



This week's stories from the media

- SA to bring in preschool based OSHC to support parents
- SA unis offering new degrees to build education workforce
- Education isn't a one size fits all approach
- Call for Labor to scrap child care subsidy activity test
- Kids shouldn't have smartphones before age 14
- SA's top high school debaters

SA Unis Offer New Degrees

Two SA universities are set to launch new degrees to attract more students to study early childhood education.

UniSA's new three-year Early Childhood Education degree will focus on effective pedagogies for the developmental needs of birth-to-five-year-olds, encompassing diverse cultures & backgrounds.

The course will run concurrently with the four-year Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Honours), which focuses on the education of children from birth to eight years

Meanwhile, Flinders University's new suite of early childhood degrees and qualifications – set to launch in 2025 – will likewise set students on a course to make a difference in young lives.

"There's an incredible shortage of teachers in early childhood, and if we expand preschool to all three-year-olds, there's going to be an even greater need," Professor Morgan says.

[Read Story](#)

SA Government to Bring In Preschool Based OSHC To Support Working Parents

The SA Government will trial out of hours preschool care in 20 locations across the state in what is being termed "a major win for working parents."

Dubbed Kindy Care, the trial will start in July following a recommendation from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care.

Typically Government preschools are run on a sessional model which offers education and care from 9am-3pm.

In contrast, most non-government preschools offer long day care, from around 7am-6pm.

This makes decisions for working families more difficult due to accessibility.

Kindy Care will help support families who are increasingly needing care for their children outside regular preschool hours of 9am-3pm.

The program will allow children to maintain continuity, reduce transitions and engage in out of hours care appropriate to their developmental needs – and will provide valuable feedback to determine a broader rollout.

Fees for Kindy Care are expected to largely reflect the fees payable at OSHC services.

Parents may be eligible for financial assistance through the Child Care Subsidy, which can reduce out-of-pocket costs for some parents to as little as \$5 per session.

"I know first-hand that the current hours of preschool do not always meet the needs of working parents."

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“...There’s an incredible shortage of teachers in early childhood, and if we expand preschool to all three-year-olds, there’s going to be an even greater need...”

Education Isn’t A One Size Fits All Approach

Minister for Education Blair Boyer says he is keen to discuss the district’s public education system with Member of Mackillop Nick McBride.

In an interview with the Naracoorte Community News, Mr McBride questioned if the district’s public education system was meeting the needs of our children.

“Growing up in Portland and attending a regional school myself, I am very aware of some of the unique challenges that are faced in regional areas and have worked very hard since becoming Minister on ensuring regional students have the same opportunities as their city counterparts,” the minister said.

“Education isn’t a one-size-fits-all approach, with different options available for families in the area to suit their individual needs.”

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Call For Labor To Scrap Child Care Subsidy Activity Test

The Albanese government has been called to scrap a test that experts say is unfairly punishing low income families and keeping women out of work.

Crossbench MPs and Greens senators detailed their plans to ramp up calls to dump means testing and occupational requirements for childcare subsidies by May 9.

The test requires parents to be working or studying full-time to be eligible for government-funded childcare subsidies.

The Women’s Economic Equality Taskforce, which was set up by the government to find ways to improve women’s financial status, recommended that the test be immediately scrapped in a landmark report published last year.

CEO of The Parenthood Georgie Dent said about 160,000 children from low-income households are being locked out of early education because of the policy.

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Kids Shouldn’t Have Smartphones

Australian kids shouldn’t have smartphones before they are 14 years old due to the serious mental and physical health risks.

Former Meta manager, Frances Haugen, who will address the Australian Information Security Association CyberCon, said Australia was “a little bit behind” the US in combating harms like sleep deprivation, addiction, anxiety and poor mental health linked to social media use.

Psychologist and digital wellbeing expert Jocelyn Brewer said she would “love” the community to shift toward waiting until a child was in high school before they got a phone.

[Full Story](#)

Easter

SAASSO wishes you and your family a happy and safe Easter



SA’s Top High School Debaters

Here’s how SA’s debating students are making employment connections early.

Debating is giving students a career head start with the top argumentative talents walking into respected law firms.

In 2023, there were about 1500 students from 65 schools across all year levels, beginning in Year 5, involved in Debating SA competitions.

The debating season begins in Term 2 and the grand final is held at Parliament House in Term 3 with Governor Frances Adamson presenting awards.

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