



This week's stories from the media

- 9 In 10 schools do not have funds for disabled students
- SA Department data shows drop in suspensions and vaping
- 1 in 3 parents would back their child to become a teacher
- Alarming number of students seeking mental health support
- Unhealthy breakfast could be as bad as no breakfast at all
- Australia will trial age assurance tech to bar kids from porn

Drop In SA Suspensions & Vaping

Vaping has been labelled the biggest behavioural “menace” in schools but latest figures show suspensions for using e-cigarettes have dropped dramatically in SA.

For the past two years more than 1000 students have been suspended from SA public schools annually for having, using or selling vapes - or at least 250 suspensions each term.

However, department data for Term 1 this year shows teachers imposed just 162 suspensions.

If that decline continues there could be fewer than 650 suspensions this year.

Education Minister Blair Boyer welcomed the early indication that SA may be “bucking the trend nationally” but stressed he wanted to ramp up efforts to deter potential young vapers.

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare said vaping was “the biggest behavioural issue” raised with him by school principals, who reported some students were scared to use the toilets for fear of inhaling toxic chemicals.

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9 In 10 Schools Do Not Have Funds For Disabled Students

Public schools do not have the funds needed to educate the rapidly increasing numbers of students with disabilities, with nine out of 10 principals saying their school is under-resourced in that area.

An Australian Education Union survey, which questioned 15,000 principals, teachers and support staff, shows the number of principals who say they have the funding they need for students with disability fell from 17% last year to just 11% this year.

89% of principals are shifting funding from other areas of their budgets to try to pay for the assistance that students with disabilities need because they don't get enough dedicated funding from governments; averaging \$158,820 per school.

Principals say the main resources they are lacking are teachers' aides and specialist support such as speech and occupational therapists.

80% of 10 principals also say they educate students with disabilities who do not qualify for federal government support.

Only 36% of teachers said the professional development they have completed has given them the skills they need to teach students with disability.

A Guardian investigation found that students with a disability who attend a public school – and are given funding by state governments – receive only a sixth of the funding of their private school counterparts, who are funded by the Commonwealth.

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“...Principals say the main resources they are lacking are teachers’ aides and specialist support such as speech and occupational therapists....”

1 In 3 Parents Would Back Their Child To Become A Teacher

One in three Australian parents would support their child in seeking a career as a teacher, giving hope of a future spike in the number of educators across Australia.

The Best Teachers 2024 pulse survey conducted by News Corp, found public perception of teaching as a career was high.

More than half of the 2100 Australians surveyed saying teachers help contribute to the betterment of society, are in a fulfilling career and there will always be employment demand.

“There are about 4000 more teachers in a classroom last year than the year before and that’s a good sign,” Education Minister Jason Clare said.

“There are also more uni students studying teaching this year than last year and in particular, more people doing the mid-career switch from another profession who want to be a teacher.”

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Alarming Number Of Students Seeking Mental Health Support

A new survey has revealed the staggering extent of the mental health crisis plaguing our kids with a large portion of young students seeking mental health support.

A third of primary school students and almost half of high school students have sought, or are planning to start, treatment for mental health concerns, worrying new survey results reveal.

Stress and anxiety are the most common reasons, followed by sadness and depression.

A national survey of more than 2100 parents and carers of young people has also found “deeply concerning” rates of self-harm among teenagers.

Experts say the findings must prompt school leaders to ensure access to mental health support on campus and conduct regular “check ins” with students.

Almost 10% of primary and 18% of secondary students felt sad or depressed constantly or frequently.

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Unhealthy Breakfast

Research suggests eating an unhealthy breakfast could have a similar effect on your child’s school day as having nothing at all.

Students who ate a healthy breakfast on the morning of the study demonstrated higher levels of motivation and achievement.

In comparison, students who ate no breakfast had lower levels of motivation and achievement.

Not unexpected. What surprised researchers was students who had no breakfast had similar levels of motivation and achievement to those who had an unhealthy breakfast.

This suggests eating an unhealthy breakfast could be as disruptive to motivation and achievement as not eating breakfast at all.

[Full Story](#)

International Day Of Families

May 15 2024

Families and climate change



Australia Trials Age Assurance Tech

In March 2023, the eSafety Commissioner published a “Roadmap for age verification”, which outlined the risks of children accessing inappropriate content.

The report recommended trialing a pilot before seeking to prescribe and mandate age assurance technology.

Age assurance is effectively a self-declaration of age.

This can also be found in certain applications (such as Facebook’s Messenger Kids) where a parent confirms a child can have access to a service.

It may also use biometrics by using a webcam to visually classify a person’s age range based on appearance.

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