



This week's stories from the media

- Back to school as Covid trends downward
- Parents resist Covid jab for kids
- Ham sandwich: Cancer Council's school newsletter
- NSW Premier's message to school teachers
- Running red lights at Adelaide schools surges 46%
- Private school fees hike

### Parents Resist Covid Jab For Kids

Despite pleas from authorities, Covid vaccination rates for children remain sluggish – and 54,000 SA children have contracted the virus.

New SA Health data shows 335 children aged 5-11 had one dose in the first week of the holidays, followed by another 411 youngsters last week.

Authorities had expected a spike in jab visits amid a new push in the school holidays to help arrest the sluggish rate.

That rate had fallen for weeks after a peak of 21,000 kids who had a jab in the last week of January.

More than 40% of the 148,253 eligible youngsters are double-jabbed but almost 61,000 children are unvaccinated.

Chief public health officer Professor Nicola Spurrier had pleaded for parents to get their children jabbed. Health Minister Chris Picton said the government was taking action to boost rates.

[Read](#)

### Back To School As Covid Cases Trend Downward

South Australia's school students return for term two as the state's COVID-19 cases head downwards, with the government hoping children experience a less disrupted 10 weeks of learning.

The state's school system was in focus at the height of SA's Omicron wave in late March and early April, with several schools forced to close due to classroom outbreaks and teacher shortages.

The term started with students from years 2-6 and years 9-11 learning from home for the first two weeks while the rest of the cohort was allowed on campus.

The Education Department called upon most of its relief teaching reserves and was struggling to fill teaching gaps in country schools due to COVID-19 – prompting calls for an early end to the school term.

Minister Blair Boyer labelled term one "the most disrupted term anywhere in Australia".

"Children being forced to learn at home has a big impact on their learning while putting undue pressure on families and schools," he said in a statement this morning.

"Minimising that disruption for students, parents and teachers is a top priority."

Vaccination hubs are set to be established in at least 40 schools this term to target children aged 5-11 for the COVID jab.

The Emergency Management Council determined last week that masks will be required for all students in years 7-12 for the first four weeks of term one.

All adults and visitors to schools will also be required to wear masks except when it impacts their ability to teach.

[More](#)

**“...Minimising that disruption for students, parents and teachers is a top priority....”**

#### Ham Sandwich: Cancer Council's School Newsletter

**A push for ham sandwiches to be cut from kids' lunchboxes has left farmers' mouths agape as SA health campaigners reveal their stance on the controversial campaign.**

Pork producers have hit back at a Cancer Council healthy lifestyle campaign encouraging parents to “ditch the ham sandwich” from children’s lunch boxes.

The Cancer Council advice discouraging parents from packing ham in lunch boxes was contained in a nutrition snippet sent out to schools, to include in newsletters.

Cancer Council says its snippets on ham and Meat-free Mondays were designed to provide tips on healthy eating, and were distributed to schools in NSW.

Cancer Council SA has no plans to send out any such information to local schools, though similar advice is also listed on the national organisation’s website.

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#### NSW Premier's Message To School Teachers

**NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet has slammed a proposed strike by teachers, revealing he is yet to discuss this week's planned action with unions.**

“We are not going to have our state hostage to union bosses and the Labor Party,” Mr Perrottet told reporters on Monday.

“The unions and the Labor Party don’t run our schools.”

Thousands of teachers are expected to walk off the job for 24 hours this Wednesday over pay and working conditions.

“There are industrial issues in every sector of the public service – I’m dealing with those issues holistically.”

For the first time in a decade, the NSW Teachers Federation has also authorised its members to walk off school grounds during state government MP visits.

The group says it will also ban the implementation of new government policies, including the updated kindergarten to year 2 syllabus.

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#### Running Red Lights Surges 46%

**The number of cars running red lights at school pedestrian crossings has surged by 46%, with eastern suburb residents among the worst offenders.**

RAA says the red-light offences were the highest recorded since 2017.

Police figures also show a 3% increase in drivers caught on camera speeding through school pedestrian crossings.

“Drivers must be aware that speeding, running red lights and failing to give way can have catastrophic consequences.”

“Pedestrians – especially young children – are among the most vulnerable road users and the RAA urges motorists to be vigilant and cautious around schools.”

[Full Story](#)

#### Motherless Daughters Week May 1 - 7

For many of the 3.7 million daughters in Australia who've lost their mums, Mother's Day can be a time of renewed sadness and grief, no matter how long it's been.

Motherless Awareness week 2022 celebrates the small victories in growing through grief.



#### Private School Fees Hike

**Private schools hike fees by up to 18% over six years.**

An Advertiser analysis of the year 12 fees at 20 independent and Catholic schools found the average fee hike was 12% since 2016 – but rises varied greatly between campuses.

Catholic schools have limited their fee rises, with many actually reducing fees since the pandemic hit.

Association of Independent Schools chief executive Carolyn Grantskalns said staff salaries were the biggest contributors to fee increases.

ABS figures show inflation has risen 14.5% since 2016.

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