



This week's stories from the media

- SA's best teachers 2022
- Integrity of SACE exams in doubt over Grammarly
- Teachers must stand up to LGBTQIA+ bullying
- SACE Grammarly editorial
- Time kids learned the truth about vaping
- Less than half of student teachers graduate

SACE Integrity Doubt

The integrity of online SACE exams has been thrown into doubt by the revelation English students were allowed to use software to fix spelling and grammar mistakes.

It has emerged a new computer program used for this month's SACE exams enabled a commercial app, Grammarly, to be accessed during last week's English Literary Studies exam.

Access to external websites or apps previously was blocked by SACE, which updated its software for this month's 15 online year 12 exams.

English teachers have accused the SACE Board of giving an unfair advantage to students with Grammarly installed on their devices.

Acting SACE CE, Michaela Bensley refuted claims by teachers that the integrity of the 15 online SACE exams had been compromised.

Ms Bensley said English Literary Studies was primarily assessed on descriptions used by students, not on their spelling, grammar or punctuation.

[Read Story](#)

SA's Best Teachers 2022

10 winners across 10 categories were awarded at the 11th annual South Australian Public Education Awards.

Leader of the Year Award

Grant Small, Grange Primary School

Early Years Teacher of the Year Award

Tamara Dobozy, Pipalyatjara Anangu School

Credit Union Primary Teacher of the Year Award

Rosie Connelly, Playford Primary School

Lumination Secondary Teacher of the Year Award

Trudy Surman, Para Hills High School

Inclusive Teacher (disability) of the Year Award

Ashleigh Calleja, Gordon Education Centre

University of South Australia Team Teaching Award

Kaurna Plains School Leaders, Kaurna Plains School

Site-based Support Award

Facility Dog Program – WAVE, Wirreanda Secondary School

System Support Award

Supporting world leading digital teaching and learning in the country, ICT Services & Digital Delivery

Community Engagement Award

Learning Together Communities, Family Learning – Enfield Primary More Coverage

Aunty Josie Agius Award

Ngarrindjeri language program, Meningie Area School

[More](#)



“...English Literary Studies was primarily assessed on descriptions used by students, not on their spelling, grammar or punctuation....”

Teachers Must Stand Up To LBGTQIA+ Bullying

Unconscious bias and gender stereotypes are preventing teachers from intervening when they see LBGTQIA+ students being bullied, research says.

A UniSA study found that teachers were less likely to intervene if they:

- were heterosexual
- held more traditional views on gender and social roles
- believed in authoritarianism (at the expense of personal freedom)
- had negative attitudes towards gender minorities.

Teachers were more likely to intervene if they:

- were older, and more experienced educators
- were part of the LBGTQIA+ community or had close contact with someone in this group
- had greater knowledge, empathy, and positive attitudes towards gender minorities.

[More](#)

SACE Grammarly Editorial: Emily Ollie

To comma, or not to comma? You can't allow year 12 students to use a grammar-checking app in their English exams – not given the startling decline in literacy, writes Emily Ollie.

SACE acting chief executive Michaela Bensley said exams were focused on “higher order uses of language and skills, not spelling and punctuation”.

That rhetoric is somewhat unsurprising, given a recent review of 10 years' worth of NAPLAN year 3-9 writing results found a startling decline in students' English skills.

According to the report, a majority of the nation's year 9 students use punctuation at a year 3 level. And that's concerning, full stop.

But for now, when it comes to subjects graded solely on the use of language, are we really ready to let the art of correct grammar die a slow, online death?

[More](#)

Learn The Truth About Vaping

Shocking reports of children falling unconscious due to overdosing on chemicals found in e-cigarettes have emerged.

As this alarming trend continues, it's time for kids to Inhale the Truth.

To be rolled out by the state's largest provider of alcohol and other drug education in SA high schools, health promotion charity Encounter Youth, the aim is to educate kids, their parents, teachers and the wider community on the hidden dangers of vaping.

The organisation, which also runs the annual Schoolies Festival in Victor Harbor, works with schools across the public, independent and Catholic sectors.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

Read about the experiences of queer young Australians in the latest issue of School Post.



Recommendations For Teachers And School Leaders

The report makes recommendations for educators.

It is essential to create environments which positively represent queer identities and topics... teachers and school leaders play an important role in meeting this goal and should be confident and comfortable to adopt queer-inclusive practices.

• Adopt and implement evidence-based policies, such as Bullying Prevention and Safe Schools to support and protect queer people in their settings.

• Undertake inclusive classroom training and explore queer-inclusive teaching resources, such as All of Us, to consider how to positively include queer topics in the classroom. ■

Sources: Queer Young People in Australia: Insights From The 2021 Australian Youth Survey. The Research Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice, Monash University.

"It is essential to create environments which positively represent queer identities and topics... teachers and school leaders play an important role in meeting this goal..."

Term 2 2022 | SchoolPost | 19

Less Than Half Of Teachers Graduate

Less than half of all teaching students will complete their education degree within six years, if at all.

A Senate committee on Thursday has heard the nationwide teacher shortage has been exacerbated by a dearth of interest in education.

Between 2017 and 2020, the number of students starting teaching degrees declined by 8%, and those completing their courses fell 17%.

Now 48% of those who start a three-year education degree will finish within six years.

[Read more](#)