



This week's stories from the media

- Tech college students guaranteed jobs
- Teachers warn parents to ditch some lunchbox staples
- The importance of play
- Where are all the male teachers
- Online ed grows as remote students remain behind in STEM
- Free tech experience for all students

Parents Told To Ditch Some Staples

Teachers are sending letters home with students asking parents to keep snacks like biscuits out of lunchboxes.

The foods include biscuits, cheese, chips and cold meats with parents instead asked to pack fruit – with an ice pack – to keep the healthy snacks cool.

Teachers also recommending parents pack two separate lunch boxes to keep the fruits separate from the lunch food.

Cakes, slices and muffins and drinks like kombucha have also been frowned upon under the department's Right Bite healthy food and drink guidelines.

However, the government insisted they are guidelines only – not a ban – and would not apply to what parents decide to pack in children's lunch boxes.

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Tech College Students Guaranteed Jobs After Finishing High School

Tech students guaranteed jobs after finishing high school, says premier.

The Premier made a vow to high school students about a guaranteed job that “sets them up for life” while on a tour of an Adelaide technical college.

High school students have the opportunity to enrol in an advanced manufacturing program and leave with their high school certificate, credentials and a guaranteed job at BAE Systems.

“They can come to a technical college like this, knowing they are going to acquire their high school certificate and earn a credential that guarantees them a job – a well-paid job, a secure job, but most importantly a purposeful job,” he said.

“I mean, that is the trifecta. I can't think of a better opportunity for parents across the state; they can now provide their young people an opportunity to finish school and walk into a guaranteed job that sets them up for life.”

It comes after the defence minister confirmed plans to build Hunter class frigates in Adelaide would be cut back, replaced with a next-generation air warfare destroyer project.

Of the \$54b that will be spent over the course of the next decade, almost \$30b of that will be spent in South Australia – an increase of \$3b from what had previously been planned.

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The Importance Of Play

Social and emotional development are known benefits of playgrounds, where children can learn to talk to and negotiate with other children whilst being creative and using their imagination.

This happens when children are having fun and completing their daily physical activity needs, which is why playgrounds are highly regarded as positive, wellbeing-focused spaces.

Third spaces are places individuals and groups can gather that isn't their home (the first space) or work, or in this case, school (the second space), and allow for organic socialisation and interaction with others.

A shift towards technology as entertainment and lasting Covid lockdown effects are causing more and more third spaces to close.

"In the local park, in the destination playground or in the school playground, children can experience that 'we-feeling', the feeling of a child community."

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Where Are All The Male Teachers

Only 3% of the early childhood education and care (ECEC) workforce is made up of men despite research showing male presence in teaching and caring is vital to breaking down gender stereotypes in children.

Research shows there are benefits to having men in early childhood teaching and caring roles, and "that direct engagement with male educators by centre colleagues and parents aligns with positive opinions about males' contributions to children, parents, and the ECEC environment" although the male carers may have to accept a feeling of 'otherness'.

"'You can't be what you can't see', and until we have a larger number of male early childhood educators in our centres and schools, young boys won't have those examples of men working in the early years to aspire to."

Men make up about 25% of primary teachers and 40% of teachers in secondary schools.

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Online Ed Grows

A 15-year-old living in remote Australia is an average 1.5 years behind their metropolitan peers in science, and significantly below the international average in maths.

A lack of access and resources has caused this STEM gap, which is compounded by a limited diversity of career options and growth opportunities in rural and remote areas.

As a result, online education services are expanding, and are expected to continue to grow by 9% each year from 2024 to 2028.

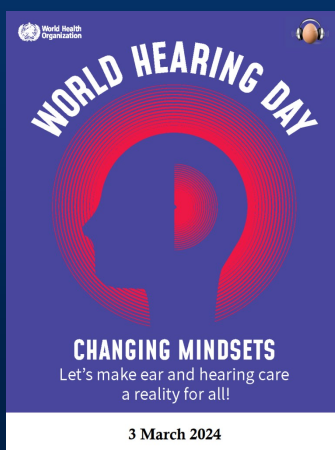
At this rate of growth, by the end of the decade the industry will be worth around \$95 billion.

[Full Story](#)

World Hearing Day March 3

There are 4 million Australians living with hearing loss?

This figure is predicted to increase to almost 9 million by 2050 as the population ages.



Free Tech Experience For All Students

The Tech Council of Australia (TCA) and the federal government announced a virtual work experience program that will allow young people to explore a career in tech.

High school students and post-school leavers, or 14-25 year olds, can access the work experience programs online.

The TCA and government share a goal to have 1.2m people in technology jobs by 2030.

One of the aims of the virtual work experience program is to connect disadvantaged and disabled young adults (who face greater barriers to employment) to tech partners so they can begin networking and building a career.

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