



This week's stories from the media

- SA government funding to address period poverty in school
- SAASSO Survey
- Students with same-sex parents outperform peers on tests
- Kids have ethics like their great-grandparents
- Girls' school principal remorseful over skimpy outfits comments
- More than 17,000 traffic fines issued around SA schools
- COVID making students anxious, depressed, with suicide fears

SAASSO Survey

SAASSO has been invited by the Australian Senate to offer feedback on Senator Pauline Hanson's proposal to amend the Australian Education Act (2013).

The proposal is referred to as the Prohibiting the Indoctrination of Children bill.

Senator Hanson states that the purpose of the bill is to give parents the legal right to protect their children from indoctrination at school, on topics such as 'gender fluidity theory and man-made global warming'.

SAASSO is asking parents and school staff if they believe we need such a law.

[Complete Survey](#)



SA Government Funding To Address Period Poverty In Schools

Free pads and tampons will be available to students in every public school in a bid to improve attendance and address "period poverty".

The State Government will spend \$450,000 over the next three years to provide sanitary products to schools based on the number of girls enrolled in Year 5 and older.

It follows a successful trial in 15 schools last year. Products could be provided in vending machines, baskets or boxes in bathrooms or handed out in discreet bags.

A survey of 2500 students by South Australia's Children's Commissioner found 70% had to resort to using toilet paper or other alternatives because they did not have access to sanitary products at home or school.

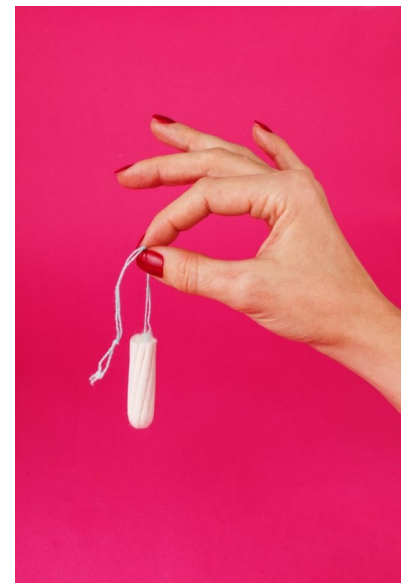
Education Minister John Gardner said the new funding would remove a barrier to school attendance.

"Meeting the needs of students for sanitary products, whether they have limited access at home or get caught out, gives students less to worry about and allows them to focus on their learning," he said.

Last year the Victorian Government became the first in the nation to provide free pads and tampons in public schools.

A [SAASSO Survey](#), conducted in November 2019, found 93% of 1,362 respondents believed the SA government should provide free sanitary products in our public schools.

[More](#)



“....being raised by same-sex parents bears no independent detrimental effect on children’s outcomes....”

Students With Same Sex Parents Outperform Peers

Children with same-sex parents outperform their peers on national standardised tests, a new study has shown.

Researchers from the Universities of Melbourne and Queensland found that the advantage amounted to 13% of a standard deviation, which is comparable to the advantage associated with both parents being employed as opposed to being out of work.

Children with same-sex parents were also slightly more likely (1.5%) to graduate from high school and much more likely (11.2%) to enrol in university than students from different-sex parented families.

“Altogether, the message stemming from our findings is clear: being raised by same-sex parents bears no independent detrimental effect on children’s outcomes.”

“In socio-political environments characterised by high levels of legislative and public support, children in same-sex-parented families thrive.”

[More](#)

Kids Have Ethics More Like Their Great-Grandparents

Today’s young people will share more values with their great-grandparents’ generation than any in between, a national research firm says.

Research principal Mark McCrindle said for young people the global pandemic had changed how many viewed life after school.

“We will end up with a more practically-minded generation who will be thinking about the employability of their education pathways ... who value savings and job security,” he said.

“It is probably going to create in this generation the fortitude, resilience and character strength we saw in the generations that lived through the Great Depression and world wars ... this attitude of delayed gratitude, financial conservatism and valuing a secure pathway.”

Mr McCrindle said parents, too, had changed their priorities around school life for their kids.

A move away from standardised testing is tipped.

[More](#)

Girls’ School Principal Remorseful

Girls’ school principal remorseful after telling students ‘skimpy’ outfits could compromise male teachers’ employment.

“Please remember, girls, there are men teachers in this school and they don’t want to be looking at that either,” the principal added.

“Don’t compromise their employment because you can’t do the right thing.”

In a video of the address, students can be heard reacting in disbelief to the comment.

The NSW education department said it does not support the principal’s comments and called them “inappropriate and regrettable”.

[Full Story](#)

More Than 17,000 Traffic Fines

More than 17,000 drivers were caught breaking road rules around schools last year, figures obtained by RAA reveal.

These 17,467 offences cost drivers more than \$6.5m in total fines in 2020, and have prompted a warning for motorists and parents to beware of the hazards around schools.

The majority of fines were for motorists caught on fixed cameras speeding (15,089) and running red lights (2061) at school pedestrian crossings.

RAA senior manager of safety and infrastructure Charles Mountain said the figures were “alarming”.

[More](#)

COVID Making Students Anxious

Stressed students are self-harming, as burnt-out teachers demand more counsellors and psychiatrists to help traumatised teenagers.

Commission data reveals that Lifeline, Kids Helpline and Beyond Blue fielded a record 112,000 calls for help last month – 23% more than in January 2020, before the start of the pandemic, and 38% more than in January 2019.

Ms Morgan said high school principals had raised concerns about the “increasing number of young people at risk”.

[Read more](#)