



Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia

Dear Parent

It has been a tough year for our schooling system. In recent times there has been a significant amount of media attention relating to serious assaults involving school-age children.

I acknowledge the distress caused to the families and the children involved and their school communities.

It is important to remember that these incidents are isolated and rare, but that an assault on any child is unacceptable. As a parent and Premier, I want you to know that I understand how important this matter is and how committed my government is to ensuring all children are safe. I assure you that I will continue to shine a light on the vital issue of child protection.

It is equally important to recognise the good that is done in our schools each and every day.

In South Australia, we have 939 public schools and preschools with 23,200 teachers, principals and support staff - the overwhelming majority of whom always conduct themselves in a caring, professional way. They deliver world-class education.

Retention and attendance rates of our students are at record highs and if South Australia were a country, we would rate ahead of the USA, France, Sweden and Denmark in international rankings for literacy and numeracy. These are things of which we can be incredibly proud.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please contact your school/preschool in the first instance. The Parent Complaint Unit can be contacted at 1800 677 435 and if you remain concerned, the Ombudsman can also look at education matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay Weatherill'.

Jay Weatherill
PREMIER

26 / 11 / 2013