



This week's stories from the media

- Kindy coming for 3-year-olds
- Anxiety project builds resilience in students
- 230 incidents at OSHC
- NY moves to ban social media from targeting kids
- Lack of relief teachers
- 4 reasons to prioritise SRC

Anxiety Project Builds Resilience

A NSW initiative is training teachers and parents how to manage the anxiety and stress in students that can cause disruption in class & adverse learning outcomes.

The Anxiety Project is a two-year program running in 113 NSW primary schools that helps build the capacity of school staff and parents to reduce children's anxiety.

A 2020 survey that found 90% of public principals say increasing levels of student anxiety is stretching resources beyond their capacities.

Research found teachers who are more confident in dealing with student anxiety, and those who encourage school students to build resilience when managing feelings of anxiety, reap better results in class.

Early results say 72% of schools saw a reduction in anxiety levels in students, teacher confidence to help children manage their anxiety increased from 44% to 66%, and a baseline number of 20% of students that reported 'high levels' of anxiety at the commencement of the project decreased to 15%.

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Kindergarten Coming For SA Three-Year-Olds In State Budget Spend

The state budget will include \$715m over five years to deliver preschool for three-year-olds in SA.

Kindy for three-year-olds will be delivered to long day care providers from 2026.

Other kindergartens will phase in the delivery between 2026 and 2032.

The funding is in line with the recommendations from the Royal Commission Early Childhood Education and Care.

The spend will also include about \$127m over four years to provide 30 hours a week of preschool to 3 and four-year-old children at risk and more than \$96m over four years to grow the early childhood workforce.

There will be \$30.6m over four years to 'align the support' for four-year-olds and three-year-olds.

The funding will include \$14m over four years to partner with Aboriginal communities to support the delivery of three-year-old preschool among Indigenous children.

The first two integrated hubs will be established in 2025 in Port Pirie and in Adelaide's northern suburbs - acting as a pilot program.

Premier Peter Malinauskas said early childhood education was "pivotal" in shaping the rest of a child's life.

Mr Malinauskas said more than 23% of South Australian children "start Reception with at least one form of developmental delay" and the move would "literally change the lives of thousands".

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“...early childhood education was “pivotal” in shaping the rest of a child’s life....

Education Department Reveals 230 OSHC Incidents

Violence, runaway or missing children and injuries or illness accounted for most of the 228 critical incidents reported last year.

Education Minister Blair Boyer has conceded that the OSHC system requires “lifting quality across-the-board” and has given the Education Standards Board an extra \$7m for increased monitoring.

This had enabled “a crackdown into those services that aren’t performing as well to ensure safety for all students”, he said.

About 29,000 children aged five to 12 use OSHC each week, representing one in six of the state’s primary school-aged students.

Data released by the Education Department under FOI reveals there were eight cases of alleged serious misconduct by OSHC staff at public school sites in 2023, including allegations of negligence, inappropriate behaviour and breaching confidentiality.

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New York Moves To Ban Social Media From Targeting Kids

New York is set to become the first US state to ban social media companies using algorithms to target kids with addictive content.

Under the crackdown, the platforms would need parental consent if they were to pump content into the feeds of users aged under 18 with automated algorithms.

Without that consent, minors would instead have to be shown chronological feeds of content from their friends – similar to the early experience of Facebook and Instagram.

And if families did opt in, parents would be able to block access to social media platforms for their children overnight and impose limits on the amount of time they could be online.

New York will be the latest state to take action to protect children on social media, after Florida banned children under 14 from holding accounts and Utah forced the platforms to comply with age verification requirements.

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Lack Of Relief Teachers

There were about 250 staff at public schools sick with Covid last week, with principals scrambling to find relief teachers.

The department has almost 5000 school and preschool TRTs, including about 80 permanent relief teachers in country areas.

Education Minister Blair Boyer said despite “a small spike” in Covid cases last week compared to the week before, government schools were “managing staffing wise”.

“Yes we’re under a little bit of pressure, but nothing compared to what we’ve had in the past,” Mr Boyer said.

[Full Story](#)

World Ocean Day

June 8 is world ocean day!

One Ocean,
One Climate
One Future - Together



**World
Ocean
Day**

4 Reasons To Prioritise SRC

Student Representative Councils have been part of Australia’s education system for such a long time, it can be easy to forget the opportunity they present for students.

Peer Support’s education expert Jill Pearman says an effective SRC can have a positive impact on student wellbeing and school culture.

“Schools that do SRC well, often position it as a wellbeing initiative.”

1. Students develop leadership skills
2. A school SRC can contribute to a positive culture
3. SRC members feel a sense of responsibility
4. A well-run school SRC creates a sense of belonging

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