



A teacher helps a female pupil.

of life, from the local council through to CEOs of small and large companies.

We also discussed the rise of the number of families without a father's presence in Australia.

Justin Langer's article was spot on. Andrew Wynne also wrote a very good letter about the same subject (30/3).

Male school chaplains in co-ed and boys schools would make a start in rectifying the alarming swing away from men's guidance and advice.

Trevor Sweeting, Palmyra

Get tough, for now

WA is in the midst of a multitude of crises, courtesy of the Cook Labor Government.

While Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti dream up ways of spending big-time on controversial and unwanted projects, West Australians are left to fend for themselves as they navigate an array of homegrown problems.

Social and economic factors have both contributed to a major decline in the health and wellbeing of West Australians, and Cook and his Government have to accept responsibility for this fiasco.

While we all might be struggling in one way or another in this "pick-your-crisis" state of affairs, the serious behavioural issues plaguing our schools today have rocketed beyond anyone's imagination, and therefore deserve special consideration.

Both print and electronic media have, on a daily basis, highlighted the critical nature of this problem in our

education system. We've heard it said many times before that teachers are leaving the profession in droves, but are the education authorities really listening?

The physical and verbal abuse directed at principals and teachers has a knock-on effect elsewhere.

When teachers have reached the end of their tether with no other option but to leave a once-loved job, the teacher's visible absence from the classroom will have a dramatic impact on their students, especially when that absence is a permanent one.

In such a close-knit environment, students often view their teacher as a significant role model, fostering an emotional bond that nourishes both friendship and trust. The long-term student-teacher relationship is vitally important for both the mental and academic development of children.

However, this violent behaviour in our classrooms is not restricted to the school environment, but has its origins elsewhere.

We see this sort of behaviour playing out in the streets, in shopping centres and other public places.

Juvenile delinquency is now endemic in our society, and despite the best efforts by police and judicial authorities, these miscreants are left to run amok in our community.

It was inevitable that this unacceptable behaviour, caused by lack of parental discipline, supervision, and essential boundaries would eventually manifest in our schools.

Suspensions and expulsions offer only a band-aid solution to such violent and disruptive behaviour that threaten the safety and wellbeing of both educators and other students.

While our political leaders contemplate ways of addressing the broader social aspects of this youth problem, a return to former serious disciplinary measures may be the only solution for the time being.

Joe Said, Ellenbrook