



This week's stories from the media

- Federal union calls for fully funded public schools
- Epilepsy training in schools transforms lives
- Students march for Palestine
- School libraries are vital - can they be saved
- Better English on the agenda
- Teachers no option but to make lessons up

Epilepsy Training In Schools

Epilepsy Smart Schools is calling for mandatory epilepsy training for teachers and schools.

Schools are required to make adjustments for students with disabilities under the Disability Standards for Education legislation, although each state has different requirements for training.

A 2020 review of the Standards revealed many educators are unaware of their responsibilities, which had led to students having to research and explain them to their teachers so that they receive the adjustments they are entitled to.

The Review also said that education providers should be held to a higher degree of accountability for failing to meet the standards.

It also described a power imbalance that was created between teachers and students with disabilities and their parents or carers, ultimately distracting those students from progressing with their learning.

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Federal Union Calls For Government To Fully Fund Public Schools

The AEU met with Minister for Education Jason Clare earlier this month to remind the government of their election promise to fully fund all public schools by 2028.

The AEU said the federal government should negotiate new school funding agreements with each state and territory in the next year to allow every school student to reach their full potential by closing the resources gap.

AEU federal president Correna Haythorpe said increased funding will better support students and attract teachers at a time of critical shortage.

The meeting follows the AEU's For Every Child campaign, which says every public school should be funded to 100% of its school resource standard, a fiscal estimate of the resources required to meet student educational needs, by 2028.

This is a considerable jump from the current 1.3% of schools that the AEU says are government funded to their respective SRS.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the Labor party remained committed to meeting 100% of every public school's "fair funding level" through state and territory government agreements in his pre-election National Press Club address in early 2022.

All public schools in the ACT are fully government funded, and NSW has pledged to fund their government schools to 100% of their SRS during the next five-year agreement with the Albanese government.

[More](#)



“...current 1.3% of schools that the AEU says are government funded to their respective SRS....”

Students Take School Off To March For Palestine

SA students defied the government’s call to stay in school, appearing in droves at parliament and unexpectedly marching through Adelaide’s CBD.

Primary and high school students gathered on North Terrace calling for a “permanent ceasefire” in Gaza, some accompanied by parents and guardians.

They joined hundreds of their peers in Melbourne, Sydney and Wollongong who also skipped class for national protests.

Adelaide Botanic High student Josie Ats, 16, said her parents gave her permission to attend as a speaker.

“I would love to be in school right now, but this more important at this moment,” Ms Ats said.

She said the government “should be encouraging young people who are political and standing up for what’s right”.

“It’s hard not to be passionate about this when you’re seeing kids being slaughtered in Gaza,” Ms Ats said.

[More](#)

School Libraries Are Vital

The school library is endangered, right across the nation, and just as literacy levels are falling.

Across Australia these spaces are being colonised for new classrooms, budgets are being slashed and the librarian’s unique role is being downgraded.

It’s a tragedy for all our children, especially in the lower socio-economic areas.

During Covid, more than a quarter of libraries had their staff and budgets cut.

“We have fewer trained people, we have fewer libraries with high quality staff.”

Experts consider these highly trained educators as vital to school literacy outcomes....

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Better English On The Agenda

Lifting the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score for student visas from 5.5 to 6 is being considered.

An increase to IELTS and similar tests could be presented as a crackdown on arrivals who use student visas as a cover for working.

Such a move might also help safeguard educational quality.

A IELTS score of 5 has partial command of the language and can cope with overall meaning in most situations, though you are likely to make many mistakes.

A score of 6 demonstrates effective command of the language ... you can use and understand fairly complex language.

[Full Story](#)

2 Weeks To Go

There’s just 2 weeks to go until the end of the school year!



No Option But To Make Up Lessons

Australia’s curriculum is too vague and confusing for teachers who have to invent their own lessons.

Flaws have been identified in the new curriculum, which is still being rolled out to schools after a review last year.

AERO, which reports to the nation’s education ministers, warns the new curriculum does not provide sufficient guidance to teachers.

“It could contain more specific detail about the knowledge students are expected to attain, and the means by which this learning should be demonstrated.”

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