



This week's stories from the media

- Sense of belonging helps students overcome setbacks
- Preschools recognised in SA education awards
- 70% of students with a disability excluded at school
- Will free degrees fix teacher shortage
- Top researchers for ACU's advanced literacy
- Families long wait for free preschool

### Preschools Recognised In Awards

A number of preschool and early childhood services have been named as finalists in the SA Public Education Awards.

**Excellence in Learner Agency Award:** Finalist – Klemzig Kindergarten and Occasional Care.

**Inclusive Practices in Education Award:** Finalist – Bains Road Preschool.

**Excellence in Leadership Award:** Finalist – Natalie Stormonth: Preschool Director, Dernancourt Kindergarten.

**Outstanding Reconciliation Initiatives Award:**

Finalist – Ngaitalya and Reconciliation: Stirling District Kindergarten.

Finalist – Nunga Playgroup, Kirton Point Children's Centre (Barngarla Country).

**Outstanding Safety Initiatives Award:** Finalist – Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum, Curriculum Program Directorate, Promoting child safety through innovative and ever-evolving education.

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### Sense Of Belonging Helps Students Overcome Academic Setbacks

**What helps students cope with academic setbacks? Research shows a sense of belonging at school is key.**

Research has found resilient students tend to have more positive academic outcomes.

These include making greater effort with their work, having better study skills and enjoying school more than students who are less resilient.

Research also shows resilience is underpinned by attributes such as confidence.

But we need more understanding about what school-related factors are involved in students' resilience and what schools can do to build their students' resilience.

A new study surveyed high school students in schools around NSW to look at what other factors impact students' resilience.

Students' sense of school belonging stood out as the most notable factor of resilience.

In fact, the role of school belonging was important at the individual student level and also at the whole-school level.

That is, when individual students felt a greater sense of belonging to their school, they tended to also report greater resilience one year later.

When a school had a higher proportion of students reporting a sense of belonging, it showed higher school-average resilience one year later.

This is because students feel less isolated at times of adversity and have options and opportunities for support from their peers and teachers.

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***“...Students’ sense of school belonging stood out as the most notable factor of resilience....”***

### 70% Of Student With A Disability Excluded At School

Earlier this month, Bruce Bonyhady, the chair of the independent review, said state governments need to build “foundational supports” in schools to reduce the strain on the NDIS.

This follows recent research that showed huge issues with the way students with disability are included in school life.

For example, 70% of surveyed students with a disability report being excluded from events or activities at school.

In January this year, a Productivity Commission review noted many of the bilateral agreements either did not include specific reform actions for students with disabilities, or did not include details of how this would happen.

It also noted there is no NAPLAN data collected on students with disabilities – so it is very difficult to measure academic progress.

The commission suggested linking NDIS data to school reporting.

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### Will Free Degrees Fix Teacher Shortage

Amid ongoing teacher shortages, Victoria will offer fee-free education for high school teaching degrees from next year.

It includes scholarships to cover the costs of a high school teaching degree.

Students will be required to work in government schools for two years after they graduate. This is expected to support about 8,000 “future teachers”.

There is a further \$27 million to provide incentives for graduates to work in hard-to-staff schools.

It’s an attractive package, but very unlikely to address the core of the problem - because access to tertiary study and incentives are not the root causes of teachers shortages.

History suggests free degrees will not see a surge of students applying to study teaching.

Like nursing, the motivation for a teaching career is driven by factors largely unrelated to pure financial incentives.

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### Top Researchers For ACU Literacy

The ACU has hired a group of top researchers to improve teacher training.

The centre will also include a reading clinic to work directly with children.

ACU is a major provider of trained teachers.

“We want to translate research to the classroom”.

The literacy centre complements to the ACU’s STEM centre of excellence.

The STEM centre works with schools and offers teachers development in STEM subjects.

[Full Story](#)

### World Teachers’ Day Australia

World Teachers’ Day is celebrated in Australia on Friday October 27!



Post a photo in your hat with #WorldTeachersDay2023

### Families Long Wait For Free Preschool

Surging demand for free preschool spots in leaving thousands missing out or stuck in waiting lists.

ABS figures show the number of children enrolled in daycare preschool programs fell by 8,000 in 2022.

Figures also show 54.5% of children in preschools paid no fees last year.

Preschool operators are warning governments that initiatives to lower the costs are undermining high-quality providers.

The NSW government moved to reduce pressure on stand-alone preschools by offering \$500 vouchers to parents of three-year-olds enrolled in long-daycare preschool programs.

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