



This week's stories from the media

- Aussies don't give in to bullies
- National Spelling Bee Champions
- Australia's spend on private schools highest in OECD
- Free childcare for families on less than \$80k
- Why study drama
- Nurses propose weighing students

National Spelling Bee Champions

After over 70,000 students, three riveting rounds and every state and territory in Australia joining the hive, it's time to meet the national champions of the 2024 PM's Spelling Bee.

The fourth annual Prime Minister's Spelling Bee saw a national final of "firsts". For the first time in the competition's history, no student scored 30/30 in the tough third round – all three new champions scored 29/30.

South Australian students also soared, with the top result produced by First Runner Up Chloe D of St Dominic's Priory College in the Orange level (Years 5-6) category, spelling 28/30 words correctly in 2:44.985.

SA also entered the top 10 in the other two categories: Maaz M of Unley High School took out 8th place in Red with 24/30 in 5:19.217, while Louis U of Lobethal Lutheran School scored 25/30 in 1:39.760 to place 9th in Green.

[Story](#)

Australians Don't Give In To Bullies - PM Takes On Tech Titans

Australia won't be intimidated by tech titans says Anthony Albanese as he pursues world-leading new laws raising the minimum age for social media.

Australia will not "give in" to bullies, says Anthony Albanese as he stares down the tech titans to pursue world-leading new laws raising the minimum age for social media.

The Prime Minister has signalled the federal government was prepared to stand its ground and enforce age limits on social media to protect young Australians from the "serious physical and mental impacts" of platforms like Instagram and TikTok.

"Australians don't give in to bullies – these tech companies think that they're above national sovereignty," he said.

"They think that digital platforms should have more power than citizens do. We are taking action to protect kids and protect Australians, and that is what people want."

Mr Albanese said he was bracing for a fight with the tech giants over his government's commitment to raising the social media age, noting billionaire Elon Musk's X Corp has repeatedly resisted efforts by Australia's eSafety Commissioner to enforce online safety rules.

The PM said social media giants making "massive profits" must accept they have a social responsibility to ensure the safety of children.

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“...Australians don’t give in to bullies – these tech companies think that they’re above national sovereignty....”

Australia's Spend On Private Schools Highest In OECD

The OECD's Education at a Glance report found Australia spends over double the average on private schools.

The report also found teacher pay is higher than other OECD countries, although they work about 100 hours more.

Australia spends 3.3% of its GDP on public primary schools, just above the OECD average of 3.2% of GDP, about \$17,360 per student per year compared to the OECD average of \$17,875.

"PISA data shows schools serving more disadvantaged students tend to suffer from more shortages of education staff than those serving students from more privileged backgrounds, which is concerning, considering the students who most need high-quality learning resources seem to be the ones with the least access to them."

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Free Childcare For Families On Less Than \$80k

Free childcare for families earning less than \$80k key recommendation from inquiry.

Aussie families who can't catch a break and would love access to an essential service will be buoyed by this recommendation.

The federal government should abolish its childcare subsidy activity test and make childcare free for families earning less than \$80,000, the Productivity Commission has found.

The commission has made 56 recommendations for the government to reform early education and after-school care, making it more accessible, inclusive and affordable for all Australian families, including those on low incomes and living in regional and remote areas.

It would mean families on incomes up to \$80,000 or families with children aged under 5 with an income of \$140,000 would receive free childcare.

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Why Study Drama

Parents sometimes ask: what's the point of drama class? Many want their children to choose elective subjects, especially in Year 12, that parents think will help them get into university and establish a career.

So why study drama?

As scholars who have researched drama and learning for 30 years, it's clear studying drama can enhance your teenager's present and contribute to their future.

Drama teaches skills for life, learning and employability.

Many employers want staff who can work well in a team, manage a complicated project from inception to final delivery and speak well in public or to clients.

[Full Story](#)

International Day Of Peace

September 21 is the United Nations day of peace.



Nurses Propose Weighing Students

The Australian College of Nursing wants all school-aged children to have access to a registered nurse to provide guidance on maintaining a healthy weight.

However, many eating disorder experts have expressed concerns that subjecting children to in-school weight management will cause more harm than good.

Butterfly Foundation chief Dr Jim Hungerford said he has seen obesity measures like these backfire before.

28% of all Australian children aged between five and 17 were classified overweight or obese.

In 1995, the proportion of children who were overweight was around 20%.

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