



This week's stories from the media

- Australian education union campaigns for school funding
- Students to study policing at high school
- Crackdown on caffeine energy drinks ahead of school exams
- Free food waste program for Aussie students
- Kids wearing nicotine patches to Year 12 exams
- Worrying trend in young people's mental health

Students To Study Policing In School

In an Australian-first, students can start their studies towards becoming a police officer in high school next year.

Through the new Pathways to Policing Program, year 12 students will undertake specific courses designed to prepare them for a career with SAPOL.

The program provides a faster, easier route into policing, and in the longer term SAPOL plans to make it available at more SA schools.

Police will be involved in the school program to provide guest speakers, visits to the Police Academy and police stations, plus work experience.

Coursework will be five SACE Stage 2 subjects, including a research project, information processing and publishing, essential English, workplace practices, and fitness and wellbeing.

The program is currently taking applications and will start in 2024.

[Read Story](#)

Australian Education Union Campaigns For School Funding

On World Teacher's Day a new report paints a worrying picture of the workforce we rely on to educate our kids.

The national teachers union commissioned the research to bolster its campaign for more funding for public schools and address a worsening teacher shortage.

The Australian School Teaching Workforce report found almost half of full-time educators work 45 hours or more each week, compared to less than a third of other professionals with a bachelor degree.

Worryingly the report also found the proportion of teachers aged in their 60s – and so close to retirement – was the highest ever in 2021 (the most recent figures available).

Younger, less experienced teachers were more likely to be working in public schools.

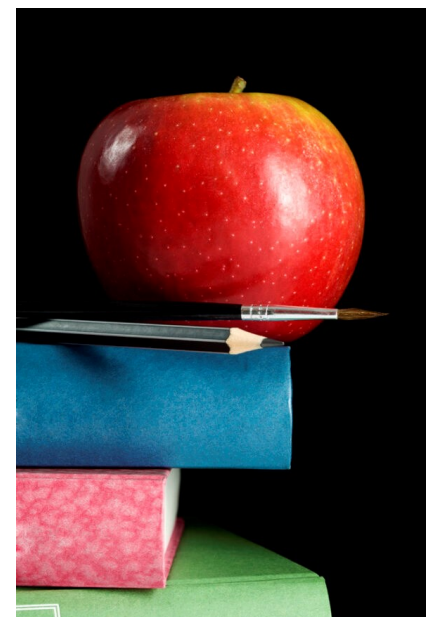
New graduate numbers were also falling.

Between 2011 and 2020 the number of people completing initial teacher education training dropped by 15%.

In contrast, the number completing preregistration nurse and midwifery training soared by 75% over the same period.

The analysis, by Barbara Preston Research, is based on data collected from 380,000 public and private school teachers as part of the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census.

[More](#)



“...Younger, less experienced teachers were more likely to be working in public schools....”

Crackdown On Caffeine Energy Drinks Ahead Of Exams

Students preparing for exams are being advised to carefully manage their caffeine intake, after an energy drink crackdown in one state uncovered products significantly in breach of national food standards.

A pre-exam crackdown by SA health authorities found energy drinks with almost twice the permissible amount of caffeine on sale in Adelaide.

Health authorities inspected local shops and, in the biggest breach, found 473-millilitre cans containing 300 milligrams of caffeine — an amount the SA government described as the "equivalent of nine cans of Coca-Cola".

Students have been advised to consider more healthy approaches to swotting up.

"It is an incredibly stressful time for the family unit, when the children are undergoing exams at this intense period of study," UniSA dietitian Evangeline Mantzioris said.

"Even coffee and tea are going to be more suitable than energy drinks."

[More](#)

Free Food Waste Program For Aussie Students

An anti-food waste initiative is providing free, curriculum-centred lesson plans, teacher training and classroom resources to schools willing to teach their students about sustainable food practices.

FEAST, a 10-week program by food rescue organisation OzHarvest, aligns to the years 5 and 6 STEM, English and health and PE learning areas, and years 7 and 8 food technology curriculum.

Schools can apply to access lesson plans and other resources that teach students how to cook healthy recipes that leave little to no food waste and curb environmental damage.

FEAST helps connect the dots between food waste and climate change and shows students what they can do to make a difference, at home and at school."

[More](#)



Kids Wearing Patches To Exams

Students are wearing nicotine patches during Year 12 exams because they are hooked on vapes, while alarming new research found nine in 10 teens say buying illegal e-cigarettes is easy.

"They're actually needing to wear nicotine patches to get through an exam of three hours, which is just kind of mind-blowing, isn't it?" Prof Wakefield, who works for the Minderoo Foundation, said.

"And similarly, in the younger years, we're hearing about teenagers who are taking nicotine patches to school camp.

It comes as principals admitted the vaping crisis in schools was becoming increasingly difficult to manage.

[Full Story](#)

October 27 - World Teacher's Day

Friday October 27 is Teacher's Day in Australia!



Worrying Trend In Mental Health

A study of more than 56,000 SA children has found that wellbeing has been declining over the past six years.

This worsening has been across all the aspects of wellbeing – life satisfaction, optimism, happiness, cognitive engagement, emotional regulation, perseverance, worry, and sadness.

It's a concerning finding, given that poor wellbeing in childhood often translates into poor wellbeing in adulthood.

As mental health is at the heart of wellbeing in individuals, families, and communities, any downward trend in childhood could have devastating outcomes for the child themselves, and also society at large.

[Read](#)