



This week's stories from the media

- Adelaide homeless Crisis costing kids their education
- Students to be taught about social media danger
- Union blocks Clare's funding deal reforms
- Homeschooling reaches 45,000 for the first time
- SA rolls out new Tailored Learning program
- More support for children with Autism

Social Media Danger

Dangers of social media and online safety strategies will be taught to students across the state as part of child safety reforms to the school curriculum.

Premier Peter Malinauskas announced schools will deliver an evidence-based program focused on tackling issues including cyber-bullying, body image, mental health and wellbeing.

Content on coercive control, strategies for detecting deepfakes, understanding AI and the impact of negative online influencers will be added to the curriculum for the first time.

The curriculum, to be delivered from 2025, has also been strengthened and updated to include cyber-bullying, privacy, sextortion and image-based abuse, plus detecting scams and fake news.

"We must do everything we can to protect our children ... The evidence is clear, social media is causing our children harm," he said.

[Story](#)

Adelaide Homeless Crisis Costing Some Kids Their Education

Children as young as eight are missing school because they are living in tents, cars and sheds or sleeping in bathrooms in overcrowded homes.

Advocates say the cost-of-living crisis has created an "epidemic" of child homelessness and school disengagement.

Youth advocates say a growing number of students are missing school because families don't have permanent accommodation, or because they live in cramped or unsafe housing.

Ian Steele from Kickstart for Kids said the cost-of-living crisis meant "more kids than ever" were turning up to his organisation's free breakfasts, some taking home food to feed their families living in cars.

"It's the silent epidemic," he said.

"I've never seen so many kids that are living such a transient lifestyle."

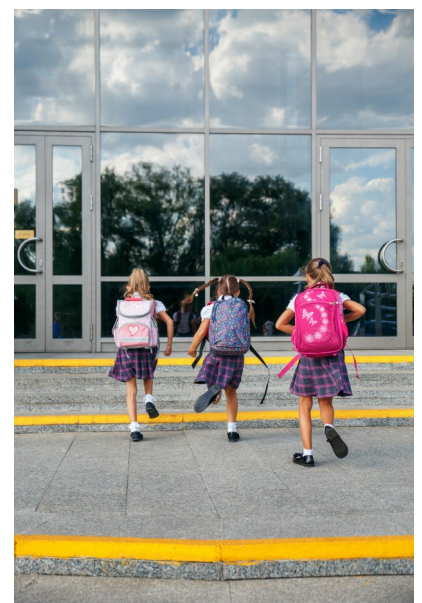
Mr Steele said children living in cars often had poor mental health.

Many felt isolated because they were not able to charge their phones and in some cases were shunned by other students.

One teenage girl told The Advertiser she was living in a backyard shed in an "unsafe suburb" because her home was overcrowded.

She said she was worried a relative could "just kick us out any second".

[More](#)



“...an “epidemic” of child homelessness and school disengagement.”

Union Blocks Clare's Funding Deal Reforms

The AEU issued a nation-wide ban on the implementation of Education Minister Jason Clare's funding deal reforms in public schools.

The Labor government introduced the legislation to remove the funding cap that prohibits the Commonwealth from providing more than 20% of funding to public schools.

However, the union said the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement, Minister Clare's rebranded 10-year National School Reforms Agreement, will be blocked from rolling out until all public schools are funded to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS).

Currently, all public schools in the nation are underfunded, except in the ACT, due to governments striking deals that do not equal 100%.

Minister Clare has offered to lift Commonwealth funding from 20% to 22.5% over 10 years, although the union is calling for the Commonwealth to lift its funding share to 25% in five years.

[More](#)

Homeschooling Reaches 45,000 For The First Time

The number of Australian students being homeschooled has climbed to a new record of more than 45,000.

Numbers exploded over the course of the pandemic and have tipped over the 45,000 mark to 45,858 even with some states still to release their 2024 figures.

Substantive polling by large Australian homeschool provider Euka has found bullying and social issues are the leading cause of kids being taught at home.

A survey of parents teaching their own kids at home found 23% cite bullying as their reason to homeschool, followed by 22% for academic reasons.

Nearly a fifth (18%) say philosophy on education was their impetus, followed by 12% for special needs or individualised learning.

South Australian numbers rose 6%.

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New Tailored Learning Program

Since 2007 FLO has been offered to students struggling because of family difficulties, unstable accommodation, mental health concerns, addiction, pregnancy or parenting.

However, a review in late 2020 found attendance among FLO students was waning and their outcomes were not improving.

It recommended the state government scrap the program, which often sent students off campus, and replace it with a more inclusive, school-based option.

Education Minister Blair Boyer has announced a new Tailored Learning program at all public secondary schools, up from the 85 schools which offered FLO.

[Full Story](#)

World Teachers' Day

Friday October 25



More Support For Autism

Following the initial success of Autism Inclusion Teachers in public primary schools, the SA Government will introduce a new initiative to build autism inclusion in secondary schools.

The pilot will trial three models of support focused on supporting autistic students as they transition to high school.

It is estimated more than 2250 autistic students will transition from public primary schools to public secondary schools over the next three years.

The transition to secondary school can present additional barriers for autistic students as they navigate changes in the school environment including new teachers and peers, movement between classrooms, and greater levels of independence.

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