



#### This week's stories from the media

- Masks to stay in schools for 4 more weeks
- Gender shake-up in Catholic schools
- SA teachers will need 3rd Covid jab
- 2500 Victorian teachers sacked
- Foodbank hungry for state government help
- Teacher's union unhappy with funding

#### Gender Shake-up In Catholic Schools

**New guidelines for care of trans kids are being hailed as a “great first step”.**

Sydney Catholic Schools have revealed a Gender Dysphoria Policy for the 70,000 school children in its care which trans advocates have said is not perfect but a “huge step”.

The new policy states students experiencing gender dysphoria must be treated with compassion and respect but also says they must be “helped to accept their own body as it was created”.

The Catholic Schools policy says parents must be consulted - contrasting with the public school system which gives principals the power to overrule mums and dads when it comes to making decisions about what names, pronouns and bathrooms will be used at school.

Trans advocate and gender diversity consultant Katherine Wolfgramme said she had issues with elements of the new Catholic school policy, but was pleased they had a plan.

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#### Masks To Stay In Schools For Four More Weeks

**Students and teachers will have to wear masks in schools for at least four more weeks when the new term begins on Monday.**

Premier Malinauskas revealed the decision this afternoon, following a meeting of State Cabinet's Emergency Management Council.

“We have decided today that the wearing of masks will be maintained within the school setting for four more weeks upon the resumption of school next week,” he said.

“That is a position we have adopted consistent with the health advice but also acknowledging the sincere desire amongst all concerned – parents, students and educators as well – that mask-wearing in schools does come to an end at an appropriate and safe time.”

Masks will remain mandatory indoors for students in years 7 to 12 and all school staff.

They remain encouraged for students in years 3 to 6.

Mask mandates for the general public were removed on April 15, except in high-risk settings, but a decision about schools was delayed until today to give authorities time to monitor COVID activity during the school holidays and seek further advice.

The government also announced that vaccination hubs would open in 40 schools targeting children aged 5 to 11, with Education Minister Boyer saying only 38% in that age group had had their second dose.

[More](#)



**“...Masks will remain mandatory indoors for students in years 7 to 12 and all school staff....”**

### SA Teachers Will Need 3rd Covid Jab Or Face Restrictions

**Vaccination rules for SA teachers will return from next term and those without the third jab will have to follow strict department restrictions.**

But new Education Department rules to launch from term two will require staff to have a third booster jab to work without restrictions.

Department chief Martin Westwell said unvaccinated staff were “welcome back into the workplace but with a few extra precautions”.

A department survey of teachers and staff, which helped underwrite the rules, found almost 60% did not support allowing unvaccinated workers back.

Under the new rules, all unvaccinated staff must wear a surgical mask – regardless of any new changes to coverings likely to be introduced next week – and return a negative rapid antigen home test each day before work.

Taxpayers will provide RATs.

[More](#)

### 2500 Victorian Teachers Sacked

**Victoria’s vaccine mandate forces exit of more than 2,500 teachers.**

More than 2,500 teachers who have not been triple vaccinated will no longer legally be permitted to work in Victoria onwards from Thursday, April 28, Herald Sun reported.

The mandate requires workers across a range of industries, including education, to either be fully vaccinated or present valid proof of a medical exemption to their employer.

The mandate, mirrored only by the Northern Territory, affects all workers in educational services including childcare, early childhood, contractors, volunteers, and people providing healthcare to in education facilities.

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### Foodbank Hungry For Help

**Australia’s largest hunger relief charity is calling on the state government to provide urgent assistance to help cut the cost of grocery prices for those most at need.**

For the first time in eight years, Foodbank plans to raise the cost of its handling fee at local Food Hubs unless the state government agrees to intervene.

It comes as the cost of some grocery items at South Australia’s major supermarkets has risen by up to 100% in the past year, including sugar, dairy items and meat.

“We are baffled as to why there hasn’t been the level of support that other states get ... and think support should be up at around the 20 to 30% mark,” he said.

[Full Story](#)

*If you are filling a glass and reach the halfway point, it’s half full.*

*If you are emptying a glass and reach the halfway point, it’s half empty.*

*No need to invoke your emotional state.*

*Neil deGrasse Tyson*

### Union Unhappy With Funding

**The teacher’s union has lashed out at the federal government for providing inadequate funding for public schools.**

Representatives from the union launched a mobile billboard in Tasmania, which criticises Scott Morrison’s government for slashing \$559 million in public school funding in the recent federal budget.

Union president Correna Haythorpe said public schools in the regions were missing out on \$1289 of funding per student on average.

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