



This week's stories from the media

- SA teacher strike
- Gillard delivers royal commission into early childhood
- Middle school leaders least happy
- SA school suspension review
- Teachers unions boycott nuclear subs challenge in schools
- Need to go beyond NAPLAN

Gillard Delivers Royal Commission

School's in for SA's three year olds, with the government releasing its road map for offering each a place in preschool from 2026.

Former prime minister Julia Gillard has revealed that her royal commission into early childhood education and care makes 43 recommendations.

Ms Gillard said her report was "much bigger than preschool" and made recommendations on OSHC and supports for families in a child's first 1000 days.

Her report reveals detailed data on the state of the sector's workforce and how SA families use the child care subsidy.

Ms Gillard also commissioned modelling on the economic returns that could flow from giving all children two years of preschool education.

A key issue Ms Gillard examined is whether SA should change the qualifications required to become an early childhood teacher.

Currently they must complete a four-year degree covering the education of children from birth to eight years old.

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SA Teacher Strike

More than 300 South Australian schools will close or be forced to alter classes because of the planned teacher strike on Friday.

The Education Department has revealed 167 public schools or preschools will close and 152 will have to offer a modified program.

The remaining 608 sites will be open as normal, or already had a planned pupil free day on Friday.

Department chief executive Martin Westwell said where schools planned to close there would be a staff member on site to supervise any children who arrived "unexpectedly".

Education Minister Blair Boyer said there was a "central team (of education staff) working with parents to find something" if they could not make alternative arrangements for their children.

The union has about 12,100 members in SA, although not all of them work in schools or preschools.

Mr Boyer earlier promised that where parents had no other option but to send their child to school there would be someone there to supervise them.

"...Where there's no alternative arrangements and they're really stuck we are not going to turn anyone away".

"If a parent is genuinely stuck and has no other option but to take that kid to school then that option will be available to them," Premier Malinauskas said.

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“...Where there’s no alternative arrangements and they’re really stuck we are not going to turn anyone away....”

Middle School Leaders Least Happy

Over half of middle leaders in schools intend to leave the profession in the next 12 months, according to a recent State of the Sector report.

The 2023 report shows that ‘middle leaders’ in Australian schools are the least happy in their jobs, with 89% reporting a negative sentiment towards their role.

Middle leaders are assistant principals and head teachers and are part of the school executive team.

The fourth annual report surveyed 234 principals, 29 middle leaders, 79 teachers, 84 HR/business managers, and 31 ‘other’ school leaders.

The report shows that schools continue to do more with fewer resources and highlights a declining positive sentiment toward teaching as a profession.

Last year’s report identified a direct correlation between seniority in school leadership and positive sentiment towards the role. However, this correlation was less notable in the 2023 report.

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SA School Suspension Review

Review into public school suspensions as figures show kids as young as four are being kicked out of kindy.

Almost 20 children aged from just four to six were suspended from state schools every week during the most recent snapshot taken by the Education Department.

Overall numbers of suspensions are back on the rise, with 4211 in Term 2, 2022 – the highest since the 3934 in the same term in 2019 before the pandemic.

And a growing number of public school students have been repeatedly suspended in recent years.

The figures comes as The Advertiser reveals the Education Department is expected to finalise a review of its Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion of Students Procedure for government schools by the end of the year.

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Unions Boycott Subs Challenge

There's growing momentum among teaching unions to boycott a government-backed challenge tasking high school students to design a nuclear-powered propulsion system.

Students in years seven-to-12 would design a nuclear-powered propulsion system for a submarine.

Friends of the Earth have written to the unions asking them to call for a national boycott of the program.

The AEU Federal Executive will consider its position on the challenge later this week, while AEU branch meetings have allegedly passed motions to boycott the government-backed initiative.

[Full Story](#)

Child Protection Week

September 3 - 9 is national Child Protection Week.



Need To Go Beyond NAPLAN

The latest NAPLAN results don't look great but we need to go beyond the headline figures.

Our instinct might be to panic, but the reality is significant changes to the test have led to these results.

It might take a few years before we can make any meaningful sense about overall progress and change.

We can also look to some experts' optimism about the changes. They say the new achievement levels and earlier testing dates will eventually lead to simpler and more useful results.

They hope this means better communication between schools and families, as well as more time for schools to act.

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