



This week's stories from the media

- ChatGPT style AI trial in SA schools
- Childcare centres told to play by the rules
- Combining maths and music leads to higher scores
- Stopping declining attendance in remote schools
- Childcare fees soar
- Inadequate training fails teachers and students

Play By The Rules

Childcare centres told to 'play by the rules' ahead of increase to subsidy.

Childcare providers planning to slug parents with higher fees to cover a subsidy increase have been warned the consumer watchdog will be paying close attention.

The federal government has said the more generous subsidy, which will cost \$5.4bn over four years and apply from July, would slash out-of-pocket fees for around 1.2 million families.

But there are concerns any providers will use the subsidy as cover to hike up fees to meet rising costs.

Education Minister Jason Clare said the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission was monitoring whether providers were "playing by the rules or not".

Thrive by Five, a campaign run by the Minderoo Foundation, urged the government to take action to crack down on greedy providers using the subsidy increase to mask "unacceptable" hikes to fees.

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ChatGPT Style AI Trial In SA Schools

Eight public high schools in South Australia are set to become the first in the country to trial an artificial intelligence app.

The SA government is looking to help students develop skills to protect themselves online as AI becomes more prevalent.

The app will show students how AI can support their studies while also protecting them from information that could put them at risk.

The eight schools that will undertake the 8-week trial are Ceduna Area School, Streaky Bay Area School, Adelaide Botanic High School, Adelaide High School, Mitcham Girls High School, Unley High School, Thebarton Senior College and Glenunga International High School.

SA Education Minister Blair Boyer says AI is here to stay, like it or not.

"Kids are already using it out of school hours and on the weekend," he said.

"The measure of a good education is not just around the fundamentals of reading and writing, but it's how we prepare young people for the world they're going to live in."

Safety measures have been built into this AI to protect students' data and school staff will be able to moderate the app.

After the eight-week trial the state government will decide whether the app will be rolled out in other schools.

[More](#)



“...AI is here to stay, like it or not....”

Combining Math Music Leads To Higher Scores

Children do better at math when music is a key part of their lessons, an analysis of almost 50 years of research on the topic has revealed.

It is thought that music can make math more enjoyable, keep students engaged and help many ease fear or anxiety they have about math.

Motivation may be increased and pupils may appreciate math more.

Researchers combined the results of 55 studies from around the world, involving almost 78,000 young people from kindergarten pupils to university students.

Students took math tests before and after taking part in the intervention and the change in their scores was compared with that of youngsters who didn't take part in an intervention.

The integrated lessons had the biggest effect, with around 73% of students who had integrated lessons doing significantly better than youngsters who didn't have any type of musical intervention.

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How Do We Stop Declining Attendance In Remote Schools

Recent research reveals that school attendance in our First Nations communities is declining despite the continuation of the remote schools attendance strategy.

MCERA has reached out to First Nations education experts to invite solutions towards a responsive education system that strengthens First Nations culture and student engagement in remote Australia.

“Forward-thinking, long-term planning and investment is necessary to address the fact that first language educators are not adequately supported through accredited workforce development opportunities.”

“Success in remote schools continues to be measured against the narrow strands of attendance, basic skills in English Language and Maths, and year 12 completion.”

“We need a shift towards structuring schools to meet the aspirations and success goals that families, communities and young people determine.”

[More](#)

Childcare Fees Soar

Australian childcare fees rise faster than inflation.

Childcare fees have risen between 20% and 32% in the last four years, faster than inflation and wages, an investigation has uncovered.

Between 2018 and 2022, fees increased by about \$21 per day for centre based care, \$16 a day for family day care, \$5 a day for outside school care and \$74 per day for in home care services.

The poorest families pay up to a fifth of their income on childcare.

The highest average daily fee for centre-based day care is in the ACT (\$132.72, followed by Vic (\$130.39), NSW (\$125.53), WA (\$125.29), SA (\$121.40), QLD (\$115.04) and NT (\$108.45), with TAS the lowest (\$107.37).

[Full Story](#)

School Holidays

Term 2 ends this Friday!



Training Fails Teachers Students

Children and Young People with Disability Australia's chief executive says the school experiences of students with disabilities were heavily hinged on teacher and teacher aide training.

"If teacher aides are coming into the classroom - and realising, from day one, that they lack the fundamental skills and knowledge to support all students fully - then we know that as a system, we failed those teacher aides, and we have failed the students," she said.

"This would be particularly felt in mainstream school settings, where we know 89 per cent of students who live with disability attend."

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