



#### This week's stories from the media

- Ministers put principals on alert over vaping
- \$30 billion school infrastructure divide
- New Covid surge hits SA classrooms
- NSW teachers leave profession after 11 years
- Top end schools install vape sensors
- Right to disconnect

#### \$30b Infrastructure Divide

A scathing report by the Australian Teacher's union found five top private schools spent more money on capital works than governments did for 3,372 public schools.

It also found private schools spent more on new buildings and infrastructure upgrades than entire public school systems did from 2012-2021.

Overall, the private education sector spent \$31.8bn on capital works from 2012 to 2021.

A two-year federal government scheme, where public schools could apply for funding to build structures that cost over \$250k, and a one-off \$215m public school upgrade program, will both end this year.

Private schools are set to receive \$1bn in building funds from the federal government over the next four years.

Public schools are not allowed to spend their state or territory government funding on infrastructure.

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#### Ministers Put Principals On Alert Over Vaping

**South Australian principals have been warned of the extreme fallout of a vaping craze sweeping schools as 'Big Tobacco' targets students.**

Vaping is now the "number one behavioural issue in schools," federal and state ministers warn in a sombre letter sent to all SA public school principals sounding the alarm on the addictive practice.

Students skipping classes to vape in toilets, becoming withdrawn or disruptive due to nicotine addiction, hiding vapes in pencil cases and more is adding new challenges to classrooms.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, federal Education Minister Jason Clare, and their respective state colleagues Chris Picton and Blair Boyer have signed the letter outlining the extent of the problem, action by federal and state governments to tackle it and urging principals to be vigilant in the fight.

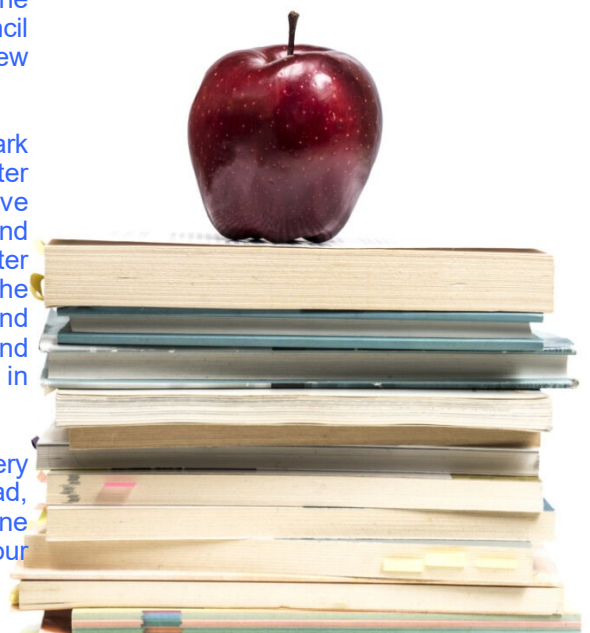
"Vapes have morphed very quickly to become a widespread, highly addictive product, and one being deliberately marketed at our kids," he said.

In the united stand, Minister Clare added: "Vaping companies are targeting our children".

"Principals will tell you that vaping is causing significant behavioural issues, with kids withdrawing from vapes, skipping class to vape and are disruptive in class."

"Parents are worried and teachers are being turned into de facto police to find vapes in school bags and pencil cases."

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## ***“...Vaping is now the “number one behavioural issue in schools....”***

### **New Covid Surge Hits SA Classrooms**

**Teachers are dropping like flies as Covid surges back into SA's schools as new figures also reveal how many vaccine-refusers have been sent to the job queue.**

Almost 200 Education Department staff including teachers called in sick with Covid last week, and 168 reported testing positive over the past seven days as the virus continues to take a toll on the workforce.

While social distancing is now a thing of the past, the virus remains a health threat.

“Our Covid policy has shown to be successful in helping minimise risk and supports the community during spikes in case numbers by reducing transmission,” the spokesman said.

“If a child or a staff member tests positive for Covid-19, they must notify the preschool or school site. They are asked not to attend for five days when positive, or while symptomatic.”

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### **NSW Teachers Leave Profession After 11 Years**

**Most teachers are spending little more than a decade in the profession before leaving, the 2023 Workforce Profile Report has revealed.**

Once regarded as a “job for life”, teachers are now outranked by police in terms of longevity - with the average cop in NSW staying more than 12 years in the job.

However, the length of time teachers stayed in the job has declined, dropping 2.5 years from 2014.

“Teachers were also no longer as trusted and respected as they once were, facing more questions from the media, politicians and parents”, says NSW Principal Council President, Craig Petersen.

“Workload is a part of it, but it is also the status of the profession.”

“We’ve gone from being a profession that was trusted and respected to not so much any more.”

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### **Top End Schools Install Vape Sensors**

**Five Top End schools have installed vaping sensors in student bathrooms in an effort to stamp out the unhealthy trend.**

More than 30 sensors targeting vaping have been installed across five NT schools’ bathrooms, with several more scheduled for operation in the new school year.

It comes after the Alcohol and Drug Foundation found 14% of Australian kids aged 12–17 had tried e-cigarettes – 32% of whom had used them in the past month.

Printed and digital campaign materials reveal how chemicals including acetone, weed killer, bug spray and nicotine are contained within everyday e-cigarettes.

[Full Story](#)

### **School Post - Term 1**

**The Term 1 Edition Of School Post is out soon!**



### **Right To Disconnect**

**Teachers will have the right to refuse to respond to emails or phone calls from colleagues, parents or students outside of school hours.**

Education bodies have welcomed the changes as the combination of an understaffed teacher workforce and increased technology use has made it harder to switch off.

“Employer requests, parental queries and student contact regularly encroach on the personal time of staff.”

“With the growth of mobile technology and assumed 24/7 connectivity, critical workload and work intensification issues have only been exacerbated.”

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