



This week's stories from the media

- Civics now mandatory for SA high school students
- SA's best book week costume
- Bush Summit - truancy on the rise particularly Indigenous
- Teachers' right to disconnect
- Back to class for NSW deputies
- How AI is transforming SA schools

Best Book Week Costume

Was your child the star of the Book Week parade after you stayed up all night making their costume?

Are you a Book Week costume pro?

Prove it by nominating your child's 2024 outfit to be named the best in South Australia.

The Advertiser is looking to crown the state's best Book Week look from 2024.

Click below to fill out the application form and tell them why your child (and you) deserve the title.

[Enter Here](#)



Civics Now Mandatory For SA High School Students

South Australian high school students will learn how democracy works under a plan to decrease voter apathy and tackle the effects of disinformation.

Public school students in years 7 and 8 will study civics for an hour a week and the topic will be integrated into other subjects in years 9 and 10 to teach them about the value of democracy "in an age of disinformation and polarisation", Premier Peter Malinauskas said.

"The best way to combat that (misinformation) is to make sure young people understand how the process works," Mr Malinauskas said.

When asked if there was a low level of political literacy in the state, Mr Malinauskas said "the only honest answer is yes".

"We need people to be engaged," he said.

Civics is currently delivered through the humanities and social sciences subject, which is compulsory between years 3 to 8.

But the quality of delivery of content is mixed due to a lack of specialist teachers.

Education Minister Blair Boyer said part of funding will allow all teachers in years 9 and 10 to access professional development to integrate civics into their subjects.

Mr Boyer said civics can be taught in subjects such as maths through statistics and how numbers can be "manipulated by people to support their own case".

In English, civics will be taught through the selection of texts such as George Orwell's 1984.

[More](#)



“...civics can be taught in subjects such as maths through statistics and how numbers can be “manipulated by people to support their own case....”

Bush Summit - Truancy On The Rise Particularly Indigenous

Truancy rates in Australia are worse than they were a decade ago, with the gap in attendance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students widening.

Data compiled by the ACARA showed the 2023 national attendance rate for all students in Years 1-10 was 88.6%, up from 86.5% in 2022 but alarmingly lower than 92.7% in 2014.

Attendance increased with the level of a school's socio-educational advantage, were higher among students in major cities than in remote areas, and were lower among students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

In SA, the 2023 overall attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 1 to 10 students was 75%, up from 72.5% in 2022, but down from 81.1% in 2014.

[More](#)



Teachers' Right To Disconnect

From 26 August, workplaces will be required to respect its staff's 'right to disconnect', and will not be able to punish staff who are uncontactable outside of work hours.

"It doesn't stop employers from contacting employees, it just gives employees the right not to reply until they're working again, say the following day."

Submissions made by teacher associations also pointed out teachers need to remain flexible to do part of their jobs, such as supervising students at sporting activities, school performances or camps that may take place after hours or on weekends.

Therefore, there is a difference between what should be considered 'working' hours and 'contactable' hours.

In any case, teachers and school staff now have solid legal backing to not be required to reply to late-night emails from students, parents or colleagues.

[More](#)

Back To Class For NSW Deputies

Back to class – deputies must teach up to four days per week.

A critical teacher shortage has forced the NSW government to send school executive staff such as assistants and deputies back into the classroom for up to four days a week.

The government estimates move will amount to an estimated extra 237,000 hours taught in the state's public schools every year.

A Department of Education review into executive teachers last year found 1500 executive teachers were not teaching timetabled classes at all, while a further 2400 were teaching fewer hours than the proposed minimum hours needed.

[Full Story](#)

Royal Show

8 Sleeps Until The Royal Show!

August 31 - September 8



How AI Is Transforming SA Schools

When other states banned the use of artificial intelligence in schools, South Australia took a step forward.

When technologies like ChatGPT came out, most schools around the world were quick to ban them out of concern ... SA went the other way, working in partnership with Microsoft to develop EdChat.

"I can't see this technology replacing teachers, but what I can see is that a teacher with AI might replace a teacher without AI in the future," says CE Martin Westwell.

While the Department expects this tech will eventually be used in all SA schools, it's moving "at an appropriate pace," says Martin.

EdChat will only be rolled out at schools deemed ready to adopt the technology.

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