



This week's stories from the media

- Numeracy check for junior primary schools
- 40% wage rises to recruit professionals into schools
- Aberfoyle Park High gets \$14m revamp
- Teachers eye-watering 6-figure salary roasted
- Junk food ad ban
- NSW overhauls suspensions

### Recruit Professionals Into Schools

University educated workers could be offered pay rises of up to 40% to teach in schools as part of plans to attract more people into education.

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership unveiled a plan to offer mid-career professionals paid internships to teach while earning a two-year masters degree in education.

The plan is set to be tabled at an emergency meeting of federal and state education ministers next week.

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare said the number of people training to teach in Australia has dropped by 16% since 2012.

President of the NSW Teachers' Federation, Angelo Gavrielatos, said he was not convinced that the number of mid-career teachers potentially recruited through the plan would be enough to fix the issue.

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### Numeracy Check Could Be Introduced For SA Junior Primary Schools

**The Education Department is investigating if a numeracy test should be introduced for junior primary school children.**

Education Minister Blair Boyer has confirmed he has asked the department to determine if the test was needed after the success of a phonics test brought in by the previous Liberal government.

Mr Boyer was responding to a call by the Mathematical Association of SA for a universal numeracy check for junior primary children to ensure students were not being left without the basic concepts.

President Tom Frossinakis said the association, which represents the state's maths teachers, believed schools too often treated numeracy as the poor cousin of literacy.

Mr Frossinakis said a diagnostic tool for numeracy problems, similar to the successful year 1 phonics check for literacy, should be rolled out statewide.

He said too many children were allowed to get through primary school with "a sausage machine rollout of facts", such as reciting times tables.

"Then when kids come to high school they are lost as to the concept of numbers and the importance of numbers," he said.

The phonics check, rolled out statewide since 2018, asks students to read a mix of real and made-up words.

The Education Department currently recommends, but does not make compulsory, particular programs.

"If it's (only) recommended, teachers who don't know how to use it won't do it," Mr Frossinakis said.

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**“...University educated workers could be offered pay rises of up to 40% to teach in schools....”**

### Aberfoyle Park High School Gets \$14m Revamp

**Aberfoyle Park High School officially showcased its \$14 million in capital works.**

The upgrades include the refurbishment of existing buildings to provide collaborative and contemporary spaces in the middle school, and in the senior school; as well as a new arts centre, front entrance and administration centre.

Design specifications to enhance learning includes allowing more light, more inter-connected spaces and improved accessibility for students, staff and visitors with mobility issues.

The 250-seat theatre will enable the school to provide quality music teaching and practice spaces for large performances, as well as a dance studio and music practice spaces.

The school's green spaces have also been improved by creating flexible, interconnected indoor and outdoor learning areas for the school's 1150 students.

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### Teachers Eye-Watering Six Figure Salary Roasted

**A union boss has slammed the plan to pay eye-watering salaries to top educators as a state government makes a desperate bid to attract teachers.**

The “groundbreaking plans” announced by NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell suggest outstanding teachers could be paid annual salaries of up to \$130,000.

The federation is demanding an annual pay increase of 5% plus an additional 2.5% in recognition of extra experience as well as two more hours of planning time per week.

“What we need – and governments know we need – is a competitive salary for the profession as a whole.

We need to address unsustainable workloads for the profession as a whole in order to attract the teachers we need but, more importantly, retain the ones we've got,” said union president, Angelo Gavrielatos.

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### Junk Food Ads Ban

**Independent MP Dr Sophie Scamps is set to propose that the federal government ban junk food advertising to children.**

Scamps, a GP in Sydney, said junk food advertising to children was fuelling an obesity epidemic.

Scamps is drafting a bill to stop junk food sponsorship of children's sport and advertising during prime-time television when kids watch with their families.

Around a quarter of Australian children are overweight, and 1 in 10 are obese.

Restricting the promotion of unhealthy food to children is a key measure contained in the National Obesity Strategy released in March, but neither major party committed to reform.

[Full Story](#)

### International Youth Day - August 12

Friday August 12, is the United Nations International Youth Day



### NSW Overhauls Suspensions

**NSW to overhaul its approach to suspensions.**

Under a proposed plan due to start in term 4, students can only be sent home a maximum of three times a year.

This is designed to reduce the high number of sanctions against vulnerable children in public schools.

It has met with opposition from teachers, who say it will increase safety risks.

The views about student behaviour are diverse, with some arguing students should be “punished”.

Unfortunately these views do not always reflect the research, which shows tough approaches make student disengagement worse.

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