



This week's stories from the media

- Vic opposition bids to give kids free lunches
- Teacher workforce plan
- SA unis anger principals with conditional offers
- Childcare workforce crisis worse than thought 20,000 vacancies
- Teacher on bail for indecent assault not banned
- Cyber attack targets Victorian school students

### Teacher Workforce Plan

A draft copy of the National Teacher Workforce Plan, released today, contained numerous measures to address escalating education work shortages.

This includes \$159 million to train more teachers, \$68 million to recruit mid-career professionals into teaching and \$56 million for scholarships worth up to \$40,000 to attract the 'best and the brightest' into the profession.

Other measures include:

- \$10 million to boost professional development,
- \$10 million on a campaign to raise the status of the teaching profession, and
- a \$25 million Teacher Workload Reduction Fund

"This is a problem 10 years in the making and it will take time to fix," Clare said in a statement.

"I want feedback on the draft plan from teachers, principals, parents and the broader community."

[Read Story](#)

### Victorian Opposition Bids To Give Kids Free Lunches

The Victorian opposition pledge to provide free lunches to state school students has been welcomed by a nutritional expert.

Last week, the Victorian Liberals announced a \$300 million pilot program to take pressure off parents through the increasing cost of living by providing pre-packed lunch boxes to state school students from prep to Year 12.

Senior lecturer in nutrition and dietetics from Deakin University Claire Margerison said the free healthy food lunches would help even educational outcomes for kids living in insecure households.

"Children who are living in food insecure households are more likely to miss days of school, and to demonstrate more behavioural difficulties."

"If you're hungry, it's hard to concentrate."

More than one in five Australian children had experienced food insecurity in 2018, by 2020 the demand rose by nearly half due to the effects of the pandemic, hunger charity Foodbank reported.

In Victoria and across the country, not-for-profit organisations like 'Eat Up' have been servicing 2.2 million lunches across more than 600 schools since 2013.

Since the beginning of the year, Eat Up has reported a 28% increase in demand.

"This is quite a high number and will continue to increase."

Kids without consistent meals are more likely to suffer from illnesses, fatigue, poor physical health and lack of nutrients.

[More](#)



**“...Kids without consistent meals are more likely to suffer from illnesses, fatigue, poor physical health and lack of nutrients....”**

### SA Unis Anger Principals With Conditional Offers

Universities have made thousands of offers to year 12 students before they even sit exams – angering principals and teachers who have spent months getting them ready for SACE.

Two of the state’s universities have been criticised for offering degree positions to thousands of year 12 students before they start sitting final exams this week.

Principals are angry University of Adelaide and Flinders University have sent letters in the past two weeks to students making conditional offers based on their year 11 results despite a moratorium banning contact while they prepare for their exams.

One public secondary school principal said the two universities were demotivating students from achieving their best results because they already had received offers to study degrees.

“They are meant to be focused on their revision and making sure they get the best ATAR scores they can,” he said.

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### Childcare Crisis Worse Than Thought 20,000 Vacancies

Some childcare centres are losing more staff than they’re hiring, with shocking new figures suggesting there are up to 20,000 staff vacancies across Australia - more than three times what was previously thought.

On average one in six centres in Australia are running with too few workers.

The biggest black spots are the outer regions – areas where many treechangers moved during Covid – and where 14.2% of all childcare centres, including long daycare, are unable to find enough staff.

In the cities, around 7.8% of centres are short-staffed.

SA:

- Percentage of long daycare centres operating with a staffing waiver: 11.2%
- New childcare services since December 2021: 24
- Additional childcare places: 1603
- Total childcare services: 1252
- Total approved places: 75,920

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### Teacher On Bail Not Banned

A relief teacher charged with child-sex offending was not banned from working with children when he was given bail, a court has heard.

A relief teacher who has worked at private and public schools across Adelaide was not banned from working with children when he was bailed over an alleged sex crime, a court has heard.

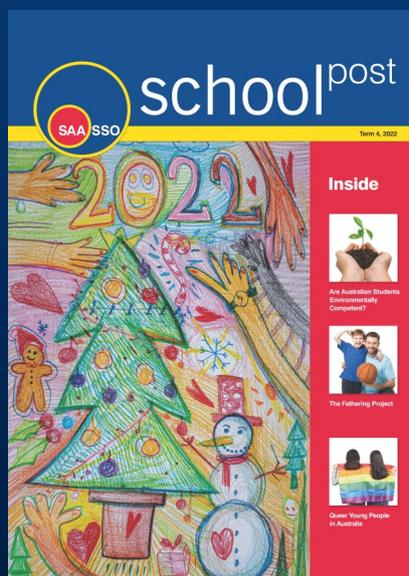
On Thursday, the Adelaide Magistrates Court was told the bans – required by legislation in all cases of alleged sexual offending – were not part of Phillip Andrew Callen’s bail agreement.

Mr Callen has not worked in Education Department schools since November 15, 2021, and his teacher’s registration was cancelled in June 2022.

[Full Story](#)

### School Post

The term 4 edition of School Post out next week.



### Cyber Attack Targets VIC Students

Hackers have targeted large numbers of school students in a terrifying breach of data.

Thousands of school families could be caught up in a terrifying cyber attack on a tech group used by state government departments.

Data from a Victorian school entrance health questionnaire was among the information accessed and stolen during a breach.

The questionnaire included very personal information about students, including developmental and behavioural issues, family alcohol or drug problems, and demographics.

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