

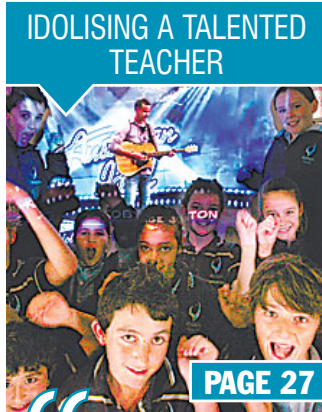


Education **now...**

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A TERTIARY AND NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION RESOURCE

Student funds being 'wasted on red tape'



IDOLISING A TALENTED TEACHER

PAGE 27

It was definitely left of field.



ENCOURAGING TALL POPPIES TO GROW

PAGE 28

If you want a one-hit wonder that's fine.



THE CASE FOR SELF-GOVERNING SCHOOLS

PAGE 63

We kept the centralised education department and it has been a tug-of-war ever since.

LAUREN NOVAK
EDUCATION REPORTER

UP TO a third of the money the state claims is spent on each student is diverted to administration costs or into general education spending.

Parents and the Opposition calculate up to 35 per cent of the money given to schools is being tied up in administration and other costs outside school control, prompting calls to slash the bureaucracy.

According to the Department of Education and Children's Services, an average of \$11,568 was spent on each student in the school system in 2008-09, and this was lifted to \$12,627 for 2009-10.

Secondary students in the most disadvantaged schools (category one) got \$13,532 in annual funding, and those in the most well-off schools (category seven) received \$10,899.

Using 2008-09 figures, parent representative and director of the SA Association of State School Organisations, David Knuckey, calculated schools only get \$7000, or 62 per cent of the average allocated for each student.

"If there's tens of millions of dollars going to administration it could, if redirected, offset some of the problems in schools."

Opposition education spokesman David Pisoni said schools were being "slowed by a bloated bureaucracy".

"The work I've done on this is pointing to about 35 per cent of the education budget actually not leaving



IN THE KNOW: Kate Woodbridge and Kieran Handberg help Ashleigh Burnard and Aidan McGeagh. Picture: JO-ANNA ROBINSON

Peer support for online school bullying

STUDENTS are teaching their younger peers how to be safe online as part of a new program at St John's Grammar School.

Year 8 students who use social networking websites such as MySpace, Facebook and Twitter are passing on tips to Year 6 students to help them avoid being bullied or exploited.

Head of Middle School Mike Ebert introduced the program last term and it is now part of the Year 8 curriculum.

"I got the sense that teachers were always the ones giving this information but, on cyber safety, the students are usually more well versed," Mr Ebert said.

Year 8 student Kieran said his group

came up with tips for younger users. "If someone's bullying you, the best thing to do is block them or delete them from your contacts and always save the evidence," the 13-year-old said. "We showed them how, if you don't have a privacy setting, anyone can access your details."

Page 62: Action on cyber bullying

(the Education Department office in) Flinders St," Mr Pisoni said.

He said a Liberal government would decentralise the department to "get more money into schools".

Mr Knuckey endorsed the policy. Writing on page 63 of

today's *EducationNow*, he has called for schools to have more autonomy on how they spend their money.

He said schools should be self-governing because "it delivers a better standard of education than the old, massive, centralised government department".

DECS admitted some of the money it says is allocated for each child was spent on administration costs, but put this figure at 4.8 per cent.

It said 71 per cent went directly to schools to spend on students and salaries and the rest of the money was spent by the department on

behalf of schools. For instance, 17 per cent of the \$11,568 allocated for each student in 2008-09 was spent on programs such as speech pathologists and ICT and internet services.

A further 5 per cent of this was spent on maintenance and refurbishments.

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