



This week's stories from the media

- Students lead anti-bullying plan
- Universities struggling to place student teachers
- New anti-bullying method proves effective: study
- Push for more sex education at school
- NSW to ban mobile phones
- Boost for student wellbeing

### Unis Struggling To Place Teachers

**Better partnerships between universities and schools will be needed to strengthen Initial Teacher Education and ensure future teachers stay on the job long-term.**

According to Australian Catholic University's Dean of Education Professor Mary Ryan, one of the major issues around ITE is a lack of funding directed towards placing teaching students into schools.

"Universities keep ringing schools and sometimes begging them to take students for placement."

"Teachers are very busy, and it's not always something they would put their hand up to do because of what's going on in the school."

"We need to do a lot more around providing schools with resources so they can have dedicated positions that look after the pre-service teachers and help them become the next generation of teachers."

[Read](#)

### New \$14.2m Anti-Violence Plan To Banish Schoolyard Bullies

**The state's most troublesome public schools will overhaul how they tackle bullying, by listening to students and with \$100,000 grants for parent education.**

The Education Department crackdown will tackle rising critical incidents and police calls for violent, anti-social or welfare issues – some of which is filmed and shared online.

The plans will put "students in the driving seat" with a greater focus on school "voice" forums and a statewide pupil "summit".

At least \$300,000 will allow 30 troubled schools to increase "restorative" measures such as pupil mediation, social work, camps or excursions.

Annual "parents in education" grants of almost \$100,000 will allow families to help prevent school violence.

Teachers will receive violence prevention and response professional development.

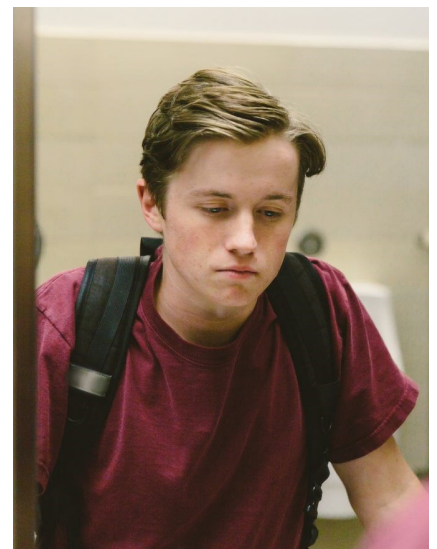
Authorities will also consult on plans for mandatory student membership on high school governing councils to help with decisions.

Up to 65 schools with the highest needs can hire dedicated mental health workers.

Federal Education Minister, Jason Clare, said the pandemic had left a "massive impact on the mental health of students".

"Good mental health and wellbeing have a significant impact on young people's ... education and their learning," he said. "Because if you're feeling better, then you'll perform better at school."

[More](#)



**“....a greater focus on school “voice” forums and a statewide pupil summit....”**

### Study: New Anti-Bullying Method Proves Efficient

**A new approach to bullying focussing on building an "anti-bullying climate" in classrooms could reduce peer pressure at school, education experts have said.**

For the past decades, youth bullying rates have increased exponentially; in 2009, 27% of year 4 to year 9 Australian students reported being bullied.

In 2017, about 56% of year 4 students and 43% of year 8 students had been bullied monthly or weekly during the school year.

In their new study, Australian Catholic University researchers have developed a new intervention approach to stop bullying before it happens.

The new approach shifts the focus from individual students' behaviour to group behaviour as teachers develop an "anti-bullying climate" in their classrooms.

"What we're saying instead is that the focus needs to be on changing the classroom climate that supports bullying."

[More](#)

### Push For More Sex Education At School

**Schools shouldn't be worried about teaching sex education as a new study showed parents want educators to cover more sex education topics at an earlier age.**

A new study from Curtin University surveyed more than 2,400 Australian parents nationwide from primary and secondary school children across all sectors to learn what they would like to see happening at school around sex education.

Overall, more than 90% of parents favour schools delivering relationships and sexuality education from a younger age.

In addition to favouring more sexual education at school, parents also reviewed a list of 40 topics, from correctly naming body parts, peer pressure, and puberty changes to sexting and masturbation.

Across all 40 topics, parents asked schools to address each of these issues, with more than 95% of parents supporting their kids' learning.

[More](#)

### NSW To Ban Mobiles

**Mobile phones will be banned in New South Wales public high schools from October 2023.**

On Monday, NSW Premier Chris Minns announced the mobile phone ban would start at the beginning of Term 4 and follows election promises to reduce students' distractions in class.

Speaking to ABC News Breakfast, Mr Minns cited better test results, reduced incidents of bullying and increased social interaction as the reasons behind the change.

Research on mobile phone bans has divided experts over the years, with some European studies showing improvement in student's academic achievement while others studies demonstrated little to no improvement.

[Full Story](#)

### Guide Dog Day April 27

Over a third of Guide Dog Handlers in Australia have been denied access to a public venue or form of transport because of their Guide Dog in the past year.



### Boost For Student Wellbeing

**The support is being delivered after the SA Government signed on to the Federal Government's Student Wellbeing Boost program.**

This election commitment will see all eligible schools in SA share in \$14.2 million for projects designed to support students following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individual schools will decide how best to use the Student Wellbeing Boost to support their students.

This could include engaging extra mental health professionals; hosting school camps, excursions, sporting or other social activities that improve students' wellbeing; or other student engagement and mental health initiatives.

[Read more](#)