

Secondary entry #1: San Clemente



Clemente Chronicle



Teenagers are texting instead of talking to each other.

Picture: Jordyn Baker

Social media making teens antisocial

By JASPER BURLEY, SAM GARDINER and BLAKE ROBINSON

THE effects of excessive use of technology by teenagers has been proven to have a profound impact on the functions of the brain and body.

University of Western Australia conducted a study and found that when teenagers have more than three hours of screen time a day every day for an extended amount of time the side effects begin to show.

Physical effects for technology include obesity, reduced physical capabilities, poor sleep habits and increased consumption of unhealthy foods.

Side effects for mental health vary, however, these commonly include loneliness, depression, higher anxiety levels, internet addiction, and reduced time with family.

These statistics show that technology has a big part to play in the average teenager's life. This includes less socialising with both family and friends. But the biggest loss is physical activity which can be reduced by as much as 95 per cent.

Using technology during school is affecting teenagers dramatically. The new wave allows laziness with spelling and less thought is put into work.

Teenagers' personal lives are also being affected negatively due to not as much face-to-face and physical contact with parents and friends, prompting shyness and weakening relationships.

By ISABELLA HAWKE, MADISON RAY and YANGKYI SANGPO

LATE last year Christopher Pyne proposed the deregulation of fees in public universities. This motion, put to the Senate by the federal government, has not been passed during this time, but the Labor Party has sworn to scrap the bill completely.

The bill has been put to the Senate twice in the past three months and has been rejected both times. The proposed start date has been set for January 1, 2016.

Without the current caps on fees, the cost for a degree will dramatically spike and could cost future students on average an extra \$80,000.

After being rejected twice it's back to the drawing board for the Coalition and there is no word as to when it will be put to the Senate next, if at all.

A recent survey conducted on the matter discovered that two thirds of the public are against the bill, the dislike being even higher for university graduates with 72 per cent opposed to the new fee changes.

HSC student Abbey Smith said, "I don't want to start off my adult life in debt, simply because I chose higher education. I believe most students in my year hold similar beliefs. People have grown anxious



Madeleine Drummond is weighing up the costs of her future education. Picture: Isabella Hawke

about whether they will be able to afford the future or career they want."

The highest current cap on fees is \$10,266 for a single university year, already hard for families and students struggling financially.

Deregulation will almost certainly increase fees and it could be nearly impossible for some stu-

dents to fund a higher education.

"I am concerned that students from underprivileged families will not be able to afford university, affecting the future of the university as well," said careers adviser, Helen Wilks.

"Towns and cities that have the university as the main source of employment may also be affected."

Experts in education are pushing for a delay to give the government time for greater consideration and allow more notice for future students.

"I hope the new fee deregulation is thrown out, otherwise I may not be able to afford to follow my dreams of going to university," said Madeleine Drummond.



Breakfast Club members Johanna Soo and Tupou Pifeleti serving cereal and toast to primary students.

Picture: Jordyn Baker

Breaking the fast on not eating

By SARAH BRANNIGAN, JORDYN BAKER, SOPHIA CAPONECCHIA and JOHANNA SOO

SAN Clemente and Waratah West Public have been working together for the past two years after the establishment of a Breakfast Club to assist students who were coming to school without eating.

Volunteer students from San Clemente are transported to Waratah every Thursday to help run the program.

"It is a fantastic initiative from both schools and it is a brilliant opportunity for our students to contribute positively to a primary school in our community that is in need of assistance," said Mr Donohoe, assistant principal of San Clemente.

Mrs Sharman, Breakfast Club co-ordinator at San

Clemente, said, "I hope that the Breakfast Club is able to continue being a beneficial program in which students can contribute positively to."

Tupou Pifeleti, year 10 student, was introduced to it by her fellow peers. "This was just a small part of what needs to be contributed for a fair and just society, promoting less prejudice and advocating equality amongst our fellow peers," she said.



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