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## Special Provisions support Year 12s during final exams

Braille, rest breaks, extra writing time and access to a scribe or a word processor – these are some of the options to support Year 12 students to participate in their final exams.

Last year, 920 students undertaking at least one Stage 2 subject were deemed eligible for Special Provisions by the SACE Board.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said the Board's Special Provisions policy ensured students, including those with disabilities, could show what they had learned.

"It's important that all students have the opportunity to participate in exams, demonstrate their learning, and achieve their SACE," Dr McGoran said.

"One of the key principles of the Board's Special Provisions policy is that assistance can be granted to students who demonstrate an inability to participate in, or comply with the requirements and conditions of the examinations.

"Students who have an illness or impairment, physical disability, medical condition, psychological disorder, learning disability or experience an unforeseen incident, such as an accident or family death, can apply.

"The Board works closely with schools and teachers using a functional evidence-based approach to decide eligibility. Last year, 85 per cent of applications were approved.

"However, Special Provisions can't be used to compensate for work that students haven't completed due to matters of their own choosing, or for events and issues that could have been avoided," he said.

In 2013, the top five additional supports granted to students were:

- 1- Rest breaks during examinations
- 2- Separate supervised examination arrangements
- 3- Extra time for reading or writing in examinations
- 4- Extension to submission date for other assessments
- 5- Use of a word processor in examinations

One South Australian student receiving additional support with his studies this year is Trinity College's William Hosking who, at 16, has been accelerated in his studies due to his academic performance. His subjects include Modern History, English Studies, and Mathematical Methods.

William has Friedrich's Ataxia disease, cardiomyopathy, Asperger's syndrome and scoliosis – he uses a wheelchair and is unable to hand-write. William has been granted rest breaks, a scribe, a word processor and extra time during his examinations.