



This week's stories from the media

- Police call for community unity as child sextortion cases grow
- NAPLAN what have we learned
- Homeschooling
- Experts urge stronger link between pre and primary school
- SA teachers may walk off again
- Childcare safety incidents investigation

NAPLAN What Have We Learned

Over \$660bn has been spent on NAPLAN since it started - \$72bn of which was spent in the last year.

The results should also identify where additional funding and resources are needed to bolster learning outcomes in certain areas around the country.

However, this year's significant overhaul to the test has potential to skew results, meaning we might not have enough data to make meaningful sense about overall progress for a few years.

According to ACARA data, almost 10% of students are below what used to be called the 'minimum standard' in literacy and numeracy.

However, a major overhaul to the assessment resulting from a 2020 independent review means that this year's results cannot be compared to previous years.

A record 4.4 million tests were taken by more than 1.3 million students in 9,390 campuses and schools across Australia in 2023.

[Read Story](#)

Police Call For Community Unity As Child Sextortion Cases Grow

An elite team of police has revealed the latest hi-tech abuse crime predators are inflicting on faultless and vulnerable children.

Sextortion is one of SA's fastest-growing crimes, an elite child-rescuing police team says – but victims need to know it is not their fault and they are not to blame for a predator's actions.

Detectives from the Joint Anti-Child Exploitation Team said children as young as 10 are being tricked into providing explicit material to pedophiles posing as people their own age.

Those offenders, they said, then use that material to blackmail victims into providing more content – which they exchange online to increase their standing in the pedophile world.

Detective Jordan Dowling said children wrongly believe apps like Snapchat were safe because photos delete themselves upon viewing.

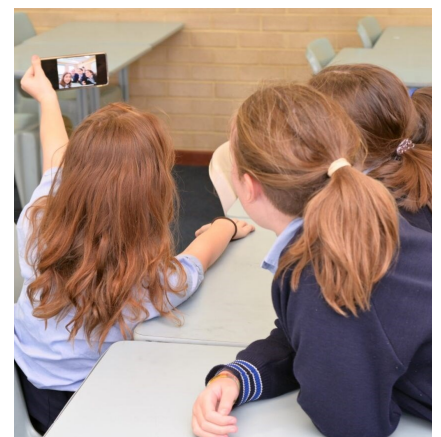
"We are seeing a lot of offenders use screen-recording software so, despite the image disappearing, they have a record of that – they've still got a copy," he said.

"Offenders put an incredible amount of time into creating false personas online, and into developing and building that relationship with the victim under false pretences."

Police say they understand the community found child abuse "too confronting" to discuss, and agreed it was an abhorrent topic to consider.

However, they said the public had to turn their minds to the realities of the problem in order to help JACET and law enforcement agencies around the world stem the tide.

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“...victims need to know it is not their fault and they are not to blame for a predator’s actions....”

Homeschooling

A regular school day for nine-year-old Hunter Mamo might only last a couple of hours, and his commute to class is even shorter.

The youngster is one of a growing number choosing homeschooling in the wake of Covid. Mother Rebecca Mamo said the mask requirements in school threw her son, who has autism and an auditory processing disorder.

The Mamo's are among 1533 families, and 2443 children, registered for homeschooling in SA.

Some children may only do home education for a short time, and may return to mainstream schools.

Department CE Martin Westwell said every state in the country had “seen an increase in interest” in homeschooling in the wake of the pandemic when many families were homebound during lockdowns.

Families are regularly reviewed and have to show “evidence of learning to indicate student engagement and progress”.

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Experts Urge Stronger Link Between Pre and Primary School

Differences in priorities and the language used to describe teaching and learning in early childhood and school are hurdles to children’s development.

An ACER conference has explored how to improve the continuity of learning from birth to 12 years so that every child makes excellent ongoing progress.

They also explained how to use learning progressions to tailor learning opportunities to each child's needs – no matter whether they are in long daycare, preschool, or school settings.

“It is not about starting the school curriculum sooner, rather the lower levels of a quality learning progression show how to support children to develop a strong foundation and monitor their ongoing growth,” Dr Cloney said.

“A key to ensuring that every child makes excellent ongoing progress in their learning and development is recognition that individuals are on very different timelines and trajectories,” ACER CE Geoff Masters said.

[More](#)

SA Teachers May Walk Off Again

SA’s teachers could walk off the job again as early as next week, the union warns.

In a branch council meeting held on Saturday, the union warned disgruntled teachers across the state could strike on September 15 if there is no progress in negotiations with the government.

If a suitable offer does not come by that time, September 15 could be another day of industrial action, but the union has not yet decided “what form that will take”, Mr Gohl said.

Speaking after the strike on Friday, Education Minister Blair Boyer said it was “disappointing” that the AEU had already flagged the possibility of further industrial action.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The term 3 edition of School Post is out next week!



Childcare Safety Incidents

Latest data showed that in 2021 -22 there were 27,551 confirmed breaches across Australia of the national laws at approved early childhood education services.

It also showed a 10% increase in confirmed breaches over the last five years.

The most frequent breaches related to:

- Failing to protect children from harm and hazards; and
- Inadequate supervision of children.

The government has asked ACECQA to review childcare safety standards....

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