



This week's stories from the media

- Covid mask rules in SA schools scrapped
- Toilet door backflip
- Removing toilet doors is dumb, cruel and potentially dangerous
- School reaps rewards after ditching traditional maths lessons
- What to expect from the new Labor Government
- TikTok closing in

Toilet Door Backflip

Two SA schools have been told to put the doors back on their bathrooms after photos stoked fresh outrage over their toilet policies.

High school students will be able to go to the loo in privacy after the Education Department ordered at least two schools to reinstall toilet doors.

It has also told all schools to ensure their toilets meet "privacy requirements", after complaints some students were getting urinary tract infections because they were avoiding going to the loo.

The removal of toilet doors was not a directive of the Education Department but a matter for individual schools.

A mother of two children criticised both schools for removing the doors.

Allison, whose requested her last name be withheld, said privacy and use of toilets had been an issue for at least 12 months. She said some children "held it in" for so long they were developing urinary tract infections. Other students had resorted to urinating on walls.

[Read](#)

Covid Mask Rules In SA Schools Scrapped

SA school students will no longer have to wear masks for the first time this year, the state's Covid-19 chiefs have ruled – but face coverings will be "strongly recommended".

South Australian school students can be unmasked for the first time this year, the state's Covid-19 chiefs have ruled.

The Emergency Management Council, on Tuesday, authorised mandatory education mask rules could be scrapped from Monday at the start of week five.

And, in a significant step forward in the fight against Covid, the Major Emergency Declaration also has been lifted after 793 days.

The EMC ruled that masks will now be strongly recommended, but not required, for all adults, including visitors, and students in years 3 to 12.

Authorities said masks will only be required at a school in circumstances where one class reports 10 or more cases over seven days or a school has five classes with five cases or more over a week period.

Premier Peter Malinauskas said the removal of masks in schools was an "important step forward" for many high school students wanting to return to a "normal" leaning environment."

If (children) want to wear a mask, they can still elect to do so. But the broad mask mandate in schools will be lifted."

However, schools will be required to monitor case numbers and reinstate mask requirements if more than 10 cases are detected in one class, or more than five cases in five different classes.

[More](#)



“...mandatory education mask rules could be scrapped from Monday at the start of week five....”

Removing Toilet Doors is Dumb, Cruel & Potentially Dangerous

Ripping doors off decades-old toilets just to “mimic” new gender-neutral cubicles is dumb, cruel and potentially dangerous, writes Lynton Grace.

Gender-neutral toilets should be essential for every school. But ripping doors off old toilets, just to make them retroactively “mimic” the “new standards” doesn't work.

It's vital to create a safe space for students, visitors or staff who are transgender or identify as non-binary.

It's a bonkers bureaucracy-gone-wild response that genuinely fails the most basic test – common sense. If you can't create the same amount of privacy in both toilets, then just don't do it.

Inclusivity – for everyone – is essential. Inclusivity isn't a lefty, woke idea. It should be treated as a basic human right.

But so should privacy for a 13-year-old kid wanting to use the toilet.

[More](#)

School Reaps Rewards After Ditching Maths Lessons

A school in Adelaide's south has ditched traditional methods of teaching maths and opted for an experimental program.

Creative and body-based learning is helping boost student engagement among Year 6 students at Christie Downs Primary School.

Teacher Tuesday Godfrey, who has been using the method for more than five years, said her students took to the alternative learning style quickly and it didn't take long for their grades to improve.

Researchers are now aiming to expand the program to include other subjects like literacy and science so even more students can reap the benefits of this creative style of learning.

It is hoped the state government might be willing to fund the expansion.

One student said, "You can remember it more, it doesn't go over your head".

[More](#)

New Labor Government

Childcare was a key spending measure in Labor's campaign, with \$5.4 billion dollars pledged to increase subsidies for 96% of Australian families.

Labor has also committed \$440 million towards better ventilation, building upgrades and mental health support in public schools.

Labor's headline education policy, a \$147 million-dollar plan to fund teaching degrees for 5,000 high-achieving students, is expected to roll out over the next four years.

As part of its \$1.2bn 'Future Made in Australia Skills Plan', Labor has also promised to fund 465,00 fee-free TAFE places and committed \$482m for up to 20,000 new university placements.

[Full Story](#)

Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week launches Friday May 27.



TikTok Closing In

A controversial video-sharing app has emerged as one of the most popular platforms used daily by students, pushing parents out of the top three go-to sources.

New research found the resources high school and tertiary students are using to teach themselves new skills are reflective of an increasingly digitally-integrated lifestyle.

While teachers still top the list, with 50% of high students, this is closely followed by websites (48%).

Female students are even more likely than their male classmates to use TikTok daily to learn new skills, while males are more likely to use YouTube.

[Read more](#)