



This week's stories from the media

- Underperforming schools target of new standards push
- Teacher code of conduct
- Kids verdict of public transport
- Rural students not behind because of socio-economic status
- SA study calls for culturally sensitive school policies

Teacher Code Of Conduct

Teachers fear a new code of conduct which extends beyond the school gate will create an extra layer of bureaucracy and scrutiny which has the potential to deter potential new educators.

A foreword to a draft of the code released last month says, "a teacher's professional and personal conduct reflects on the standing of the entire profession".

The draft code includes guidelines that teachers should ensure they are consistently behaving "in a manner that reflects their professional role in the learner's life, rather than as a friend or guardian."

They should also take extra consideration as to how they represent themselves through personal social media accounts.

"Most professional groups such as nurses, doctors, lawyers ... have a code of conduct for the profession."

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Underperforming SA Schools Target Of New Standards Push

SA's most under performing public schools are the target of an official campaign to lift student standards.

The government has unveiled a new "make every school a great school" program that will focus on the most disadvantaged areas, targeted infrastructure spending, encouraging parents to choose local schools and offering more specialist teaching streams.

Latest Education Department data shows almost 70,000 free students spots across the state despite more schools facing a capacity crisis.

The figures show 27 of the most popular schools will be over capacity next year, before that total rises to 31 in 2025.

Education Minister Blair Boyer, who has no plans to change existing zones, said a top priority will be to "actively target and lift the reputation and quality of key schools".

Mr Boyer said he understood people might be "cynical" about the new government push but efforts in some schools were already producing results.

"If we look to recent history about what has been done by successive governments, Labor and Liberal, is they've taken what's actually financially the easier route and just expand the schools that are already super popular," he said.

"Now I think this government is showing a willingness to try something different at those schools that have languished for a long time."

Mr Boyer said a 20 year infrastructure plan will be published once the Gillard Royal Commission into preschool plans reports later this year.

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“...a top priority will be to “actively target and lift the reputation and quality of key schools....”

Kids Verdict On Public Transport

A state government report into why young people don't use public transport has recommended free travel to and from school, sport and community activities.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has told The Advertiser her Safe and Sound report found much resistance to public transport use by South Australians aged 13 to 20 years.

“Free public transport to some activities would help young people from low-income families,” she said.

“Doing so would help to significantly reduce the impact of transport disadvantage on the children and young people in these families.”

The survey, filled in by 1124 young people, found bad public transport unfairly impacts young women, LGBTQI+ people, and those living with disability.

Some of the young people reported instances of sexual harassment, anti-social behaviour, and crime, and wanted CCTV protection.

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Rural Students Not Behind Because Of SES

International and national tests show rural students, on average, do not do as well at school as their city peers.

Most studies looking at rural students have focused on primary school students. And most conflate rurality with low socioeconomic status.

A new study has found that when SES is controlled for, rural students still achieve lower results than non-rural students in HSC English and maths.

Put another way, students attending schools in rural locations, regardless of their parents' SES levels, the average SES of their peers at school, their prior achievement in NAPLAN and school sector, achieve at lower levels than their non-rural counterparts.

It is likely different and unequal opportunities around learning are playing a role here.

This includes a lack of access to some subjects in rural areas and teachers teaching out of their fields of expertise and training.

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SA Study Calls For Cultural Sensitivity

High school student Brianna was approached at her locker by a staff member asking her to remove her braids.

Brianna said her braids were part of her cultural identity and helped her care for her hair.

A UniSA study, which looked into the sense of belonging for African Australian youth in schools, found Brianna's case was not isolated.

One of the researchers, said African Australian primary and high school students had told her team that issues involving their hair and styling was common on campuses.

She said students with coily, Afro-centric hair have been discriminated against when it comes to the protective styles they wear to school.

[Full Story](#)

School Post - Out Now!

The Term 2 edition of School Post is out now!



National Pyjama Day - July 21

National Pyjama Day is a day to raise awareness and raise funds for children in foster care.

