



This week's stories from the media

- Why students need phone ban
- School Post
- New teachers perform as well as experienced teachers
- Parliament reform to report SACE results for children in care
- Students who skip ATAR more likely to drop out of uni
- Phone ban adverts

School Post

The Term 1 edition of *School Post* is out now.

This issues features:

- All the details about the new mobile phone ban and the role of your Governing Council
- The new Catch-Up Learning Program from the Smith Family
- Parents In Education Grants
- The latest research on how SA's kids are faring
- Active Kids Report 2022
- Teacher's perceptions of their job.



Why SA Students Desperately Need Phone Ban

SA's mobile phone ban in schools has had a massive effect, writes Findon High principal Kathleen Hoare.

In the past, students would often be huddled in groups all looking at their phones, eyes down fixated on their screens.

Now, students look each other in the eyes.

Friends meet in the yard, gather in the canteen, relax on the couches with boardgames, play sport – kids are talking and interacting with each other.

The school is filled with sounds of engagement, rather than the sounds of phones.

It's a different vibe and makes me feel positive we made the right decision to tighten our mobile phone policy.

After consulting with governing council and parents, we decided to implement the phone ban from term one, rather than waiting until term three when it's implemented statewide.

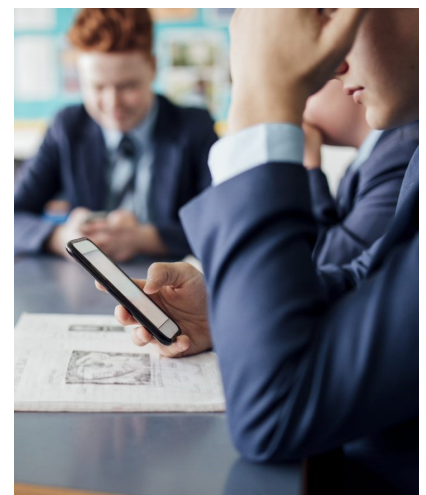
I expected some push-back, but I'm proud of how our students have taken it all in their stride.

For some of our students, having the decision to engage 24/7 on social media removed as an option is a relief.

They have a shared reality that from the hours between 8.15am and 3pm they can have a break from the relentlessness that is the social media cycle.

I do believe that removing the pressure that comes with mobile phones, particularly the constant competitiveness of social media, significantly benefits our students making our school a safer, calmer, and happier environment.

[More](#)



“....For some of our students, having the decision to engage 24/7 on social media removed as an option is a relief”.

New Teachers Perform As Well As Experienced

A newly graduated teacher can teach at the same level of quality as a colleague with over 20 years of experience in the classroom, according to new research.

Recent research published in the Australian Education Researcher analysed 990 lessons taught by 5012 Year 3 and 4 teachers part of two major NSW studies.

Educators' experience levels ranged from less than one year to more than 24 years.

Overall, experts found early teachers performed at a similar level of quality compared to their more experienced peers.

In 2021, former federal education minister Alan Tudge launched a review into initial teacher education. He said attracting “high-quality” candidates into teaching was critical to lift falling academic standards in Australian schools.

[More](#)

SACE Results For Children In Care

The state government will be forced to keep records and report to parliament on SACE results for children in care under new legislation, after admitting it does not know.

One Nation MLC Sarah Game applied for the information using Freedom of Information laws, but the SACE administration replied that it had no idea.

“NAPLAN results show that only 27.4% of children attending year 9 studies while in state care met the standard for numeracy in 2021,” she said.

She said she was shocked when The Advertiser revealed last year poor attendance figures for children in state care.

The measures in the new legislation will include academic results for the around 5000 children in care, as well as their attendance and emerging problems in the group.

[More](#)

Students Who Skip ATAR Drop Out

Students who gain university entry on a non-ATAR basis are twice as likely to drop out in their first year compared to other school leavers.

The analysis found nearly 30% of school leavers admitted to university through non-ATAR pathways quit their degrees.

The number of students entering university without their ATAR rose from 15% in 2016 to at least 25% last year.

Students with an ATAR below 60 were three times more likely to drop out compared to students with an ATAR of 80 or higher.

[Full Story](#)

Earth Hour March 24

Earth Hour Schools Day.



The graphic features a central image of a person in a hat standing in a forest with arms outstretched. To the left is a large '24' with 'March, Friday' below it. Text overlays include 'Take time out for nature' and a 'switch off' button. Below the image, it says 'Be involved this Earth Hour Schools Day' and '60 MINUTE'. The bottom section contains text about the event on Friday 24 March, followed by three green boxes with icons and text: 1. Sign up to access free curriculum-aligned lesson plans and a professional development course. 2. Take #TimeOutForNature - stay tuned on earthhour.org.au for 60 minutes of Australia's extraordinary nature and soundscapes. 3. Check out posters and social media bundle to let the community know you're switching off.

Phone Ban Adverts

SA taxpayers will splurge nearly \$1 million on an advertising campaign to remind parents about the mobile phone ban in schools.

Advertisements will be rolling out across various media until the end of August.

"Why are we doing that campaign, we need to have the support of parents, grandparents and family members as allies," Minister Boyer said.

The education minister has said more money may be needed in June's budget to buy more storage pouches for students' phones.

[Read more](#)