



This week's stories from the media

- Vic chief fills top early childhood job
- SA educators suspended on pay for up to 3 years
- Early childhood changes from October 1
- More fee free TAFE from 2024
- Parents don't believe children must be in school every day
- Tutors

SA Educators Suspended On Pay

SA teachers are being suspended for up to three years, mostly on pay, amid claims of misconduct or crimes of violence, illegal sex, domestic abuse, guns and drugs.

FOI documents, shows 32 school educators are currently suspended.

The official data revealed more than half of suspended staff were teachers and almost a fifth classed as principals or "leaders".

Others included two Adelaide Aboriginal education workers, an early childhood educator at an Adelaide preschool, a children's centre bus driver, a grounds-person along with a "government service employees" in facilities or in maintenance.

The group included a teacher suspended for more than three years and eight educators for at least 12 months.

The vast majority were paid but five had their salary docked. Almost a third were regional.

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VIC Chief Lured To Fill Top Job In SA's Early Childhood Office

Victoria's deputy secretary for Early Childhood Education Kim Little will take on the top job in January next year after leading that state's rollout of universal three-year-old kindergarten.

Blair Boyer, who jets off to Sydney tomorrow for talks with federal Education Minister Jason Clare about securing more funds to provide 15 hours a week of three-year-old preschool for all SA children, said Little will oversee starting a similar program in SA.

Her first task will be mapping where there is most need to provide up to 30 hours a week of preschool for 1000 of the state's most vulnerable three and four-year-old children.

This is a key recommendation adopted by the State Government from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care report.

Boyer flagged the task is likely to see the State Government build or re-purpose some of its own centres in areas without adequate childcare or kindergartens already operating to manage adding three-year-old children to the mix.

"The State Government will have to build centres in those areas to provide that or upgrade existing centres or both."

Little has been appointed for a five-year term and held senior roles in higher education plus skills policy and education strategy before being appointed Victoria's deputy secretary for its early childhood department.

The State Government accepted 13 of the 43 recommendations handed down by Gillard following the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care.

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Early Childhood Changes From October 1

ACECQA advises that from 1 October the third round of changes will commence, including:

- Enhancing sleep and rest policies and procedures requirements, including the content of risk assessments.
- Enhancing policies, procedures and risk assessments required for the safe arrival of children.
- Prescribing currency periods for first aid qualifications.
- Requiring providers of centre-based services to notify the regulatory authority of any changes to the ages of children or the nature of care offered at the service.
- Strengthening regulatory authority oversight and improved information sharing of service transfers between providers, regulators and families.

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More Fee Free TAFE from 2024

The Albanese and Malinauskas Governments will deliver thousands of additional Fee-Free TAFE and VET places for South Australians from January next year.

This will target areas of skills shortage such as early childhood education and care, health care, aged and disability care, technology and digital skills, hospitality and tourism, construction, agriculture, VET and the defence industry.

In 2023, Fee-Free training has been available in over 100 courses including a range of qualifications and skill sets with all South Australians eligible.

Over the next five years, it is predicted that nine out of ten jobs will require post-secondary education with half of those jobs requiring vocational training.

In SA, a student studying a Diploma of Nursing could save almost \$15,500 over the life of their course while someone studying a Diploma of Community Services could save almost \$8,000 (\$7,700).

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No Need For School Every Day

A British study has found that since Covid, there has been a seismic shift in attitudes toward full-time school attendance.

Parents don't believe their children must go to school every day anymore and it would take a "monumental" effort to change their minds.

The Public First report said daily attendance at school was viewed as "a fundamental element of good parenting" before COVID.

"Post-COVID, parents no longer felt that to be the case, and instead view attending school as one of several options, against a backdrop of a more holistic approach to daily life".

[Full Story](#)

School Holidays!

Term 3 ends today, with Term 4 starting on October 16.



Tutors

Experts are calling for the overhaul of the \$1 billion industry, where some tutors are charging unsuspecting parents up to \$200 an hour.

Some tutors have no relevant qualifications.

Australian Tutoring Association CEO Mohan Dhall said there are an estimated 80,000 tutors in Australia, but only around 470 are registered with the ATA.

The Centre for Independent Studies research fellow Glenn Fahey said an "Uber-style" rating system should be set up by the industry to help parents choose a suitable tutor.

It comes as an Australian study found coaching does not help students become "more academically capable".

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