



This week's stories from the media

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- Is it time to shake up report cards
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Green Team There For Schoolies

The Victor Harbor Schoolies Festival, on this weekend is renowned for being one of the most highly organised and successful schoolies festivals in Australia much of the success due to the presence of the Encounter Youth Green Team.

Over 500 volunteers converge on Victor Harbor during the festival and offer support, advice and information to the thousands of school leavers attending.

"They provide peer support across the entire SA Schoolies operation to help young people make safer choices and to celebrate in positive and meaningful ways."

The volunteers provide 24/7 support in major accommodation parks in Victor Harbor and Port Elliot and there are three volunteers that are on board each of the 25 Schoolies' Festival Safer Journey buses.

The Green Team also manage each venue inside the festival at Warland Reserve and they patrol local public streets surrounding the festival area to ensure young people are not alone and remain safe at all times.

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Together we can end men's violence against women in Australia

White Ribbon Day
Friday 22 November

“...White Ribbon Day - Friday 22 November....”

SA's Year 1 Students Make Big Gains In Phonics Check

Students have recorded significantly better results in this year's early reading check, but despite the gains barely half achieved the expected standard.

Nearly 14,000 Year 1s in public schools across the state had the 40-word “phonics screening check”, conducted one-on-one with their teachers, in August.

Statewide, 52% of children met the standard, up from 43% last year.

Results also rose for Aboriginal students (24%, up from 21) and for students with verified disabilities (20%, up from 14).

Education Minister John Gardner said the results were encouraging but there was still “much more work to be done”.

“The improvement in this year's results is a reflection of our schools' commitment to lifting literacy outcomes, and we are equipping them with the right support and materials,” he said.

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Is It Time To Shake Up Report Cards

Teachers and school leaders spend considerable effort, time and money writing and checking student reports, but how effective are existing school reports?

Australian researchers have put together their own report card – for report cards. They questioned whether the benefits of putting them together outweigh drawbacks like time and expense.

Parents and carers in the study reported paying little attention to much of the content of student reports. “They often focus only on written comments, ignoring other reported information.”

Parents took umbrage with the language used in report cards, often tied to curriculum statements, and the use of A-E scoring.

And, unsurprisingly, teachers had their own issues, notably with the time required to complete them and the phrasing they feel compelled to use.

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SA Apprenticeships Up 30%

South Australia has had a nation-leading surge in the number of apprentices and trainees enrolled in Vocational Education and Training courses.

New data shows 10,185 apprentices and trainees were enrolled in VET courses in SA in the first six months 2019 – up by 2280, or 28.8%, compared to the first half of last year.

Innovation and Skills Minister David Pisoni said the state's percentage increase was the “largest nationally” and attributed it to an extra 500 courses being subsidised by the State Government as well as an increase in the popularity of Tafe SA programs.

[Full Story](#)

World-First Mental Health Study

Australian students are participating in Australia's largest study of the effectiveness of mental health apps in preventing anxiety and depression in youth.

Backed by the Black Dog Institute, the “world-first study” called Future Proof will be trialled in 400 schools and include 20,000 Year 8 students. The students' mental health information will be monitored for five years.

The study will explore whether cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) apps are effective in alleviating symptoms of depression, anxiety, eating disorders and suicide risk.

The study will also examine the apps' impact on sleep, academic performance, physical wellbeing and drug and alcohol use.

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STEM Education Key in SA

Education will play a vital role in developing the future workforce as the majority of growth requires STEM knowledge.

The recently held 2019 Edinburgh Air Show had provided SA students the opportunity to learn more about future careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Around 600 students participated in the Astro-STEM day as part of the event.

For the first time ever, the Royal Australian Air Force worked together with South Australian universities, TAFE, and industry partners to inspire SA students to pursue opportunities in our booming space and defence sectors.

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