

Class action for anger

PRINCIPALS want anger management and rehabilitation courses to be part of the school disciplinary process to prevent repeat offenders.

The Education Department has launched its review into suspension and exclusion guidelines as promised in the March election, with a view to give school principals "tougher disciplinary responses".

The South Secondary Principals Association has said

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this would not necessarily mean longer penalties or less lenience but instead a focus on rehabilitation.

"When you've got a repeat offender... as part of their exclusion we would like to get them to participate in

programs such as Operation Flinders of the Duke of Edinburgh award," association president Jim Davies said.

"It's about trying to engage in discipline, but on the other hand through discipline be supportive of changing their behaviour for the long term."

Mr Davies said principals would also like to involve parents in the process to stamp out repeat offenders.

"We want the department to review what it is we can ask of parents and kids," he

said. "We'd like it to be required to get parents to the table so that parents, principals, teachers and the student are all heading in the same direction. What can we all do to help this child abide by community expectations and norms?"

The state's peak parents' body, the South Australian Association of State School Organisation, has said school communities had varied needs and advocated for Governing Councils to set

school behaviour policies. Director David Knuckey said no two schools were the same and unique problems could only be solved when the local school community was "empowered to deal with them".

"Having student behaviour policies decided by the Governing Council means the principal can act decisively, confident they have the support of parents," he said.

"Schools confront challenges unimaginable 10 years ago; from the rise of cyber-

bullying, to recent violent incidents, with every detail spread via the internet. Schools should be free to try new techniques to deal with these challenges."

In last week's Budget, the Government announced six new behaviour centres would be opened to cater for excluded students.

The Education Department said the new suspension and exclusion guidelines would give principals a broader range of disciplinary actions.

Artist takes out major prize lying down



PATRICK McDONALD ARTS EDITOR

TWO South Australians are among the finalists in this year's Doug Moran National Portrait Prize exhibition, which opened yesterday at the Royal SA Society of Arts gallery.

Tranmere artist Robin Eley's self-portrait was one of two works which were named runner-up in the competition and won \$10,000 highly commended citations.

The painting was commercial illustrator Eley's first entry into a fine art competition, and he only finished it the night before the competition's deadline.

Fellow Adelaide artist Annette Bezor's painting depicts her friend and collaborator, Rwandan composer and performer Stephanie Kabanyana, peering through veils of different colours.

The \$150,000 Moran award was won by Brisbane artist Michael Zavros's painting *Phoebe is dead/McQueen*.

The exhibition is at the RSASA Gallery, Institute Building, corner of North Tce and Kintore Ave, until October 17. It will feature demonstrations by four different artists each Wednesday from 11am to 3pm.

CAPTIVATING: Young visitor Charlie measures up the winning portrait by Michael Zavros at the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize exhibition yesterday.

Picture: JO-ANNA ROBINSON

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