



This week's stories from the media

- State budget features big spending on school upgrades
- Pace quickens on school building program
- Plan to place SA schools with world's best
- TAFE fours years of lost opportunity
- PE push for students
- France begins ban on phones
- Morrison blasts gender whisperers in schools

Pace Quickens On School Building

The construction of two new schools for \$261 million will be fast tracked by South Australia's Liberal government as part of a \$1 billion-plus capital works program for the education sector.

Education Minister John Gardner said the budget marked a "significant turning point for the future of children and young people in our state".

Mr Gardner pledged that two schools, previously announced by Labor and to be located in the northern suburb of Munro Para and the southern suburb of Aldinga, would be completed by the end of 2021, which he said was months earlier than originally intended.

Funded via a public-private partnership, each school will accommodate up to 1675 students from prep to Year 12.

A new secondary school for Whyalla had been planned to be funded via a public-private partnership, but Mr Gardner said the \$100m project would now be delivered by the government.

[Read the story](#)

State Budget Features Big Spending On School Upgrades

State Budget features big spending on school upgrades, but will close seven underused TAFE campuses.

The "largest investment in education by any government in the state's history" will see \$515 million more spent in the portfolio in 2021-22 than in 2017-18, according to Treasurer Rob Lucas.

- \$27.7 million over four years on work to move Year 7 students into secondary school by 2022, which is expected to see 215 full time equivalent positions needed and \$40 million a year in ongoing funding from 2022;
- \$20.9 million over four years to improve literacy and numeracy including hiring 13 "literacy coaches" for schools ;
- \$15.5 million over four years to address bullying, truancy and substance abuse;
- \$12.2 million over four years on students learning a second language;
- \$5.6 million over four years for entrepreneurial specialist programs in four high schools.

- \$361 million for new 1675 place schools, one at Munro Para and one at Aldinga, under a public-private partnership, as well as \$100 million for a new school at Whyalla, all to be completed for the 2022 school year which is earlier than previously expected;

- \$692 million over six years to upgrade schools;

Mr Gardner also noted SA has introduced Year 1 phonics checks for all students, and that from next year, all students enrolled in teaching courses will be required to pass a test showing they have literacy and numeracy skills in the top 30 per cent of the population.

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“...largest investment in education by any government in the state’s history....”

Plan To Place SA Schools With World’s Best

Every public school has been rated on its academic results - both current and over time - and placed on a five-level improvement scale, as the Education Department launches an overhaul aimed at matching the best school systems in the world within a decade.

The department spent more than \$1 million engaging global consultancy McKinsey on a plan to measure school performance in order to better tailor support to each one.

Schools initially have been rated using formulas that take into account the NAPLAN and SACE results of every student with other measures to be added as the scheme is refined.

McKinsey has a universal scale for comparing whole education systems based on international test results and placed SA’s public system within its “good” range, albeit at the lower end of that range. Finland and Canada are among nations in the “great” range. No system is yet ranked as “excellent”.

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TAFE Four Years Of Lost Opportunity

A course revamp - including a review of student fees – will be part of a “fresh start” as the Marshall Government seeks to overhaul TAFE SA, after a damning independent report laid bare the depths of its troubles, lamenting a strategic vacuum and poor leadership that have yielded “four years of lost opportunity”.

Education Minister John Gardner yesterday tabled a pair of documents commissioned by the former Labor Government, which reviewed TAFE SA’s quality and strategic capability in the wake of last year’s scandal that saw chairman Peter Vaughan and CEO Robin Murt depart after a range of courses were suspended due to repeated failures to meet national standards.

The strategic capability review, by bureaucrat Terry Moran and educational reformer Kim Bannikoff, was particularly scathing.

“The Reviewers are dismayed by the depth of the problems at TAFE SA,” it began.

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PE Push For Students

Every primary school student in Australia would do at least 30 minutes of physical education a day under a push from the Adelaide-based national peak body.

The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation says physical activity benefits both health and academic performance.

The Australian curriculum states students should have the opportunity for physical education at least weekly but implementation is up to the states.

SA Education Department timetable guidelines recommend two hours a week but that is not mandated.

[Full Story](#)

France Begins Ban On Phones

Schools in France have begun a nationwide ban on mobile phones in the classroom, meaning no child under 15 can have one.

The law which passed in July also forbids tablets and smart watches for primary and junior school students.

President Emmanuel Macron pledged to introduce the ‘detox measure’ to combat France’s phone-addicted children and deal with issues of classroom distraction, bullying and improving the physical activity of students.

Under the ban students won’t be able to use their phones at all during school hours, including meal breaks.

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Morrison Blasts Gender Whisperers

The Greens have condemned Scott Morrison, saying it had “only taken a week” for the new prime minister to “repeatedly show he doesn’t care about the wellbeing or welfare of young LGBTIQ children”.

Mr Morrison spoke against a program that trains teachers to identify transgender children in classrooms.

Mr Morrison tweeted a link to the story this morning, saying “We do not need ‘gender whisperers’ in our schools. Let kids be kids.”

The Greens Janet Rice said Mr Morrison had “done so much damage in such a short time”.

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