



#### This week's stories from the media

- Free Breakfast
- Call to extend school hours
- Infrastructure upgrades at 66 schools
- 20% of Australian students don't finish high school
- Kids with concussion less likely to finish high school
- 45,000 kids in care maltreated

#### Extend School Hours To 6pm

**NSW MP, Jordan Lane has proposed a controversial move to extend school hours to 6pm.**

He proposes altering the education system in an attempt to bring it up to speed with modern families and workplaces.

"It is a relic of a sexist, bygone era where society assumed women stayed at home and were responsible for the school pick-up," he said.

The 28-year-old said it would a "great travesty" if the education system did not move with the times and still resembled the way it functioned in the 1950s.

"Only one parent worked, there was not a lot of women in the workforce."

He proposed a change to current classroom hours that would keep children within school gates until 6pm and ease some of the pressure off working parents.

"Local schools should become hubs for after-school activity where the government guarantees that a child should remain on school campuses until 6pm," Mr Lane said.

[Read](#)

#### Free Breakfast Program To Be Extended

**A program that provides free school breakfasts will be expanded to provide 1.4 million meals to children over the next four years.**

"...the state government is making a unique announcement that we haven't really seen of this size and scale in the past and South Australia in terms of providing relief around the free provision of breakfast for a number of public schools throughout the state."

Mr Malinauskas said there were currently one in three students who attend SA public schools who sometimes or often come to school without eating breakfast.

To address this, the government has already partnered with organisations like Foodbank SA and KickStart for Kids to provide free breakfasts.

"We're dramatically increasing that funding and announce a \$6.5m package that will see the state going from providing 400,000 free breakfasts to up to 1.4 million free breakfasts," he said.

"That means a lot more kids getting fed before they start school."

Clovelly Park Primary School principal Terena Pope said her school ran a regular breakfast program in collaboration with KickStart for Kids to support student learning.

It provides about 60 children with breakfast five days a week.

"This support enables us to offer a great range of food options – including cereal, fresh and tinned fruit, bread, butter and spreads, sandwiches, and milk – which ensures the students are ready to learn when the school day begins," she said.

[More](#)



***“...a \$6.5m package that will see the state going from providing 400,000 free breakfasts to up to 1.4 million free breakfasts....”***

#### Infrastructure Upgrades At 66 Schools

**A total \$20m in new funding will be included in the state budget to upgrade and repair infrastructure at 66 schools and preschools across the state.**

The investment will include facilities replacements and upgrades, removal of aged buildings, bitumen repairs, heating, ventilation and cooling upgrades, roof replacements, toilet upgrades and structural repairs.

The state government on Tuesday announced the \$100.2m funding package.

The money will also go towards increasing the size of some schools including at Plympton International College, where older buildings will be replaced with new multi-story buildings at a cost of \$14m.

“Since becoming Education Minister, I quickly recognised that a number of our schools were languishing when it came to appropriate infrastructure, which is why I have already committed almost \$14m to support capital works at seven schools as a matter of urgency,” Blair Boyer said.

[More](#)

#### 20% Of Aussie Kids Don't Finish High School

**According to data released by the Productivity Commission, about one in five students leave before they reach Year 12.**

In 2022, about 79% of students started Year 12 - the lowest in the last ten years of data reported.

The rate was higher for non-government schools (87.2%) than government schools (73.5%).

If a student reaches Year 12 it doesn't mean they complete the year. Figures released last month by the SA Department for Education show of those who began Year 12 in the state, only 64% completed their Year 12 certificate.

This is a problem. But our work with non-mainstream schools is showing how we can retain and engage more students if they are treated with more respect and given more choice in the senior years.

*It is estimated that the average Australian scrolls the height of Mt Everest, on their phone, every month.*

*Everest is 8,849m....*

#### Kids With Concussion

**Children who sustain a concussion are 77% more likely to not complete Year 12 and have significantly higher risk of poor school performance.**

Experts say recovery from concussion can take longer than expected and called on schools to better monitor the academic performance and wellbeing of students who experience head trauma.

New research found they are 30% more likely to not achieve national minimum standards in numeracy, increasing to 43% in spelling, when compared to students who had not been admitted to hospital with injury.

One in eight children will experience a concussion before they are 18 years old.

[Full Story](#)

#### School Post

**The Term 2 edition of School Post is out soon!**



#### 45,000 Kids In Care Maltreated

**A disturbing number of children are at risk of maltreatment, with an average of 125 cases per day.**

A harrowing report has revealed that 45,000 children were the subject of maltreatment in 2021/22.

Of the cases, emotional abuse (57%) was the most common type of substantiated maltreatment, followed by neglect (21%).

In 2021/22, around 178,000 Australian children were the subject of reports, while in 2020/21, the number of kids was 179,000.

It is not clear what effect Covid-19 - with its lockdowns, remote learning and lack of face-to-face appointments - had on child protection processes.

[Read](#)