



This week's stories from the media

- Everything You Need To Know About Social Media Ban
- Parents warned as Whooping Cough surges in SA
- Funding gap between public and private in SA grows
- SA could be first state to ban social media for teens
- Teen motivation dips in high school but teachers can help
- Whole of school approach to classroom disruptions

Parents Warned Whooping Cough

Parents have been issued a stark warning after a huge ten-fold surge in cases of potentially deadly whooping cough in SA.

Whooping cough has surged to a six-year high, with 492 cases recorded so far this year – a ten-fold increase compared to 48 cases at the same time last year, and just 19 this time in 2022.

Pertussis, known as whooping cough, is a serious lung infection caused by bacteria.

It is also very contagious, causing coughing fits often immediately followed by a deep breath in, resulting in the typical “whoop.”

The potentially deadly disease is most serious for babies and authorities are urging parents to ensure their children are fully vaccinated.

Story

Everything You Need To Know About Social Media Ban

PM Anthony Albanese has announced his government will this year introduce age limit legislation for social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok and Snapchat.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton has already committed to implementing an age limit of 16 within his first 100 days of power, and many states have indicated their willingness to introduce similar legislation.

Studies have shown that social media usage can lead to poor mental health in teens, particularly eating disorders and body image problems.

Dr Simon Wilksch, a Senior Research Fellow in Psychology at Flinders University, said his work with young people aged 11-13 has shown a link between eating disorders, and the amount of time they spend on social media.

The government is expected to consult with the states and experts before making a final decision.

Mr Albanese said he was keen to avoid a situation where the country has “eight different systems”.

He also said that the right age was somewhere between 14 and 16, but he erred on the side of making it 16.

The government will also take into account the results of a \$6.5 million age assurance trial for social media sites.

SA has released draft legislation proposing a limit of 14 years old, while other states have confirmed they will work toward some kind of restriction.

[More](#)



“...Studies have shown that social media usage can lead to poor mental health in teens....”

Funding Gap Between SA Public & Private Schools Grows

The number of SA private schools receiving more public funding than comparable public schools has nearly tripled over the last decade, according to an Education Union report.

The union report – ‘A Decade of Inequity’ – found that school funding was disparate between private and public schools.

This was especially so in SA where nearly half of private schools receive more combined government funding per student than public schools of similar sizes, locations and student needs.

The report found in 2013 there were 32 private schools in SA that received more combined Commonwealth and state government funding than comparable public schools.

In a statement, SA education minister Blair Boyer said he was advocating for further public school funding from the Commonwealth.

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SA Could Be First State To Ban Social Media

Children under the age of 14 will be banned from using social media, and companies could face million-dollar fines if children create accounts, under a new proposal.

Under the plan, children under 14 will be banned from signing up and tech companies will need to gain parental consent before allowing 14 or 15 year olds to use their platforms.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas is urging the states to embrace the plan on Monday, warning “parents are tearing their hair out”.

Comparing social media to selling children cigarettes, he warned that while governments did nothing a generation of Australians were suffering devastating mental health impacts.

Mr Malinauskas said he was concerned that the addictive elements of social media represented “a very deliberate model”.

[More](#)

Teen Motivation Dips In High School

In academic terms, adolescence is a time of major hormonal change and is accompanied by a dip in students’ motivation and engagement at school.

A new 4-year study looks at how teachers can help.

Findings confirm a decline in motivation and engagement from Year 6 to Year 9 (18%).

Research also found in each of these four years, teaching support overall was significantly associated with students’ motivation and engagement.

That is, more teaching support was linked to greater student aspirations, valuing school, perseverance, homework effort, connections with school friends and less misconduct at school.

[Full Story](#)

School Post

Term 3 edition of School Post out next week!



School Approach To Disruptions

Resources promised by the federal government and AERO have been released.

The Classroom Management Professional Learning Resources project is a response to research that found 1 in 3 teachers are losing teaching time due to classroom disruptions that impact student outcomes.

Education Minister Jason Clare said, when he announced the initiative, that he wanted to better prepare initial teachers for the classroom.

“A lot of teachers tell me that when they leave university and jump into the classroom for the first time, they don’t feel as prepared as they should manage a classroom full of students.”

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