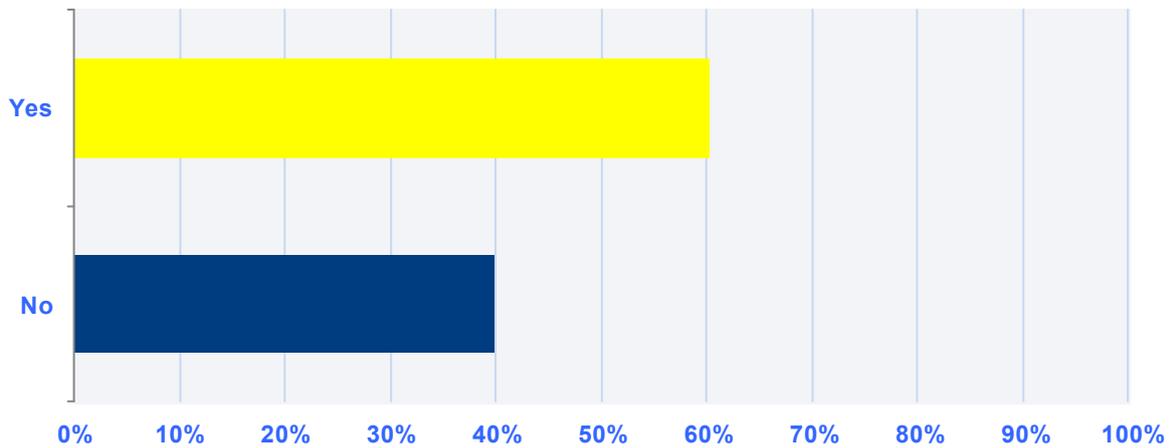




Should Students With An ATAR Below 80 Be Barred From Entering The Teaching Profession?



With a federal election looming, education promises are starting to flow. SAASSO recently asked parents and educators what they think.

973 respondents completed the survey. 92% of these were parents and 43% work in a school.

Student Climate Protests

With condemnation and warnings of consequences from politicians, we asked what parents and educators think of the protests.

- Only 10.8% of respondents believe protesting students should suffer consequences for missing school.

Non-parents were three times as likely to want punishment for children who miss school to protest.

- 16% of school staff favoured punishments, compared with just 6% of non-school staff.

Virtually none of the principals and deputy-principals who responded wanted protesting students punished for missing school.

Comments showed support for a worthwhile cause, while pointing the number of days students already miss for other events.

ATAR

60.1% of respondents support Labor's plan to set a minimum ATAR of 80 for those wanting to enter the teaching profession.

- 33.49% of school staff support the minimum, while 80.71% of non-school staff want the higher academic standard.
- 48.07% of school support staff favour the ATAR minimum, along with 32.89% of principals and 18.42% of teachers.
- 61.15% of parent support the ATAR minimum, compared with 47.37% of non-parents.

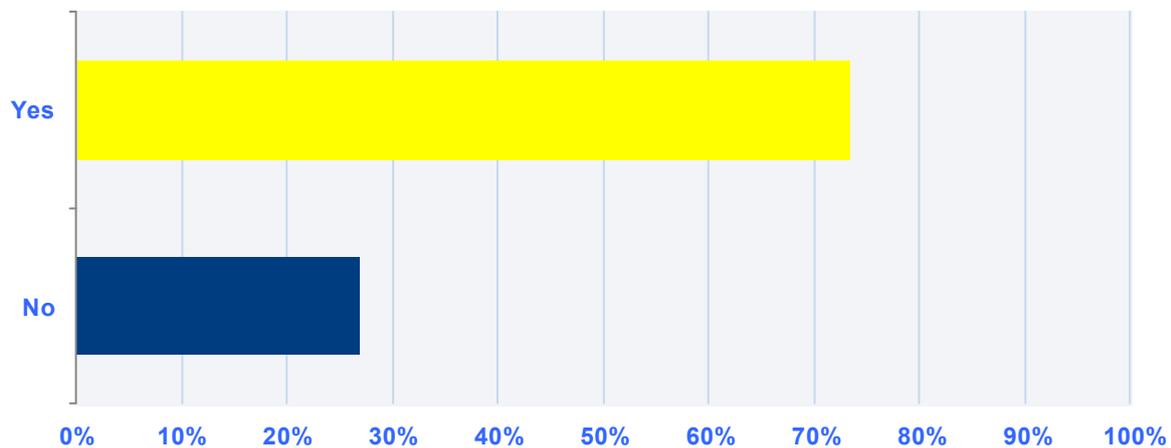
Comments showed strong community support for the need for higher standards for those wishing to become teachers.

A significant number, however, indicated that ATAR may not be the only way to assess those who would be best suited to teaching.

Comments also indicated that a higher academic standard would also help improve the prestige of the teaching profession.



Should HECS Debt Be Waived For Teachers Who Work For Four Years In Remote Indigenous Communities?



Royal Commission: Abuse Of Disabled People

Asked if we need a Royal Commission into the abuse of disabled people:

- 72.85% voted yes,
- 27.15% voted no.

74.44% of parents support the inquiry, compared with 55.26% of non-parents.

A higher percentage of non-school staff want the Royal Commission (74.95%) than school staff (69.78%).

For school staff:

- 55.26% of principals voted yes
- 69.33% of teachers voted yes
- 77.09% of school support staff voted yes.

While there was strong support for greater protection for special needs children in schools, there was scepticism as to what an inquiry would actually achieve.

HECS Debt

The Federal Government is planning to waive the HECS debt for teachers who work four years in remote Indigenous communities.

- 73.15% of respondents support the plan
- 26.85% oppose the plan.

74.19% of parents support the plan, compared with 60.53% of non-parents.

Similarly, schools staff were more in favour (81.84%), than non-school staff (66.30%).

Close to 95% of those in school leadership positions support waiving the HECS debt.

98% of teachers are in favour along with 64% of SSOs and 48% of 'other' school staff.

Comments showed support for greater resources to be allocated to remote communities, however:

- Some believe the plan should extend to all remote communities,
- Some believe we should be encouraging more experienced teachers into these regions, rather than recent graduates,
- Some questioned the fairness of only teachers receiving such support.

Selected Comments



There's more to teaching than knowledge.

Smart teachers = educated students.

All HECS debts should be removed and the fed govt fund higher education adequately. ATAR should possibly be raised even further for teaching or an interview or something equivalent should be required to enter teaching so we get the very best.

Kids need to be in school not attending political rallies during school time.

We should be encouraging our best teachers into regional communities not those straight out of uni.

HECS debts should be waived for any teacher willing to work in any remote region - not just Indigenous. Students finishing school with an ATAR beneath 80 should not be eligible for the teaching profession. Government schools must have a zero tolerance approach to misbehaviour so that we can attract those people to the profession who wish to teach - and teach well (not babysit/be social workers).

Regarding the ATAR for teachers - it's a quick and easy thing to do, but unless/until we actually find a way to encourage more teenagers to "want" to be teachers, it'll just reduce the number of teachers even more.

We need better Teachers - and I must say I think Schools are getting clogged with older teachers who are just biding time until retirement. Their lack of enthusiasm and lack luster approach to teaching is not respected by our kids. Something at a higher level needs to address this issue. This is not true of all older teachers but in our school I would say 50% of the over 55/60 teachers fall into the category.

Question 4 no if they had their parents permission. Question 7: any remote community.

Why should teachers be given special treatment and have hecs waived when other hard working people who work in aboriginal areas don't?

We need smarter teachers not more teachers

If kids / teachers can have day off to go to the royal show why not a day to save the planet!

We can only imagine what horrors happen to disabled children in our public schools.

Surely there are better ways to spend money in aboriginal schools.?

A higher atar is a first step to returning the prestige and appeal of the profession.

Do teachers who have paid their hecs debt get a refund?

Better to pay bonuses to good and experienced teachers to teach in these disadvantaged communities than kids straight out of teachers college.

Is it pro rata?

Labor wants better teachers and liberals want to pay them more now I've seen everything.

ATAR should only be a part of the enrolment process for teachers. They need to show passion & drive for teaching. I love this quote "teachers who love teaching, teach children to love learning". They must be fully engaged in their students. I remember my favourite teacher at high school had a "nickname" for each of his home class students. When he did "yard duty" he would spot students & engage in a meaningful chat about that person. A question about the sport they played etc.etc. They were a teacher in the classroom & a friend away from the classroom. This is the people we need to look after our students.

The students should not have gone to the march but rather explore ways to reduce their own footprint. change comes from one small step demanding someone else brings about change is why we are where we are.

I volunteer at our school to listen to reading for the younger students. I firmly believe anyone young or old should be able to protest but if they miss school they should be expected to utilise this experience as an excursion and develop a report or project on what they knew before they went and what they learnt on the day and what are the top three things they will do to make a difference at their home level.

We need better teachers.

I don't know that an arbitrary score of 80 is the best way but we desperately need to do something to bring better candidates into teaching.

Now if we can just get all the dud teachers to stand aside for this new generation.

Other professions people go where they can get a job. Why do teachers have to be given extra benefits to take their government paid jobs for life?

Why is someone always wanting us to pay teachers extra just to show up?

Pay teachers to accept jobs?

We should spend the money in indigenous communities - not spend it to pay people to go there.

Given all the wasted days of for teacher professional development what's one more?

We need teachers who can spell.

Teaching needs to stop being everyone's last choice!

Education should be free.

Don't teachers already get paid more to work n the country?

Nobody should have a hecs debt!

This will mean the new teachers with no experience will be teaching in the toughest schools.

It should be mandatory that all teachers work in remote regions for a few years. In return they get a tax payer funded job for life.

We need more teachers to teach special needs students.