



This week's stories from the media

- Jason Clare Australia's new education minister
- First online school
- Disability commission hears SA boy rejected from many schools
- Indigenous scholarship holders return as inspirations
- Supermarket program gives students life and career skills
- Bonus for adult education

First Online School

A new program from one of Australia's most elite colleges will allow students to complete all of high school online.

Elite private school Haileybury, which already has 4 campuses across Melbourne, will offer a program that allows a student to complete their entire high school education from behind a screen.

Its main feature is an online high school for years 5 to 12.

Two other learning options will also be offered – more than 20 single VCE subjects for years 10 to 12 over the course of two semesters and one-week online numeracy and literacy school holiday learning programs.

“Our brilliant teachers leverage the advantages of online learning to deliver rigorous academics based on the Australian curriculum and Australian (VCE) accreditation, enabling access to an extraordinary range of post-secondary pathways in Australia and globally.”

No textbooks will be required, but students must have a suitable computer.

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Jason Clare Australia's New Education Minister

In an unexpected turn, Jason Clare has been chosen as the new Education Minister over front-runner Tanya Plibersek, heralding a new era in education policy.

“If we get the right education for our kids, then they go on to great careers and will be able to raise families, buy a house and have a successful life,” he told SBS in 2019.

As the new education minister, Clare will be overseeing Labor's \$147 million-dollar plan to fund teaching degrees for 5,000 high-achieving students.

The program, one of Labor's headlining education policies, is expected to be rolled out over the next four years.

“These financial payments are about encouraging more people to become teachers, because the evidence from the UK, the work that Grattan Institute has done, is that if you can get our best and brightest to become teachers, then it flows on.”

The new ministerial lineup has been met with widespread approval across the K-12 education sector.

“Minister Clare's biography highlights that his belief in Australia's education system as 'the most powerful cause for good in this country' was a key driver of his entry into politics,” said AHISA's chief executive Beth Blackwood.

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“...If we get the right education for our kids, then they go on to great careers....”

Disability Commission Hears SA Boy Rejected From Schools

An SA mother of a boy with autism has told a royal commission of his appalling treatment, and of how she felt “bullied” by his first principal.

A South Australian mother has told a royal commission how she was “incensed” at the treatment of her autistic son after he was shuffled through four schools in his first 18 months.

“When he started (at the special school) the transformation for him was quite amazing,” Isabella said.

“Instead of getting a daily run-down of what he had done (wrong), he was getting feedback on what he was achieving. It was a huge relief.

Parents and advocates of people with disabilities are describing their experiences of discrimination in the education system.

One primary school principal told Isabella and her husband: “Well, we are not here as babysitters”, and by the age of six, Emerson had been moved to three schools.

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Indigenous Scholarship Holders Return As Inspirations

One in five indigenous children on a boarding school scholarship return after graduating to inspire their home communities.

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation's annual report out on Wednesday revealed that 20% of its Year 12 graduates either got a job in their home community or used it as a base to continue their studies.

Patron and businessman David Gonski said those graduates who had returned to their communities were “inspiring their siblings, cousins and neighbours”.

The report also revealed that more than 92% of graduates were either working, studying or engaged in other positive pursuits.

Despite Covid disrupting learning in 2021, 94% of children in the program completed Year 12.

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Supermarket Program Gives Life Skills

Schools across Australia have installed mini-supermarkets on their grounds in order to help students with disabilities gain life skills.

The project launched in 2017 and has been implemented at 12 schools so far, and is set to expand to 25 by June 2023.

The Fresh Food program, in partnership with Woolworths and Fujitsu, gives students the opportunity to learn skills that are transferable into the workforce with hands-on learning.

The mini-supermarket replicates a full-scale Woolworths: including shelves stocked with groceries, fresh goods, cash registers, signage and even a Woollies uniform.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

70% of students favour a hybrid model of learning - mixing home and school learning - rather than the traditional classroom based system.



Mental Health
83% of students believe schools are at least somewhat effective at helping an individual in a school community. However, 31% see schools as extremely or very effective in this area.
Boys are more likely than girls to think schools are at least somewhat effective at helping an inclusive education community.

Top 3 Mental Health Challenges
72% pressure to do well in assignments and exams
63% managing their own mental health
62% preparing for university careers
58% loneliness and social isolation
57% juggling work with study

The Screen Dilemma
74% of Gen Z's free time outside of school and work is spent online
82% of students struggle with spending too much time on technology

74% of students want to go off social media, but don't like the idea of missing out on what is happening
65% of students think social media is having a negative impact on their mental health.
Girls use screen time as more detrimental than boys.

Advice for the next generation
Asked to think of advice for the next generation - Generation Alpha, aged under 12
“Do your best but also enjoy every moment because that's what you are going to remember when you are older, not the moments and fun.”
“Stop worrying about the future and trying to grow up too fast.”
“Do what you love. Pursue your passions and interests. Don't let things be the best of things to inspire others.”

Source: The Future of Education: Insights for Leaders, Students and the Future of Education. Melbourne.

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Bonus For Adult Education

Funding for adult community education to help under-skilled South Australians will be boosted.

Education Minister Blair Boyer says an extra \$4 million will be allocated over the next four years to the adult community education sector to train people in “foundation skills” such as language, literacy, numeracy and computing to help them become more employable.

As part of its election pledge, the Government also promised to hold a royal commission to overhaul the state's early learning system.

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