

Education Update 467 | April 12 / 2024

This week's stories from the media

- Research shows Andrew Tate's effect on school boys
- SA leads nation in school-based autism assessments
- Menstrual education too late
- · Violent videos left online
- Give sex ed control back to parents
- NSW deputy principals to return to teaching

SA Leads In Autism Assessments

The SA Government has released a tender worth \$330,000 to initiate free autism assessments for up to 100 school students.

This innovative service aims to break down common obstacles such as cost, wait times and discomfort in unfamiliar clinical environments.

The assessments can be conducted on school grounds, providing a more comfortable environment for the students.

The service is geared towards students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds that are at risk of disengaging from education, and those currently awaiting assessment through the public system.

The program will run for at least 25 months and will start referring children and young people for assessment from June 2024.

It compliments the Autism Inclusion Teacher program, a \$28.8 million investment to provide access to an Autism Inclusion Teacher in every public primary school, from Reception to Year 12.

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New Research Shows Andrew Tate's Effect On School Boys

Content warning: This article refers to sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex trafficking and human trafficking.

New research has found Romanian-based self-proclaimed misogynist 'manfluencer' Andrew Tate promoted a culture of domination and violence among boys in Australian schools.

Monash University researchers interviewed 30 women teachers in both private and public primary and high schools, and found they experienced a significant increase in sexual harassment, sexism, and misogyny from boys, along with an "ominous presence" of Andrew Tate.

The study found Andrew Tate rose to popularity among school boys after Covid-19 lockdowns, raising concerns about the social and mental health effects of isolation on young people.

The interviewed teachers noticed at first, that Andrew Tate was brought up in their classrooms in a neutral, non-combative way, but his ideals were soon used as a catalyst to "challenge" the women.

Study participants said their boy students accused them of being sexist, and positioned women as oppressors in a "power structure" that has diminished the male standing.

"[Students] make joking references about Andrew Tate to try and get a reaction from the girls or some female staff," a teacher from NSW said.

"The study suggests that current school-level responses, often one -off sessions or punitive talks, may not be sufficient to address the distress experienced by teachers," said Professor Roberts.

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"...initiate free autism assessments for up to 100 school students...."

Menstrual Education Too Late, Experts Say

More than 12% of girls will get their menstrual period between ages 8-11, but the sex education curriculum does not discuss periods until students are aged 10, or sometimes 12.

The average age of first menstruation has been declining for decades in Western countries, and now sits at 12.5 years old, with 'early menarche' considered below 11.

Health psychologist researcher and associate professor at Flinders University Ivanka Prichard said slow curriculum change can have adverse social effects on menstruating students.

"We know that the school environment is central in a child's social and emotional development during puberty, and they need to be well-prepared ahead of starting their period to ensure it doesn't negatively impact their lives."

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Violent Videos Left Online

Violent videos of Australian children stealing cars, doing drugs and breaking into homes are not being removed from social media despite clearly breaching the platform's guidelines and amplifying the nation's youth crime epidemic.

The Daily Telegraph can reveal that content shared by child gangs on social media - depicting a range of crimes - have remained online for more than a year.

Police sources warned they have witnessed an escalation of children filming themselves entering homes to steal keys, often filming victims in the house while they are asleep.

A spokeswoman for eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant outlined the convoluted process required to take down criminal content under current laws.

Child psychologist Professor Adam Guastella said social media popularity was the biggest driver for youth crime.

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Give Sex Ed Control Back To Parents

SA MLC Sarah Game wants parents, not the government, to decide what their kids are taught

Sarah Game has revealed plans to introduce a Bill to state parliament to stop children from being "force-fed gender and woke ideology" and give parents greater control over what is being taught in classrooms.

Speaking exclusively to The Advertiser, Ms Game said The Education and Children's Services (Parental Primacy) Amendment Bill 2024 would be put to parliament as soon as possible.

She explained the term "parental primacy" meant parents and carers were "the prime educators on moral and ethical teaching" rather than the school system.

School Holidays

Term 1 ends Friday April 12!



NSW Deputies Return To Classrooms

More than 4000 NSW teachers who left the classroom to take administrative roles such as assistant and deputy principal will have to return to the classroom.

The non-teaching tasks schools have been performing will also be audited to determine which ones can be scrapped or reduced to free up more teaching hours, while recruitment of teachers to non-teaching executive roles will be paused.

About 77% of public primary school deputy principals did not teach timetabled classes, with 40% of high school deputies also having no teaching allocation.

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