



This week's stories from the media

- Struggling students to get free tutoring
- Thousands of schools to receive infrastructure funding
- Nationwide ban on vapes announced
- ChatGPT passes grade with teachers
- Sturt Street School 140th anniversary
- Uni tutors help pupils double scores in English

### Infrastructure Funding

The Albanese government has announced it will fund upgrades to over a thousand schools as part of a \$250m plan to improve school infrastructure.

On Thursday, Education Minister Jason Clare announced that 1300 schools would benefit from \$32 million in grants to provide new or improved outdoor learning areas, air conditioning, ventilation, and tablet and laptops.

"New equipment and upgrades are good for schools, good for teachers, and good for students," Mr Clare said.

"All schools across the country were invited to apply for the funding and projects were assessed by the Department of Education and selected based on need."

The education minister announced that more than half of the schools receiving funding are located in regional or remote areas.

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### Struggling Students To Get Free Tutoring

**Free tutoring for students struggling in maths and English has won support from Federal Education Minister, Jason Clare.**

Mr. Clare has asked his panel of education experts to review the national schooling agreement to look at small-group tutoring in reading and maths to help students who are falling behind.

In remarks certain to upset teacher unions, Mr. Clare will spell out his concept of 'fair funding' that is tied to 'things that will make a real difference', such as teacher quality and the curriculum.

Warning that more teenagers from government schools or poor families are dropping out of school, Mr Clare will champion the better targeting of education funding.

He will tell principals that children from poor backgrounds or living in regional areas, as well as First Nations children, are three times more likely to fall behind at school.

"This is what I want fair funding to fix - funding tied to the things that will turn this around."

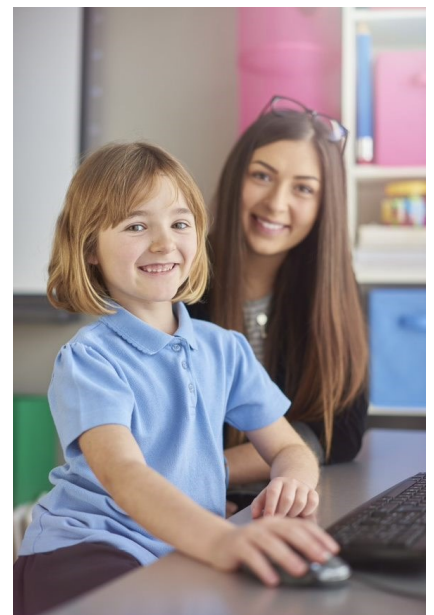
"If you start behind, or fall behind it's hard to catch up."

"More often the gap gets bigger and bigger every year at school."

Mr Clare will raise concerns that more teenagers are dropping out of government schools - only 76% finished year 12 in 2021, compared with 83% in 2017.

"We have the best education system in the world, but not for everyone."

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**“...We have the best education system in the world, but not for everyone...”**

### Nationwide Ban On Vapes Announced

Recreational vaping will be banned nationwide under new reforms introduced by the Health Minister in a bid to tackle youth vaping.

On Tuesday health minister Mark Butler announced the upcoming federal budget would include \$737 million to fund major actions to reduce vaping and smoking.

This follows multiple studies highlighting the risks of youth vaping and a growing black market selling vapes illegally.

"Vaping is creating a whole new generation of nicotine dependency in our community," Mr Butler said in his speech at the National Press Club.

"Young people who vape are three times as likely to take up smoking."

According to government figures, 1 in 6 teenagers aged 14-17 has tried vaping.

At school, research has shown students who vape are more likely to miss school days and get expelled.

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### ChatGPT Passes Grade With Teachers

Three in five teachers are looking forward to integrating artificial intelligence into classroom learning but many also worry chatbots could curb students' writing ability and lead to a spike in plagiarism, national research shows.

The insights come from analysis of a wide-ranging survey of primary and secondary teachers across the public and private sectors, as part of McCrindle Research's annual snapshot of education trends.

"The rise of AI is here ... we wanted to get the perspective of teachers as they will be the ones not only utilising these technologies but also helping kids use them," McCrindle's director of advisory Ashley Fell said.

"It was really encouraging to see the majority of classroom teachers (59%) viewed artificial intelligence as a tool to enhance students' learning and development (while) three in five (62%) say they are excited about the integration of AI into aspects of their role."

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### Sturt Street School 140th Anniversary

The Sturt Street Community School in Adelaide, celebrated its 140th anniversary this year.

A celebration event was organised by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, which has a long-standing relationship with the school.

The ethnic composition of the Sturt Street school had increasing numbers of Greek migrants pre-World War II, when many moved into the schools catchment area.

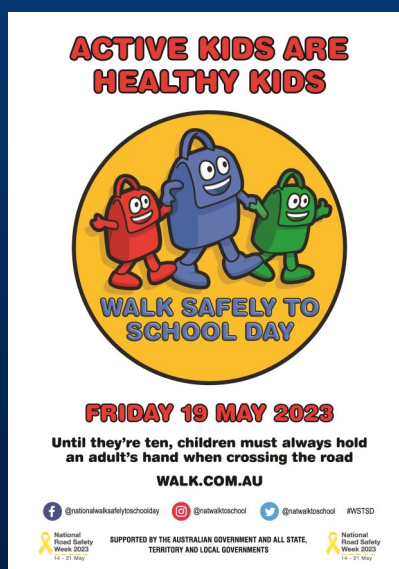
Then, Sturt Street was classed as a New Arrivals school.

The percentage of Greek students in the school was such that in the 1950s all school notices were sent home in Greek and English.

[Full Story](#)

### Walk Safely To School Day

Friday 19 May is walk safely to school day!



### Uni Tutors Double Kids Scores

Children doubled their literacy scores after one term of being tutored by university students.

The British initiative could now be applied across the England.

Pairing university students and pupils can raise attainment levels among less advantaged children and give students life experiences and skills.

Before the program, the average test score was 10.9 out of 30 - the average score after was 21 out of 30.

"They can deliver high quality, sustainable tutoring at scale and make a real difference to many young lives."

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