



This week's stories from the media

- Government helps students and teachers into STEM
- Swimming ban overturned
- PANDA hotline surge in calls from parents
- Create4Adelaide artwork made by kids to inspire change
- 70 years of screen research
- Special education teachers and digital tech

Swimming Ban Overturned

School swimming lessons in the sea are back on after the Department reversed a snap ban prompted by a spate of shark attacks.

All public school ocean-based aquatic programs will resume from Monday, but organisers will be required to do a new risk assessment and consider increasing supervision.

The decision to ban ocean-based activities for public school students, including swimming, snorkelling and surfing, came days after 32-year-old Bridgette O'Shannessy was bitten on her face by a shark at Port Noarlunga.

However, Education Minister Blair Boyer called for a review of the decision and Professor Westwell announced that it would be overturned.

The state government has pledged to bring forward aeroplane patrols of popular beaches by two weeks – to begin on Saturday – which Professor Westwell said affected his decision.

[Read Story](#)

Government To Help Students & Teachers Enter STEM Pathways

The state government has unveiled new plans to recruit tens of thousands of students and educators into STEM pathways, aiming to expand the defence industry workforce.

The aim is to grow the SA defence industry workforce from 3,500 to more than 8,500 by the 2040s – with a broad suite of measures to attract people into the sector, from primary and high school through to vocational training, university and mid-career transition programs.

The plan includes engaging about 27,000 students and 1500 teachers in at least 180 SA schools to support STEM education pathways, as well as developing a pipeline of about 2600 additional VET and university students through new flexible training programs.

“To succeed in delivering SSN-AUKUS, continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment, and our other defence projects, South Australia will need to grow the capacity and capability of the industrial base.”

From this year more than 70 young Australians will join an Early Careers Program in an effort to steer people into the sector, with other opportunities to be promoted widely to attract the best candidates for jobs.

The government has committed to build the new SSN-AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine fleet in SA, with the first vessel to enter service around 2040.

[More](#)



“...The plan includes engaging about 27,000 students and 1500 teachers in at least 180 SA schools to support STEM education....”

PANDA Helpline Surge In Calls From Parents

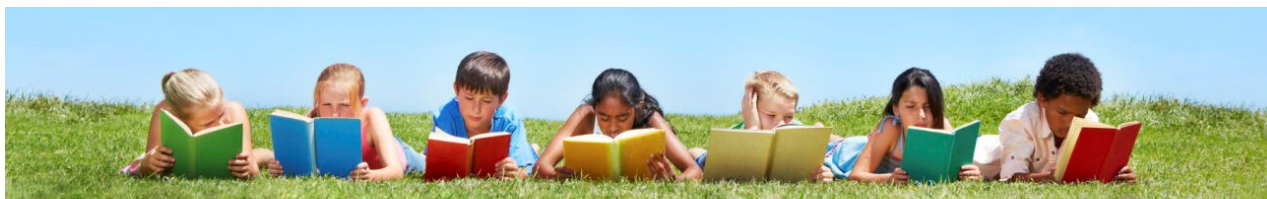
Anxious Aussie parents struggling to deal with financial pressures and feelings of isolation are flocking to a national support helpline, with more than 150 calls logged per day and a sharp rise in the length of conversations.

Shock new data from Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia [PANDA] has revealed that of the 55,236 calls made to the organisation’s national helpline in the twelve months to June 2023.

PANDA CEO Julie Borninkhof said staff were spending more time providing counselling support as well as extra follow up calls to parents who were suffering greater levels of distress due to issues such as mortgage pressures and the rising cost of living.

“We are also hearing more from parents, especially mums, who are having to return back to work earlier than they had expected,” Ms Borninkhof said.

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Create4Adelaide Artwork Made By Kids

A creative Adelaide project is offering a unique insight in Adelaide students’ fears for the future – and what changes they want to see.

“From beginning to end, young people have been the curators of Create4Adelaide. They were the ones who selected the three key priorities, they are the artists behind the meaningful artworks.”

Adelaide Festival’s inaugural Create4Adelaide exhibition empowers thousands of young people to engage as climate activists and amplify their voices in the fight against climate change.

The public are invited to digitally vote at create4adelaide.au to select the artwork for display from 29 February to 17 March 2024 at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens’ Bicentennial Conservatory.

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70 Years Of Screen Research

A 2021 poll found it was parents’ number one health concern for their kids – ahead of cyberbullying and unhealthy diets. But how worried should parents be?

The overall size of the influence of screens across the outcomes - example, depression, body weight, literacy and sleep - in children were small.

We did find general TV viewing was associated with poorer academic performance & literacy skills.

The more TV a child watched, the poorer their literacy skills were.

But if the program was educational or if the child was watching with a parent, we found there was a benefit to their literacy.

[Full Story](#)

Schoolies 2023

The annual Schoolies Festival will be held at Victor Harbour from 17-19 November.



Special Needs & Digital Tech

A University of Technology Sydney survey has examined how teaching is 'keeping up' with shifts in technology in education.

The survey showed 25% of teachers in specialist units teach with digital tasks that can be pursued at home and in class.

Another 22% created digital tasks that involved a range of locations.

When asked to rank approaches to mobile learning, participants rated 'personalisation' and 'authenticity' high, while 'agency', was also considered important.

Although phone bans in schools are increasing across the country, many mobile and digital learning apps can be used on other digital devices such as iPads & tablets.

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