



This week's stories from the media

- New SA curriculum focus on life skills and literacy
- School girls are stressed, boys bullied
- Is homework necessary for primary school
- PM backs under 16 social media ban
- Students move into \$98m CBD school building
- Children produce better pieces of work by hand

Girls Are Stressed, Boys Bullied

Teenage girls are reporting anxiety, fear and panic at twice the rate of boys.

Boys are more likely to be bullied, according to ACER - after analysing a survey of 13,437 students from 743 Australian high schools.

Australian students reported higher rates of bullying than any country except Latvia.

Bullying is worse in government schools.

Three quarters of 15 year old girls said they 'feel nervous about exams', compared to half of boys.

Boys are disproportionately impacted by deteriorating behaviour, while it's girls who are struggling most with wellbeing.

42% of students reported noise and disorder in their maths classes - higher than the OECD average of 30% and the 5.2% of Japanese students.

"For years, Australia's teachers - especially recent graduates - have reported limited preparation for managing classrooms."

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New SA Curriculum Focussed On Life Skills And Literacy

The state government has unveiled an updated curriculum that will focus on life skills and building student's love for literacy.

Education Minister Blair Boyer revealed the updated curriculum will include a literacy subject focused on "giving kids the passion and inspiration to be readers outside of school".

"It was something that I loved growing up and at every available opportunity I was reading a book," Mr Boyer said.

"It's not something that I think I have seen in my own children and I know that many other parents in South Australia - and around Australia - probably struggle with that as well.

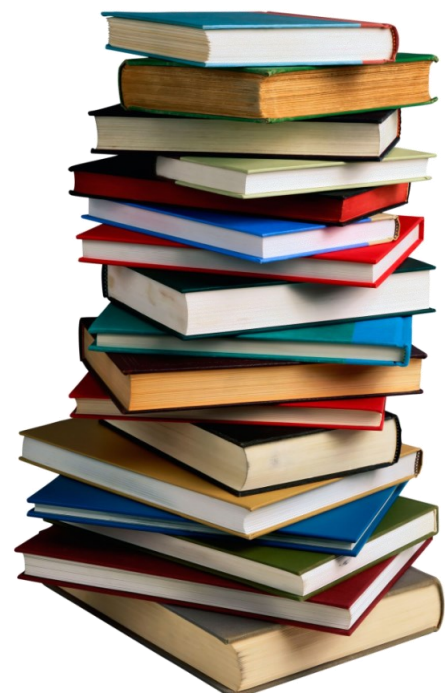
"There are lots of competing interests now around screens and devices and all sorts of other things, which can make that harder."

The public school curriculum will also introduce new languages, arts and maths subjects, which will all have a specific goal of teaching children valuable "life skills".

Education Department CE Martin Westwell said the new curriculum was a "significant step" and would enable students to "apply their learning to real-world situations".

"The emphasis needs to shift from the passive reproduction of processes and facts to capabilities - both general and subject-specific - conceptual understanding, deep thinking and the ability to apply knowledge across various situations."

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“...There are lots of competing interests now around screens and devices and all sorts of other things, which can make that harder....”

Is Homework Necessary For Primary School

Education researcher calls for primary schools to have 'courage' to rethink homework.

Across Australia, there's anecdotal evidence a growing number of primary schools have introduced no – or low – homework policies since the COVID-19 pandemic, according to University of Melbourne Emeritus Professor of Education John Hattie.

Professor Hattie said while there was some evidence homework benefited high-school students, there was no need for it in primary schools.

In a bid to modernise the education system, Poland last month scrapped homework for students in years one to three and made it optional for students in years four to eight.

In Townsville in north Queensland, Belgian Gardens State School has scrapped compulsory homework in favour of reading, practice, and play.

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PM Backs Under 16 Social Media Ban

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has declared his support for a petition calling on the government to raise the legal age children are allowed to create social media accounts from 13-years-old to 16.

The PM is concerned that addictive social media apps are deteriorating teen's mental health, stating that even he tends to avoid interacting with strangers online.

“What we want is our youngest Australians spending more time outside playing sport, engaging with each other in a normal way and less time online,” Prime Minister Albanese told Nova FM radio on Tuesday.

“And one way to do that is through restrictions on social media.”

His statements come after \$6.5m in last Tuesday's federal budget was allocated to trial stronger age restrictions on some websites, especially sites with pornographic material, along with other efforts to protect children online, combat manfluencer's extremist views getting purchase and preventing sexist attitudes in school-aged boys.

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Students Move Into \$98m Building

Students have finally moved into a new \$98m building at CBD school - including a rooftop basketball court with amazing city views.

The new seven-storey building at Adelaide Botanic High School is almost complete, including a rooftop sports area, a ground floor cafe, an entrepreneurial hub and STEM labs.

Premier Peter Malinauskas said the new state-of-the-art facilities would allow more kids to learn science, engineering and maths ahead of SA's future AUKUS projects.

“The simple fact is, we need more girls and boys learning STEM – many more.”

[Full Story](#)

School Post

The Term 2 edition of School Post out soon!



Children Produce Better Work By Hand

Children produce better pieces of writing by hand, but they need keyboard skills too.

In a study published last month researchers looked at Year 2 students and their handwriting and keyboard writing.

This study involved 544 students from 17 primary schools in Perth, Western Australia.

Researchers assessed how easily students wrote stories using paper and pencil compared to writing stories using a laptop.

They found they produced longer and higher-quality handwritten texts.

This was based on ten criteria, including ideas, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

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