



This week's stories from the media

- Schools missing out on gifted students
- Childcare survey
- Reading aloud can improve literacy skills
- New NAPLAN grading hides poor student performance
- Calls to change childcare licensing criteria
- How teachers can support students with ADHD

### Childcare Survey

In 2022 the Commonwealth Government directed the ACCC to conduct an inquiry into the market for the supply of early childhood education and care services.

The inquiry started in January 2023 and consultation continues throughout this year.

As part of this inquiry the ACCC developed a survey for parents and guardians' views on centre-based care, outside of school hours care and family day care.

"We want to hear from parents and guardians of children aged 0 - 13 years and parents and guardians of children with disability aged 0 - 18 years to understand their preferences when considering and accessing childcare, the affordability of childcare, and whether there are barriers to accessing the right types of childcare."

"We want to hear from parents and guardians who use and don't use childcare."

[Complete the survey](#)

### Schools Missing Out On Gifted Students

**A lack of teacher training and misuse of NAPLAN results are preventing schools from identifying & supporting gifted students.**

According to a new study, schools that have used NAPLAN results to identify gifted children have been missing out on their giftedness as these students often under-perform in the test.

Griffith University Lecturer Dr Michelle Ronksley-Pavia said using NAPLAN's results to spot highly-potential kids shows that schools are confounding giftedness and talent.

"When schools are using NAPLAN and thinking they're identifying giftedness, they're not; they are looking for talent in the very narrow set of skills the test assesses."

Gifted students are usually identified through the Gagné Model, which says gifted students have "outstanding natural abilities or aptitudes" in academics, sports, music and/or arts from a very young age.

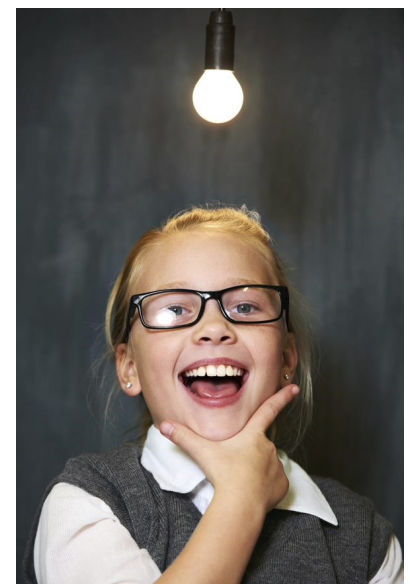
"Gifted students often under-achieve in NAPLAN testing, but they still could be exceptional students."

At school, gifted students can be disengaged or bored with their grade-level curriculum, resulting in being seen as underachievers.

In 2021, more than 400,000 gifted students were sitting in classrooms nationwide - many unidentified.

Gifted students from rural, low socio-economic, diverse, or Indigenous backgrounds are the ones whose potential goes unnoticed the most.

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**“...Gifted students often underachieve in NAPLAN testing, but they still could be exceptional students....”**

### Reading Aloud Can Improve Literacy Skills

**Showing your love of books and reading aloud in the classroom can improve literacy skills.**

In Australia, the latest Progress in International Reading Literacy report released in May showed that despite students' literacy skills remaining stable during Covid, 20% of Year 4 students do not meet the standards.

Australian Catholic University head of the School of Education, Dr Matthew Zbaracki, said introducing 15 minutes of reading aloud in lessons can help students develop their literacy skills and passion for reading.

"When children see that teachers and parents love literacy, they get that same value, motivation and belief that reading is important."

"It is also about making reading fun and enjoyable for everyone involved."

He said schools should invest in their library and source engaging books linked to the curriculum, which educators could use to complement their lessons.

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### New NAPLAN Hides Poor Student Performance

**Illiterate students will suffer under a new “bewildering” NAPLAN grading system that sugar-coats their performance, experts say.**

Education academics warn this year's results will fail to identify the thousands of struggling students who need urgent help with basic reading, writing and maths.

Students' results will now be reported against four levels of achievement instead of the existing 10 “proficiency bands”.

Australian Council for Educational Research chief executive Professor Geoff Masters said the four new levels – Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs Additional Support – will stop teachers and parents from being provided with vital information about a students' performance.

“A parent who is now told that their child's reading is “developing” ... is never likely to know what that means,” he said.

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### Calls To Change Childcare

**Calls for a change to licensing as rural SA faces a critical shortage of childcare centres.**

SA families are waiting years for – or being refused access to – basic childcare, amid a postcode lottery of centres.

Industry bodies to call on the state and federal government to introduce new licensing criteria to ensure the establishment of centres in areas without support – also known as “childcare deserts”.

A 2022 study showed that 82% of regional South Australians are living without access to a centre.

Minister Blair Boyer urges the private sector to assist the state and federal governments with “heavy lifting in addressing the shortfall in long day care options” for rural South Australians.

[Full Story](#)

### Refugee Week

June 18-24 2023



### How Teachers Can Support ADHD

**Positive reinforcement, 'faking it till you make it' and music are effective strategies teachers can use to support students with ADHD.**

The author of 'Flicking the Switch' says that teachers need to move away from using a "negative and punitive" approach and prioritise using understanding & empathy.

"This will help students shift their focus and attention and behaviour onto what it should be," she said.

Around 5% of students in Australia are estimated to live with ADHD.

The disorder is characterised by prolonged inattention and hyperactivity, and can deeply affect a child's learning.

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