



This week's stories from the media

- Scholarships encourage hundreds of girls to explore STEM
- Data-sharing win for disadvantaged kids
- SA leads the way with free internet for vulnerable families
- Expert warns of winter burnout
- Preschool raises future earnings
- AFP working with Autism experts

Data-Sharing Win For Disadvantaged

A partnership between the Smith Family and the SA Education Department has revolutionised the Learning for Life program aimed at Aussie kids living in poverty.

It means frontline education staff can access real time data on how these kids are going at school, so they can offer parents additional support if needed.

Until recently a child's progress was monitored by an annual report card.

Now there is a dashboard, which allows frontline staff to do it in real time.

"If we see in the dashboard that a student is struggling to attend school, or they're struggling with their English or Maths, staff will proactively contact the family and see how we might provide better support."

"Kids are better served when the people who work with them have accurate information."

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Scholarships Encourage Hundreds Of Girls To Explore STEM

Flinders University has announced a record number of Year 9 school girls will participate in its annual STEM Enrichment workshops.

This influx of nearly 300 students results from a new scholarship scheme to engage more regional students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

This initiative is part of Flinders University's effort to engage more female students in STEM.

For the first time, the program will see students from regions, including Alice Springs & Darwin, travel to Adelaide to partake in the multi-day event.

This has been made possible through substantial scholarships totalling \$65,000, targeting South Australian and Northern Territory regional schools.

Funding helps support the University's Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship objective; to introduce students and educators to in-demand career pathways.

The primary goal is to expose Year 9 students to STEM-related education and career possibilities before they select subjects for their upper years.

Since the second phase of the outreach program began in May last year, 500 schoolgirls have benefited. The target is to engage 1000 students by 2025.

According to current statistics, engineering has one of the lowest female representations in the STEM fields, with women making up 16% of graduates and only 13% of the professional workforce in Australia.

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SA Leads The Way With Free Internet To Vulnerable Families

More than 2,500 SA families have embraced the Albanese Government’s initiative to provide free broadband to eligible households.

The initiative is supporting some of the most vulnerable people across the country by getting families connected to what is becoming an essential need: a reliable broadband connection.

The SA Government has directly encouraged families to take advantage of the program - leading to SA having the greatest number of connected families as a proportion of their overall student population.

To be eligible, a family must:

- Have a child living at home enrolled in school;
- Have no active broadband service over the NBN network;
- Live in a premises where they can access a standard NBN service.
- Not have an active NBN service during the previous 14 days.

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Expert Warns Of Winter Burnout

Parents need to be on the lookout for signs of winter burnout in their children, an education expert has warned.

RMIT’s Dr Sam Vlcek defines burnout as a state of mental, physical, or emotional exhaustion.

Signs parents should keep an eye on include excessive sleeping, school refusal or loss of appetite.

Long-term burnout leads to a reduction in physical fitness, attention span and short-term memory.

“Winter burnout is about recognising that, especially here in the southern states, days are much shorter and colder and across the country, illness is spreading and all of these have impacts on children’s enthusiasm and energy.”

The expert said burnout was more than just feeling tired or wanting a break, and had long-term repercussions.

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Preschool Raises Future Earnings

A US study makes the case that expanding early childhood education could be well worth the investment.

Matching students’ data with their adult earnings using info from the IRS - researchers found that attending preschool raised students’ incomes across the board.

“Some of the largest results are for girls who come from below median household income,” said Professor Randy Akee.

“So preschool has the ability to reduce inequality, reduce unequal outcomes even later in life.”

“In terms of positive investments in young children’s well-being, public preschool — I just don’t think you can get better bang for your buck.”

[Full Story](#)

School Tree Day - July 26

“Join our community of over 3,000 early learning centres, primary schools and high schools across Australia.”



AFP Working With Autism Experts

Federal police are working with autism experts to stem the number of young people with the disorder being radicalised online by violent extremists.

“The AFP have engaged Aspect to better understand and support neurodivergent youth who may be at an increased risk of being targeted and radicalised online.”

Police have seen an increase in under 16s “on a path to radicalisation” or “demonstrating concerning behaviours” ... with some planning attacks at schools....

The AFP said parents should be aware of what their children are doing in the online world, and help steer them toward mainstream sources of factual information, rather than forum and chat groups on the fringe of the internet.

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