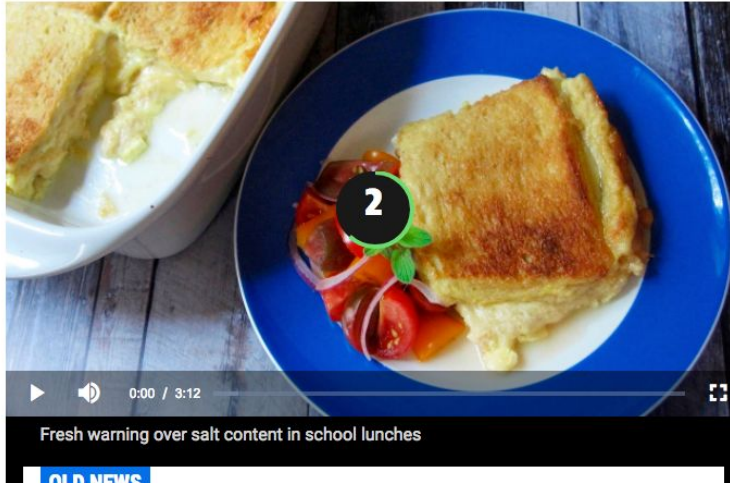


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QLD NEWS

Busy parents skipping out on kids' school milestones

ONE in three Queensland parents miss their children's parent/teacher evenings and more than half do not make it to sports day.

New research reveals the shock number of parents who are skipping important milestones in their children's school life, but most blame the lack of time-efficient, seamless communication with teachers for non-attendance.

More than 50 per cent of parents rely solely on their child to tell them when the next exam is coming up or when it is a dress-up day.

Social commentator Mark McCrindle says that parents are working harder than ever before and at the same time drowning in a flood of permission forms, medical information, diet requirements, sports fixtures and special appointments.



James Hereward with daughter Lucy, 10. Picture: AAP/Steve Pohlner

“Teachers are overloaded, too, and all this leads to a big blockage in communication. I don’t think it is unrealistic to think schools will one day offer the option of FaceTime or teleconference parent/teacher meetings for occasions when parents just can’t make it in person,” Mr McCrindle said.

“I don’t think it would be wise to wipe out face-to-face meetings, but I think more communications could be done through technology. Today parents are expected to be heavily involved in school activities.”

The data was collated through responses from parents to the Skool Loop App.

Brisbane’s James Hereward wants to be fully involved in his daughter Lucy’s schooling, but is often in the dark about what is going on.

“I am separated from my wife and Lucy spends time with us both. That makes it even harder to keep track of the paperwork – permission forms, important exams and homework,” he said.

“It would be so much more simple to just have a list of information arrive in your phone, and permission forms and homework requirements sent direct. That way parents can keep up to date when they have a free moment. But I definitely would still want to meet the teachers in person from time to time.”

Originally published as [Busy parents skipping out on school](#)