Hours Of School

English schools will be told to provide at least 32.5 hours of teaching a week, under a new government plan.

The Schools White Paper, published on Monday, will set out the new minimum requirement along with other changes which the Department for Education says will build upon Boris Johnson's levelling-up plan.

The teachers' union says the levelling up plan is 'a classic example of government trying to hit a target but missing the point'

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