



This week's stories from the media

- \$2.47b International education boom in SA
- Road safety education revamp
- Why every school should have an OT
- Asbestos laying dormant in more than 500 SA public schools
- Teen parliament 2024
- Queensland students right to appeal suspensions

Road Safety Revamp

The education minister asked for a review of school safety programs following a number of high-profile road incidents involving young people.

Road safety education in SA public schools will be revamped to ensure students are provided with the right information to help them make safe decisions when on the road.

Two road safety programs have been expanded to ensure greater reach of road safety education.

The MFS's Road Awareness Program delivered by firefighters to young drivers, has received a boost to deliver presentations to more than 150 schools across metropolitan Adelaide and regional SA.

The Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth program has also been expanded to deliver sessions to schools in regional SA.

Both programs give secondary students a confronting insight into road crash trauma in a bid to change their behaviours on the road and their attitudes to road safety.

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\$2.47 Billion International Education Boom In SA Following Covid Restrictions

The SA international education sector has bounced back and even grown since Covid when border closures prevented students from coming to SA.

International education is the third largest export sector in the state, worth \$2.47bn annually to the economy, latest figures from StudyAdelaide have revealed.

There are more than 54,000 international student enrolments in SA, up about 9000 from figures prior to border closures arising from the pandemic.

Higher education accounts for 50% of the international student cohort, with 32% studying a VET course and English language instruction makes up 11%.

About 4% of international students are in South Australian high schools and 3% are in non-award pathways.

StudyAdelaide CE Jane Johnston said students have flocked to SA from abroad because of its "welcoming environment".

"International students often comment that that's something that they love about SA," Ms Johnston said.

About 63% of international students' family and friends have visited or intend to visit SA.

On each international flight arriving in Adelaide, about 13% of the passengers are students from abroad.

International students come to SA from more than 130 countries.

The top 10 countries of origin for students are India, China, Nepal, Vietnam, Colombia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil and Pakistan.

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“...On each international flight arriving in Adelaide, about 13% of the passengers are students from abroad....”

Why Every School Should Have An OT

For autistic children, returning to school can be synonymous with anxiety and fear.

Sensory issues, communication barriers, and changes to routine are just a few ways that autistic children can struggle in the school environment.

Without the right support, autistic students can struggle academically and experience social isolation and low self-esteem that can follow them into adulthood.

With autism affecting one in 100 Australians – the majority of whom are school children aged 5 to 14 – it's time that we introduce occupational therapists (OTs) into the school setting to help these students thrive.

Recent research by UniSA supports this, emphasising the importance of adopting a 'family-centred and individualised approach' to support autistic children.

OTs are trained for this purpose, having the knowledge and skills to identify barriers to education, understand the student's potential, and empower them with the tools they need to learn in a way that works for them.

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Asbestos Laying Dormant In 500 SA Public Schools

Asbestos is lying dormant in more than 500 public schools and preschools across SA, new data shows, as parliament considers a push to remove the deadly building material from classrooms within 10 years.

Figures released to SA-BEST MLC Connie Bonaros under Freedom of Information revealed the names of the school and preschool sites on the asbestos register.

Ms Bonaros on Wednesday introduced legislation that called on the state government to develop and execute a plan to eradicate asbestos from the land, buildings and facilities of the schools and preschools within the next 10 years.

Under her proposal, Education Minister Blair Boyer would be required to provide annual progress reports to parliament.

A similar scheme has already been developed and implemented in Queensland.

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Teen Parliament 2024

The 31 students who will represent SA's youth at Teen Parliament 2024 have been announced.

Teen leaders will pitch their ideas for a brighter future for SA at Parliament House on Friday with politicians and changemakers watching on.

The 30 Year 10 to 12 students who will represent the youth of the state at Teen Parliament 2024 have been chosen, representing a range of ideas from raising CBD building heights to AI medical services.

Aspiring surgeon Zainab Rehman wants to revolutionise the way we access medical care by using the power of AI to connect patients from across the state to health professionals in minutes.

[Full Story](#)

International Women's Day

March 8 #InspireInclusion



Right To Appeal Suspensions

Schools are breaching children's human rights when they suspend badly behaved students from school.

This is the finding of new government-funded research, as some Queensland families now have the right to appeal against suspensions.

Indigenous children and children with disabilities will be given extra support as an alternative to suspensions.

Parents and children will be granted the right to appeal against short-term suspension in public schools.

The new rules coincide with demands by UniSA professor Anna Sullivan for 'punitive free education'.

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