

Food for thought

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CHILDREN and Young People Commissioner Helen Connolly has revealed alarming statistics about the number of South Australian children going to school hungry.

Ms Connolly has called for a government-funded program providing breakfast daily to thousands of students to be extended to lunches, arguing it will improve their educational performance and behaviour.

The cost, while not inconsiderable, must be weighed against the benefits, which are significant. Overseas and interstate experience has

shown encouraging results, with students performing and behaving better when they are properly nourished.

The most disturbing aspect of this sad situation is that parents are not providing food to their children, which surely must be one of their prime responsibilities.

Education Minister Blair Boyer should be applauded for committing to investigate Ms Connolly's idea.

State Government coffers are undoubtedly tight, but anything which can be done to provide enough sustenance to help hungry students make it through the school day must be considered.