



This week's stories from the media

- Independent MP backs bill for \$10 a day cap on childcare
- Australia's best teachers campaign
- Does learning outdoors make a difference
- Governments fully fund NT schools with \$1b
- The problem of school bullying
- High school teachers cleared to teach TAFE

Australia's Best Teachers Campaign

The Australia's Best Teachers campaign is your chance to celebrate that special teacher that made the greatest impact on your life.

The Australia's Best Teachers advocacy series gained national attention last year when Education Minister Jason Clare announced a \$10m commitment to elevate the status of teachers.

Mr Clare was full of praise for the campaign after it launched in 2023.

"And if we're going to recruit more great teachers and retain more great teachers, then that starts with respect. And that's what this campaign at its core is all about."

This year's campaign will engage an even bigger national audience, with news website news.com.au backing the push for teacher recognition, as well as News Corp's metropolitan mastheads, Kids Spot, The Weekly Times and Kids News.

[Read Story](#)

Independent MP Backs Bill For \$10 A Day Cap On Childcare

Parents could pay as little as \$10 per day for childcare and receive up to 52 weeks of paid parental leave under a new draft law that will seek to make childcare free for low-income families.

Early childhood advocates will launch a bill for consultation into parliament on Wednesday alongside independent MP Zoe Daniel.

Under the proposal, three days per week of early learning would be guaranteed for all children aged five and under, capped at \$10 per day, and free for low-income families.

Ms Daniel said the new policy could be "transformative" to lift rates of women's workforce participation and reduce cost-of-living pressures facing Australian households.

According to recent data from the Productivity Commission, out-of-pocket child care costs have risen substantially for families living in every state and territory in Australia.

The government increased its childcare subsidy for families earning under \$530,000 last July.

However, according to a report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission last year, fees rose by nearly double the rate of wages and inflation between 2018 to 2022.

The policy is in line with recommendations from the Women Equality Taskforce, which called to immediately establish universal childcare and extend the paid parental leave scheme to 52 weeks to ensure women aren't burdened financially after having children.

[More](#)



“...the new policy could be “transformative” to lift rates of women’s workforce participation and reduce cost-of-living pressures....”

Does Learning Outdoors Make A Difference

Sydney schools are integrating nature and outdoors into their learning areas to reap the benefits of students connecting to the outdoors while they learn and play.

Off the back of studies that show people are in general happier when they've had outdoor time, school designers say even small things, like students being able to see greenery when sitting indoors, can improve student wellbeing and behaviour, and in turn, their learning outcomes.

New public school Midtown at Macquarie Park is one of many new schools being built with outdoor learning spaces as a priority.

It's designer, Architectus, has studied the effects of biophilic design: the concept of incorporating the natural environment into indoor spaces.

The school, located 15 km north-west of Sydney's CBD, has an innovative, 'vertical' design, to fit 750 students from kindergarten to year 6 in a city landscape.

[More](#)

Governments Fully Fund NT Schools With \$1b

Every Northern Territory public school will be fully resourced by 2029 after the federal and NT governments committed to a \$1bn funding injection.

Having signed a statement of intent on Wednesday, the federal government will invest at least \$737.7m from 2025-2029 into the Territory's public school system, increasing its funding share to 40%.

The NT government will boost its own funding share to 60% and deliver at least \$350m in the same period.

The federal government committed to increasing its share of public school funding from 20% to 22.5% in January - a \$3bn per year investment – but states also have to increase their funding to meet the federal government at 100% of the SRS.

The extra funding must be directed towards recommendations made by an expert panel at the end of last year, which includes improving the quality of teaching, reducing disruptive classroom behaviour, retaining teachers and increasing funding transparency.

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The Problem Of School Bullying

The AIHW 2022 report says 70% of children aged 12–13 experience bullying a year.

Almost half of those students go on to bully their peers.

It also found that one in five students in year 4, aged 9–10, experience bullying once a week.

The report says it is hard to paint a complete picture of bullying in schools because there is no overarching national data effort, even though bullying is regarded as one of the most pressing issues for Australian children.

It also says extreme cases of bullying can be considered assault.

[Full Story](#)

Earth Hour

Saturday March 23 @ 8:30pm

#switchoff



High Schools Teachers To Teach TAFE

High school teachers and teachers-in-training can now use their qualifications at TAFE in a "commonsense" move to ease the shortage of VET educators.

Those with a secondary school teacher qualification will be excused from having to obtain a full Certificate IV in training and assessment.

People with specialised industry expertise will be able to assist VET teachers without having to get more training, and people working towards a Certificate IV or diploma in training and assessment will be able to deliver training and contribute to assessment under supervision.

All these changes are due to begin this month.

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