



This week's stories from the media

- Premier to spend \$18m on female sports
- SA taxpayers face annual \$1 billion union demands bill
- Plan to subsidise student mental health
- Rising number of year 12 graduates heading straight to work
- 27 hours driving a week
- Boarding school scholarships for Indigenous kids

Taxpayers Face \$1b Bill

Taxpayers face staggering annual bill to meet the demands of SA's teachers union, as negotiations over wage rises and "excessive" workloads continue.

The huge price tag would cover measures to free up teachers to spend more time with students and less on paperwork – but comes on top of claims for wage increases of up to 8.6% a year.

The union says teachers are currently doing \$1bn worth of largely administrative work for free and managing more children with increasingly complex needs, and it is "not ashamed" of its "bold" agenda.

But senior government sources say the union has been told to narrow its scope and the Education Department boss has all but ruled out agreeing to a key demand that would cost "hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars".

Asked if the state could afford the cost, union president Andrew Gohl said: "Governments have the money, it's just that they choose not to invest it in public education. They choose to spend it on other stuff."

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Premier To Spend \$18m On Female Sports

South Australians would not have gotten a public holiday if the Matildas had won the World Cup but the state will instead plough almost \$20m into women's and girls' sport.

Premier Peter Malinauskas resisted pressure for a national day off, instead asking for a costing to taxpayers of the proposed public holiday.

This was assessed at \$18m, which Mr Malinauskas told The Advertiser would instead bankroll female sporting infrastructure.

Of this, \$10m would go to Football Federation South Australia for women's and girls' soccer.

"Following the receipt of that advice, naturally, there's a public policy question you've got to ask yourself, if you're going to spend \$18m:

'What's going to have the greatest impact, a public holiday?' or is there something else that you might choose to do instead."

"So we are committing to spending \$18m on partnering with sporting groups to do more grassroots investment in women's sporting infrastructure, which has been under-invested in."

Mr Malinauskas said males and females still were too often having to share changerooms or use carparks, declaring this a challenge throughout the state.

He said the \$18m would "provide a long lasting legacy of the World Cup".

"It's a commitment that we're making win, lose or draw."

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“...males and females still were too often having to share changerooms or use carparks...”

Plan To Subsidise Student Mental Health

With more Aussie students and families battling a crisis in school attendance, a parliamentary inquiry has made a host of recommendations.

Student mental health care visits could be subsidised across Australia as part of a major plan to tackle school attendance issues across the country.

The proposal is one of several made by a senate inquiry into the national trend of school refusal – something a peer support group says is “doubling” in size each year.

The inquiry heard over several months that there was a serious lack of data as to why students were increasingly shying away from education.

The committee also recommended education authorities, should investigate how to increase the flexibility of education delivery, including by facilitating the provision of more alternative and specialist school settings that cater for students experiencing school refusal.

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Rising Number Of Year 12s Heading Straight To Work

A growing number of year 12 graduates are heading straight to the workforce, straying off the traditional path from high school to a trade or university.

Data shows 24.3% of students who completed year 12 in Victoria in 2021 were employed the following year.

The 2021 graduates represent the lowest percentage of university enrolment since 2014's year 12 graduates, in what is partly a reflection of the pandemic and students' decisions to defer study.

Experts say the trend is indicative of students embracing the ideal of lifelong learning, enrolling in study when they are ready, instead of immediately after high school.

But another warns early employment without sufficient training could also leave graduates unprepared for future jobs markets.

Dr Stephen Billett, professor at Griffith University, said that historically, a direct route to the workforce had been a double-edged sword, with high wages, but little training.

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27 Hours Driving A Week

27 hours driving a week: What parents do for the kids chasing an elite sporting dream.

Their kids are among our nation's sporting elite, but it's their parents who are often the real stars, writes Jess Adamson.

But there is no limit to a parent's dedication, commitment and sacrifice.

Mums and dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends who rode the highs and the lows with them, cut up the oranges, drove them to training and games, witnessed the setbacks, the tears and the triumphs.

[Full Story](#)

Matildas

**Third Place Match
Saturday August 19**



'Til It's Done!

Boarding School Scholarships

Sending 10,000 Indigenous kids from the poorest communities to the richest schools could close the gap, according to Andrew Penfold.

Penfold's Australian Indigenous Education Foundation has been running for 15 years.

With 1200 graduates and a 93% year 12 competition rate, the AIFS's success is undeniable.

Minister Clare stated that young Indigenous men were more likely to go to jail than university - at an annual cost of \$148,000 each.

“We can put a kid through high school for that - for six years,” Mr. Penfold said.

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