

Hon Susan Close MP

Minister for Education

Hon Kyam Maher MLC

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Aboriginal Student Pathways – leading the way to a successful future

About 140 Aboriginal students from across South Australia will attend today's Aboriginal Student Pathways Conference to explore future study, training and job options.

This year's conference is an opportunity for Year 10, 11, and 12 students to hear from past students and guest presenters and attend workshops. They will also meet with representatives from universities, TAFE and various industries, ranging from paramedics, game development, nanotechnology and visual effects.

The theme of this year's conference is Respect Your Place: Value Our Future.

The event – which is being officially opened by Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Kyam Maher - is being held at Tonsley and hosted by Flinders University.

Background

In 2016, a record number of Aboriginal students successfully completed their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). Also last year, the renewed SACE Board Aboriginal Education Strategy (2017-2021) was released.

Since the introduction of the new SACE in 2011, there has been an average 20 per cent year-on-year increase in the number of Aboriginal SACE completers.

The Aboriginal Student Pathways Conference continues to be an important way to promote high aspirations for Aboriginal students and allow students to investigate how they can achieve their own goals.

Quotes attributable to Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close

It's pleasing to see more Aboriginal students completing their SACE. The conference is an important way for secondary schools, universities and TAFE to engage with students and families on guidance and support to help young Aboriginal people plan their career and study pathways.

Quotes attributable to Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Kyam Maher

Each education sector is united by a commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of Aboriginal students. This conference encourages young Aboriginal people to persevere to complete their SACE, and seek education and training beyond school, while respecting Aboriginal culture and identity.

Quotes attributable to Chief Executive of the SACE Board Dr Neil McGoran

The Aboriginal Student Pathways Conference aims to develop the strengths and capabilities of young Aboriginal students in the SACE, and supports students to position themselves for the future, and for careers in an ever-changing world.