



This week's stories from the media

- More than 20,000 early childhood educators needed
- Best Book Week costume winner
- Meta wants parents responsible for social media age limits
- Climate change education and PISA
- SA moves to establish public child sex offender register
- Poor diet and cost of living sees spike in dental fillings

Best Book Week Costume Winner

Best Book Week Costume winner Texas Flynn has celebrated his win alongside his firefighting heroes.

Flashing lights, a water hose and plenty of red paint transformed eleven year old Texas and his wheelchair into a fire truck for this year's Book Week, thanks to the creativity of mum, Jeanette Flynn.

"He's had seizures his whole life and we have a lot of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, because he uses a wheelchair," Ms Flynn said.

"He can stand, he just needs strength in his legs.



[Story](#)

More Than 20,000 Early Childhood Educators Urgently Needed

More than 20,000 early childhood educators are urgently needed across Australia to keep up with current staffing demands, a new study has found.

Commissioner for Jobs and Skills Australia, Professor Barney Glover AO, today released a workforce report into the sector which employs about 200,000 workers across the country.

Professor Glover said the report found 21,000 more qualified professionals were imminently required, a figure which increases "when looking at what we'll need in the future".

"Current workforce levels are not sustainable," he said.

"We need growth of 8% to meet sustainable staffing levels, and another 8% growth to meet unmet demand for services."

Professor Glover said the most profound finding in the report was the need for support of diverse communities including those in remote areas.

"[We need to] make sure our workforce is ready to support young children from a variety of backgrounds."

Professor Glover highlighted the importance of early childhood education: "a child that has access to early childhood education and care is significantly more likely to go into tertiary education".

"One thing is abundantly clear to Jobs and Skills Australia and that is to obtain 80% of the working population, with a tertiary education, by 2050, we've got to start in early education," he said.

[More](#)



“...Current workforce levels are not sustainable...”

Meta Wants Parents Responsible For Age Limits

Social media giant Meta wants Australia to make parents responsible for approving what apps children under the age of 16 download.

Social media giant Meta wants Australia to make parents responsible for approving what apps children under the age of 16 download, denying this was “shirking” its duty to protect kids online.

With evidence linking social media to physical and mental health issues among youth, the tech company has suggested the federal government legally require app stores to act as an age limit “gateway,” rather than imposing a restriction directly on platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

“With this solution, when a teen wants to download an app, app stores would be required to notify their parents, much like when parents are notified if their teen attempts to make an in-app purchase,” she said.

[More](#)

Climate Change Education And PISA

The next PISA science test will involve more climate change-oriented questions that will examine how well students think about and understand debate about our heating world.

The 2025 PISA Science Framework in its three overarching environmental science competencies, which are the competencies associate Professor White co-designed, says students should be able to:

- Explain the impact of human interactions with Earth’s systems
- Demonstrate respect for diverse perspectives, and hope, in seeking solutions to socio-ecological crises
- Make informed decisions to act based on evaluation of diverse sources of evidence and application of creative and systems thinking to regenerate and sustain the environment.

[More](#)



SA Child Sex Offender Register

SA will introduce new laws to Parliament to make it easier for citizens to access information related to all the state’s convicted child sex offenders and their whereabouts.

The laws mean early childhood education providers may be able to apply for information about child sex offenders living in their area.

The laws will also allow parents to be able to check whether people who have unsupervised contact with their children have any history of child sex offences.

SA police will also have stronger powers to keep tabs on serious child sex offenders who may be at risk of further offending under the proposed laws.

[Full Story](#)

Child Protection Week

It’s National Child Protection Week.

“Every conversation matters”.



Poor Diet Sees Spike In Fillings

The number of fillings being put into Victorian mouths is skyrocketing and dentists are attributing the “concerning spike” to poor diet and cost of living pressures.

There was a 36% jump in fillings in Victoria, rising from 15,885 between January and March, to 21,609 between April and June, new data from Bupa revealed.

The increase was particularly apparent in younger Victorians aged 0 to 9 and 10 to 19 over this same period, soaring by 40% and 46% respectively.

Dr Dohlad said cost of living pressures presented a real challenge to people’s health routines, what they ate and even how often they changed their toothbrush.

[Read](#)