



This week's stories from the media

- What's in SA budget for education?
- Liberals would raise social media age to 16
- UniSA birth to five teaching degree
- Social media targeting teens with alcohol ads
- SA private schools sitting on land worth \$12 billion
- 1 in 3 schools too old

Liberals To Raise Social Media Age

Opposition leader Peter Dutton has pledged to raise the minimum age for social media to 16.

Mr Dutton said he could not see any arguments against moving to protect young Australian kids from online harms and help parents enforce the rules.

"I would put it at the top of my list for the first 100 days in government ... it reflects the community values and where the view is for the vast majority of Australians at the moment."

Mr Dutton said he had formed the view intervention was required to protect younger children online, "not just as a dad" but also from his pre-political career as a police officer.

"We wouldn't in the real world allow our kids to go into a park or into a shopping centre just to hangout with any adult that came by, would read anything put in front of them, without us knowing what it was."

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What's In SA Budget For Education?

\$256.3m has been allocated to education in the 2024-25 state budget, along with a new 20-year framework that will change how schools receive infrastructure spending.

The plan will make significant changes to how work is prioritised on about 5700 buildings across 900 public schools, preschools and children's centres.

The plan will focus on key indicators when assessing infrastructure work including enrolment trends and capacity, socio-economic disadvantage, asset condition, school culture & local community opportunities.

Minister Blair Boyer said the new approach moves from "a traditional reactive approach to an evidence based prioritisation model".

Families of children who attend public schools will save \$200 per student on school fees next year in a doubling of the materials and services subsidy from 2024.

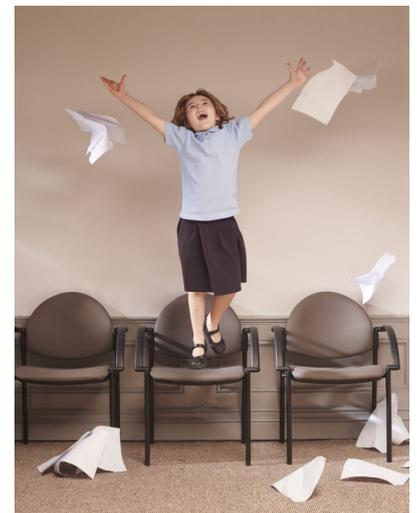
More than 100,000 children will also be eligible for two \$100 vouchers towards sporting activities and, for the first time, music lessons. That is up from one \$100 voucher in previous years.

A total of \$212,000 will also be spent to support the second year of a research project aimed at assessing how to boost autism support and other disability and inclusion studies in SA teaching degrees.

Another part is \$127.3m over four years to increase the minimum 15 hours of preschool to 30 hours for 2,000 children.

A \$96.6m investment will be made to grow early childhood workforce to serve the new initiatives, and \$14m will be spent to make sure Indigenous children can access those services.

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“...Families of children who attend public schools will save \$200 per student on school fees next year in a doubling of the materials and services subsidy....

UniSA Birth To Five Teaching Degree

The new degree is the first of its kind in SA. It is currently accepting applications for 2024 midyear entry.

With the announcement of \$715 million to drastically overhaul early childhood education SA, there is unprecedented demand for teachers who can support the needs of children in childcare, kindergarten, and preschool settings.

UniSA is ready to fill this space with a new industry-relevant, three-year professional degree focused on the developmental needs of young children from birth to five years of age.

“Our new Bachelor of Education Early Childhood (Birth to Five) will ensure students have access to the latest research to support the development of young children – whether that be about the brain development and neurodiversity, or the importance of learning through play.”

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Social Media Targeting Teens With Alcohol Ads Every 2 Minutes

Young Australians are being bombarded with alcohol advertisements on social media every 2 minutes and 43 seconds, in a dangerous practice that is encouraging them to drink.

And, disturbingly, many of the ads on Facebook and Instagram are targeting teenagers under the legal drinking age.

A new study by University of Queensland researchers also found the alcohol was being offered direct to their door, via home delivery.

More than seven in 10 of the ads promoted home delivery or sales incentives such as samples or bonuses to encourage people to buy alcohol, the article published in Drug and Alcohol Review revealed.

The researchers said a single Facebook advertisement was expected to reach up to 931 million viewers and it is “not surprising” 39 per cent of Australian youths (12–17 years) reported social media exposure to alcohol advertising in a single month.

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SA Private Schools \$12b Land

SA’s richest private schools have prime real estate holdings estimated to be worth more than \$12 billion.

Some of those schools are also eagerly purchasing land around their schools to set themselves up for future expansion, but also further pushing up house prices in some of Adelaide’s most pricey suburbs.

Harris property consultant and auctioneer Tom Hector said many of the private schools were located in prestige suburbs.

“They are sitting on such enormous amounts of cash,” he said.

[Full Story](#)

School Post Term 2

Out next week!



1 In 3 Schools Too Old

More than one-third of public education buildings in SA are now deemed “too old”.

A government report shows systemic issues with upgrades usually favouring popular schools.

The government says 35% of SA’s public school buildings are considered too old, with the average building being almost half a century old.

The government is implementing new criteria to prioritise school upgrades, which considers enrolment trends, socio-economic disadvantage, and cultural factors.

“If we have schools where we are seeing more poor behavior from students, is that a reflection on the state of the assets as well?” Minister Blair Boyer said.

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