



This week's stories from the media

- Price tag for preschool promise
- School uniforms linked to increased harassment
- Women alienated from STEM careers
- Reducing screen time during school holidays
- Nature-based play
- New resources for managing student behaviour

School Uniforms Harassment Link

Young women wearing school uniforms are more likely to experience harassment in public spaces, according to a new study from Melbourne University.

The study also found young women in Australia experienced street harassment more frequently while wearing school uniforms.

Study participants recalled strangers often perpetrated the harassment they experienced, usually a man or group of men who knew they were underage as they were in school uniforms.

"Walking from high school to home, that's where most of the harassment I've experienced happened. As soon as I stopped wearing a school uniform, it happened less. So that's disgusting for a lot of reasons," one participant said.

In Australia, about 78% of women reported experiencing public forms of sexual harassment last year.

Government data also showed that about 2 million Australian women have been victims of stalking since age 15.

[Read](#)

Price Tag Revealed For Three-Year-Old Preschool Promise

A Malinauskas Government election promise to make preschool universally available to three-year-olds will cost \$212.2 million each year.

In an interim report, Royal Commissioner Julia Gillard made an "in-principle" recommendation to the state government for three-year-old preschool.

Gillard found that South Australia could start rolling out three-year-old preschool from 2026 ahead of a full implementation by 2032.

She found the state government would need to chip in an initial \$162.7 million each year to expand preschool to three-year-olds, with that cost rising to \$212.2 million by the time the policy is fully implemented.

The state government would need to spend an estimated additional \$101.2 – \$111.2 million to build the equivalent of 32 new early childhood education and care services.

It would also need to make use of around 4700 empty places in government preschools.

"This report identifies a major opportunity for the state of South Australia," Gillard told reporters this morning.

"I believe that South Australia can lead on early childhood education and care."

Currently, children can receive 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year of government-subsidised preschool once they turn four.

Under the state government's plan, parents would be given the choice to start receiving the same preschool subsidy for their children once they turn three.

They would be required to pay the same preschool fees which apply to four-year-olds.

[More](#)



“....parents would be given the choice to start receiving the same preschool subsidy for their children once they turn three....”

Women Alienated From STEM Careers By Workplace Culture

Women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and maths are still fighting an uphill battle in Australian workplaces, despite a spike in girls studying STEM subjects in schools and universities.

That's the finding from a new report released by the University of South Australia.

- An unsupportive or hostile work culture
- Entrenched, pervasive attitudes – in the workplace, community and within families – that associate STEM careers with men and not women
- Unconscious bias perpetuating gender stereotypes in many workplaces, including the misplaced belief that women (especially mothers) have different skill sets to men
- Inequitable language in the workplace and media, reinforcing gendered stereotypes, including emphasising 'masculine' technical skills over 'feminine' soft skills
- Inflexible work practices
- Lack of female role models in senior leadership positions.

[More](#)

Reducing Screen Time During Holidays

A study by UniSA found that when primary school children are on holidays, they are less active, more likely to be on screens, and tend to have a worse diet than during the school term.

Researchers found that on holidays, children were likely to be 12 minutes less active each day, 27 minutes more sedentary, and have more than an hour extra of screen time.

During the school holidays, children (aged 9–10) spent 39% more time using screens than during the school year.

Researcher Dr Amanda Watson said children exercise less and eat more unhealthy food during the holidays, which may contribute to accelerated weight gain and poor health.

“Our study shows that during school holidays, children are more likely to display unhealthy behaviours, such as being less active, spending more time sitting, eating more junk food, and (perhaps unsurprisingly) watching a whole lot more TV or screens.”

[More](#)

Nature Based Play

Studies on physical activity of young people show less than a quarter of children achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

Fortunately, purpose-built nature play spaces are becoming a common feature in schools, with a recent study finding 63% of public primary schools in SA have one, and a further 25% are planning or already building one.

A growing body of research shows that while outdoor play has obvious benefits for students physical health, it can also improve their academic outcomes.

Contact with nature can enhance a creativity, cognitive functioning, psycho-social wellbeing, cultivate risk-taking and self-reliance and promote physical fitness and active engagement.

[Full Story](#)

International Day Of Families

May 15, 2023



New Resources For Student Behaviour

The federal government has rolled out a new program to manage students' disruptive behaviours in the classroom.

"A lot of teachers tell me that when they leave university and jump into the classroom for the first time, they don't feel as prepared as they should manage a classroom full of students," Minister Clare said.

The Engaged Classrooms initiative will develop resources to improve student engagement and de-escalate misbehaviour and conflict.

These resources will include adaptable best-practice templates, video demonstrations and written case studies, and online and face-to-face training materials set to be distributed in the next two years.

[Read more](#)