

ID wanted to start school



SCHOOL OF THOUGHT: Michelle Ongarato, with children Olivia, Will and Ella yesterday, says everyone should be on the same page when it comes to enrolments.

Picture: TRICIA WATKINSON

PRINCIPALS want parents to provide proof of a child's age when enrolling in Reception to coincide with new rules dictating the school starting age.

From 2014, only children who turn five before May 1 will be able to start school that year. Under the policy, which only applies to government schools, children who turn five after May 1 will have to wait until the next year to start Reception - when they could be five years and nine months old. While some schools which

POLITICAL REPORTER

LAUREN NOVAK



are near capacity already ask some parents to prove a child's age, SA Primary Principals Association president Steve Portlock wants the policy made mandatory for all students.

"I think we have got to change the way we enrol students," he said.

"We're going to have to be very strict about the guidelines about May 1."

Mr Portlock said some parents already gave false information about where they lived in order to have their children accepted into a particular school zone. He said they may also provide false information about a child's birth date.

"We'd have to see birth certificates on enrolment," he said. "We couldn't just have parents say when their child's born, there's a fairness part of that."

Opposition education spokesman David Pisoni agreed.

"The Government has made this change without considering the consequences, then obviously they need to make another change to make the presentation of a birth certificate compulsory or enable principals to refuse enrolment until the birth certificate is produced," he said.

Education Minister Grace Portolesi said she had no plans to change the enrolment policy, which does not

require a birth certificate to be presented for enrolment.

"However, I recognise the importance of ensuring the policy is implemented fairly and will continue to consider ways we can improve where necessary," she said.

Stepping Stone Childcare Centre worker and mother of three Karen Rempsey, 38, agreed with the idea of asking for proof of a child's age.

"Once you start making exceptions where do you draw the line," she said. Michelle Ongarato, 39, also sends her three children

to the Kidman Park childcare centre.

"It's not hard to get out a birth certificate," she said. "If anyone's trying to fudge it then everyone should be on the same page."

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Coles stops flow of bowser prices to fuel website

MICHAEL MILNES
TRANSPORT REPORTER

RETAIL giant Coles is refusing to release its daily petrol prices to the RAA fuel-finder website.

The company that supplies the data to RAA said ColesExpress had made a "strategic decision" not to release the information to it.

RAA senior analyst Chris West said the group was disappointed.

"Transparency in fuel pricing is what motorists need to identify where they can access the cheapest price," he said.

"They (ColesExpress) are major competitors and it would have made sense for them to continue to provide their prices as a point of

comparison and try and attract potential customers."

Mr West said retailers, such as ColesExpress, had access to new real-time data that allowed it to see its competitors' prices.

The RAA wants that information available to all motorists.

"That would empower motorists to find the best prices at a time of

their choosing and a location they want," Mr West said.

Yesterday's average metropolitan price for unleaded petrol was 158.3c a litre. That was its highest since October 2008 when the average price was 159.1c a litre.

"Fuel retailers know that 160c a litre is a psychological barrier for motorists," he said.

"We would be encouraging people if they can to hold off until Tuesday next week where we would expect prices to return to the mid-140c a litre range."

The RAA is expecting prices to ease because the regional benchmark price for petrol is falling. ColesExpress did not respond to questions from *The Advertiser*.

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