



This week's stories from the media

- SA parents not confident sending kids to OSHC
- 1 in 3 high school maths teachers, teaching out of field
- Childcare centres capping enrolments staff crisis bites in SA
- Families daily struggle to access SA preschool
- New push to allow high schoolers to vote
- Number of non-binary kids skyrocketing in VIC

### 1 In 3 Maths Teachers Out Of Field

Australian secondary schools are continuing to see an increase in classes being taught out-of-field.

A report identified that 'out-of-field' teaching rates were particularly high in mathematics, with one in three maths teachers teaching without specific training in the subject.

"It's one thing to know the content, and it's also another thing to be able to work with it and know where it fits in the curriculum."

According to 2019 data released by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI), between 21% to 38% of Year 7-10 maths classes in Australia are taught by 'out-of-field' teachers.

The recent AITSL report also noted that the number of new teachers who leave the profession is significantly less than most previous studies have shown.

"Early career teachers are resilient and with the right support can go on to have long and successful careers," he said.

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### Why SA Parents Are Not Confident Sending Their Kids To OSHC

The state government says the out of school hours care system needs more investment to fix "emerging and current" risks to SA students.

Out of school hours care can no longer be treated as the "poor cousin" of other early childhood services and will need more investment if families are to feel "confident" using it, the Education Minister says.

He has also been warned by the watchdog that inspects childcare, preschool and OSHC centres about "emerging and current" risks in Education Department OSHC services.

There are about 385 OSHC centres in SA. Some are operated by schools and governing councils and others by third-party providers.

Services are often open from around 7am before school and until about 6pm after school.

Mr Boyer said a "key driver ... is busy working families, single parent families, who are unable to get the care for their kids before and after the traditional school day that enables them to go and do their paid employment".

"If we don't address that, that slide is going to continue," he said.

In particular, Mr Boyer said "more investment" was needed in developing a qualified workforce to staff OSHC centres.

An report has recommended the state government provide more funding to the ESB to "ensure every early childhood education and care provider is assessed and rated at least every three years".

That would include OSHC and vacation care services, preschools and childcare centres.

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### Childcare Centres Capping Enrolments

**Childcare centres are struggling with such severe workforce shortages they are having to cap enrolments.**

The Australian Childcare Alliance has released a survey of member-centres - including 19 in SA - during one week in February this year.

Of the 627 centres surveyed nationally, enrolment caps denied 16,300 places to families over the period.

In another week, in May this year, the centres were asked again, and this time half of those responding had been forced to cap enrolments due to the ongoing workforce shortages.

“Right now, we urgently need at least 10,000 well-trained, competent early childhood educators and teachers to fill vacancies.”

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### Families Daily Struggle To Access SA Preschool

**South Australian families in suburbs with poor “walkability” ratings can’t get their children to childcare and early learning centres as they struggle with citycentric bus routes or don’t own a car, according to the state’s new Thrive by Five coalition.**

Concerns are particularly focused on Adelaide’s northern suburbs rated as having the least “walkability” in the state, with one local advocate saying “there has been a long history now of our children being behind in their development rates than other kids across the state”.

Commissioner for children and young people Helen Connolly backed the concerns, saying a national university study showed in a walkability index that four of the worst six suburbs in Adelaide are in the north: Munno Para West, Munno Para, Hillbank and Andrews Farm.

“One person may have one kid or more, they might be dropping one to school and early learning and have a baby and they have to do all of that on public transport – it’s a challenge,” Chilcott said.

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### New Push To Allow High School Voting

**Young people have kicked off a national campaign to lower the federal voting age from 18 to 16.**

Supported by independent MPs Monique Ryan and Andrew Wilkie and Greens youth spokesman Stephen Bates, the “Make it 16” campaign argues that if 16 year olds can drive, pay rent and work full time, they should be allowed to vote.

They say the government has the ability to pass legislation to amend the Commonwealth Electoral Act of 1918 to lower the age, and follow in the footsteps of Austria, Argentina and Brazil, who have already made such a change.

New Zealand, Canada and Germany are also on track to also lower their voting age.

[Full Story](#)

### World Refugee Day - June 20

Each year on 20 June, the world celebrates World Refugee Day, the international day to honour people who have been forced to flee.



### Non-Binary Kids Skyrocketing in VIC

**The number of VCE students identifying as “gender X” rather than girl or boy has quadrupled over the last three years and they are outperforming boys in a number of subjects.**

Victoria allowed students to declare their gender as non-binary in 2017; it was the second state to do so.

VCAA records show gender X students outperformed boys, but not girls, in their final exams in media, psychology and art.

Gender X students performed less well than male and female students in biology, English, chemistry, drama, sociology and business management.

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