



## Can you Expel a Family? Dealing with Aggressive Parents in the South Australian Government Education Sector

Hannah Szakacs, Department for Education and Child Development, SA

The South Australian Department for Education and Child Development has seen a steady increase in verbal and physical violence against school staff by parents and other third parties. School leaders routinely find themselves in unsafe and vulnerable situations and front office staff, who are often seen as the face of the school, are regularly subjected to abuse and aggressive behaviour. Social media presents a whole new level of challenges for schools and site leaders in managing parent and third party aggression and threatening behaviours. This presentation will outline the legislative and policy tools used by the Department to manage aggressive parents and third parties. The current legislative framework and policy options will be examined along with a discussion of the proposed legislative amendments being introduced in the South Australian Parliament in 2017.