



This week's stories from the media

- Alarming number of children locked in cars
- NSW top teachers' \$40,000 pay rise
- New plan to fix Australia's schools
- SA department chief urges teachers to use ChatGPT
- Parents speak out about exclusions
- VIC school attendance plummets

NSW Top Teachers \$40k Payrise

Teachers in NSW could be eligible for a \$40,000 payrise under a new government initiative.

Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell said the \$152m funding boost would help retain teachers in the profession and keep them in the classroom.

Staff will apply for the role within their existing schools, with Ms Mitchell clarifying that what clarifies as an "excellent teacher" will vary from school-to-school.

"Ultimately we'd like to see about 10% of our workforce in these specialist roles in our school," said Ms Mitchell.

Labor's Prue Car said the scheme doesn't directly address the state's dropping education rankings.

According to international PISA rankings, NSW students had dropped from third place to 23rd for science, sixth to 23rd place for reading and ninth to 32nd for maths between 2006 to 2018.

[Read Story](#)

1000 Kids Locked In Cars In 3 Years

Almost 1000 children have been locked in cars in need of rescuing over the past three years in South Australia.

As SA experiences a heatwave with temperatures hitting north of 40C in some parts of the state this week, horrifying data reveals RAA has responded to 986 incidents of children being locked in cars since the beginning of 2020.

This report includes 284 incidents with children in 2022 and 44 rescues this summer, a number which equates to more than one every two days.

However, many of those incidents were parents locking their keys in the car by mistake while a child was inside, and immediately calling for help.

Parents should not "under any circumstances" leave children unattended in parked vehicles, RAA senior manager of safety and infrastructure Charles Mountain advised.

The heat inside a car can quickly rise to more than double the temperature outside.

"During heatwaves like the one we're experiencing this week, it's even more vital because the temperature inside a locked car will climb to dangerous levels within minutes."

He continued to say that parking in the shade or winding car windows down "doesn't make much difference".

An RAA experiment showed that a car left in the sun for 20 minutes can record temperatures north of 80C inside.

Mr Mountain said just a few minutes of exposure to high temperatures inside a vehicle can cause harm to children.

[More](#)



“....parking in the shade or winding car windows down “doesn’t make much difference”.

New Plan To Fix Australia's Schools

Australia's education system is in need of massive reform, with the federal government warning the nation is in a teaching “crisis” and launching the biggest overhaul of the sector in a decade.

Education Minister Jason Clare is waging a triple attack on systemic problems in tertiary and secondary education as well as a revolutionary drive to focus on early learning, saying now is Australia's “last chance” to get it right.

A study by Monash University which surveyed almost 5,500 teachers found a staggering 70 per cent believed that the public did not respect them.

The Minister also said Australia's messy education system — in which states and territories oversee primary and secondary schools with different rules and then feed kids into a national tertiary system — needed “serious reform”.

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SA Department Chief Urges Teachers To Use ChatGPT

Students are being given the OK to outsource some tasks to AI that writes like a human – now the education boss says teachers should do likewise.

South Australian teachers are using AI chatbot ChatGPT to devise lesson plans and communicate with parents, encouraged by the state's education boss to do so.

Education Department chief executive Martin Westwell said he wants SA teachers to be national leaders when it comes to incorporating AI into the school day.

Mr Westwell believes the technology can also save time on administrative tasks such as corresponding with parents and even report writing.

The controversial software, which can quickly generate realistic human-like text, is banned in schools in NSW, Queensland and Tasmania.

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Parents Speak Out About Exclusions

A Whyalla parent says a recent spate of suspensions and exclusions at SA school has gone too far and will affect her daughter's education due to her learning disability.

Prue Tooby said her daughter had been excluded from Whyalla Secondary College after she was a bystander and cheered on a school fight that went viral on social media.

Ms Tooby said her daughter had a learning disability and that missing 10 weeks of year 11 could have a serious impact on her schooling.

"I make no apologies for the zero-tolerance policy we are taking to violence in schools," said Education Minister, Blair Boyer.

[Full Story](#)

School Clean Up Day

Friday March 3 is Schools Clean Up Day.



VIC Attendance Plummets

Victorian secondary school attendance has plummeted to a record low, with 100,000 fewer students meeting key benchmarks in 2022 compared to the pre-Covid era.

In what experts are describing as a post-pandemic crisis, the Herald Sun revealed last year less than half of Victoria's secondary students attended school 90% of the time or more.

This was a massive fall from three-quarters in 2019.

Of the sector's 440,000 students, 316,800 attended regularly in 2019 but this plummeted to just 215,600 in 2022 – a staggering drop of 101,200 students.

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