



This week's stories from the media

- Power to principals as union gives up key right
- Children take sick day to attend climate protests
- Homeschooling numbers keep rising
- Unis caned over woke degrees for trainee teachers
- SA clubs get millions in footy funding for girls
- School refusal

School Climate Sick Days

Students across the country walked out of classrooms on Friday to join a strike to protest in favour of action on climate change.

Organisers School Strike 4 Climate called the strike to demand the government shift focus away from dependence on fossil fuels in energy generation.

School Strike 4 Climate had “sick notes” available to download on their website, allowing kids to leave school for the purpose of attending a climate rally.

The letters claim the student is “unfit due to a major climate health concern,” and are experiencing “increased anxiety, elevated stress ... and feelings of despair,” over the global climate emergency.

The Adelaide event started at 9am with a “study-in,” a play on a traditional sit-in demonstration, and includes a “duty of care submission workshop,” “social lunchtime” and “youth alliance strategy charts,” finishing up with some drumming and dancing at 3pm.

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Power To Principals As Union Gives Up Key Right

Principals will have more power to hire and fire staff after the teacher's union agreed to release its veto powers that determines where teachers are placed in public schools.

Currently the state government must secure approval from the teacher union's SA branch before it can make any changes to its teacher recruitment & placement policy.

Now, as part of enterprise bargaining negotiations, the union has agreed to give up that right.

This means principals will have more power in future over where certain teachers end up, how roles are advertised and when recruitment of staff for the coming year can begin.

In particular, leaders of metro schools will have more say in where teachers returning to the city from country schools are placed.

Changes promised by the government ahead of the 2022 state election have also made it easier for principals to move on underperforming staff more quickly.

This year 50 Department staff exercised their right to return from country schools and will take up roles at metropolitan campuses next year.

Education Minister Blair Boyer said the changes “will give us the flexibility to change the recruitment and selection process more easily, making sure we are able to recruit the best teachers that are the best fit for their school”.

[More](#)



“...principals will have more power in future over where certain teachers end up....”

Homeschooling Numbers Keep Rising

The number of families choosing to homeschool in Australia keeps growing.

In NSW 12,359 students registered for homeschooling in January 2023, a 37% jump on the 2022 figures.

Across the country it's estimated there are more than 43,000 registered homeschooled students.

A 2023 Queensland report surveyed more 500 parents in the state who homeschooled their children.

It found 45% of families surveyed never intended to homeschool. It also found 61% had a child with a disability or health issue, including ADHD, autism, behavioural issues and mental ill health.

Many also had concerns about bullying.

Families also reported their child was not learning at school, and not wanting to go, so homeschooling became the only choice available.

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Universities Caned Over Woke Degrees For Teachers

Universities are indoctrinating trainee teachers in 'wokeness and political activism', with only 10 weeks of a four-year degree dedicated to teaching children literacy and numeracy - the first national audit of education degrees reveals.

The Institute of Public Affairs analysed 3713 teaching subjects in education degrees offered by 37 Australian universities.

One third of subjects relate to theories of identity politics, decolonisation and social justice.

Just one in 10 subjects relate to teaching children how to read, write and learn mathematics.

Federal, state and territory education ministers have ordered universities to change their education degrees by mandating that new teachers are trained to teach English and Mathematic, and manage classroom behaviour.

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Footy Funding For Girls

Millions of dollars in new grant funding will be opened up to expand grassroots footy in South Australia, with enabling female participation a priority.

Since 2016, the number of girls playing Auskick doubled but 60% of SA clubs did not have sufficient changeroom space to keep up with that growth.

It comes after the government announced an \$18 million grant program to improve female access to league soccer.

“We know that in the next eight to 10 years, studies have shown we're going to need up to 20 more ovals in this state, and we need to make sure we can cater for those females who are coming into our clubs.”

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The Term 4 edition of School Post is out next week!



School Refusal

Education ministers will meet in December to discuss a raft of potential school reforms, including plans to boost school engagement.

The federal government is expected to respond to the Senate inquiry by the end of the year.

Research has found a school's response to a student who has stopped wanting to come to school for whatever reason can make the difference between student re-engaging or walking away altogether.

But research has told us that schools are often not empowered by education authorities to respond in their own ways.

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