

Wednesday 21 December 2016

South Australia's country students set new SACE completion records

A record 3995 South Australian country students are celebrating their completion of the SACE (South Australian Certificate of Education) this year – 162 students more than in 2015.

SACE data released shows an increase in the number of country students:

- undertaking VET (vocational education and training) in the SACE (2151 students – 212 more than in 2015)
- receiving merit certificates (119 students – six more than in 2015).

In addition, compared with last year, more Aboriginal students across South Australia have completed their SACE. In 2016, 319 Aboriginal students (24 more than in 2015) achieved their SACE, with 113 coming from country areas (three more than in 2015).

Six country students were also among the 27 named as Governor of South Australia Commendation recipients.

The Governor of South Australia Commendation recognises outstanding achievement in Year 12 subjects and in the qualities young people need for community life, citizenship, and work.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said the updated SACE is more rigorous than the previous certificate was – with students required to meet defined literacy and numeracy standards.

“Having an increasing number of students complete Year 12 is a very pleasing result. These students have a globally recognised qualification that equips them with critical thinking skills that they need to succeed in the workplace, for further study if they choose that path, and as citizens,” Dr McGoran said.

Dr McGoran said the SACE Board will continue to support rural and regional school communities to build upon the gains in student success, to assist students to complete this critical milestone in their education.

“We will work closely with schools to build upon this progress from the past six years. The next five years are a critical opportunity to innovate through renewed curriculum and digital assessment, to enable our young people to continue to meet the challenges of tomorrow.”

Governor of South Australia Commendation recipients from country SA

Chelsea Brooks – Beachport

Chelsea is a CFS volunteer and has been involved in rescue and fire situations. She enjoys Highland dancing and Tae Kwon Do, where she has represented Australia in the World Championships in Italy. Apart from her studies and personal interests, Chelsea works part time at a local restaurant.

Jack Armfield – Kingston

Jack achieved 1 subject Merit in Mathematical Applications. He has involved himself in school and community activities during his senior school years, including vice-presidency of the SRC, and leadership in community and school sporting groups. Jack is captain of the Kingston Cricket Club A grade team. Jack has won numerous awards for sport, including the Kowree-Naracoorte Football League Under 17 Best and Fairest and the Scott MacFarlane Memorial Medal for the Glenelg Football Club's SANFL Youth Championship.

Joshua Smith – Farrell Flat

Joshua achieved 5 subject Merits, in Mathematical Applications, Research Project B, Mathematical Studies, Accounting, and Chemistry.

Madeline Hegarty – Greenock

Madeline achieved 2 subject Merits, in Research Project and Psychology. She was awarded an Honourable Award for the 2016 Children's Week Minister for Education and Child Development Awards, and the Lions Club of the Barossa Valley Coulthard Prize for all-round academic success. She also won the overall Student Citizenship Award for South Australia, and has participated in many fundraising activities. Madeline is passionate about sustainability and the environment, and was a finalist in the Conservation Council of SA Young Achiever Awards, and the Channel 9 Young Achievers Flinders Ports Environmental Award. In addition to her SACE studies, Madeline works at a local supermarket, and has completed a barista course at TAFE.

Ronald Bromley – Berri

Ronald will be awarded the Governor of South Australia Commendation – Excellence in Modified SACE Award. This commendation is awarded to a student with identified intellectual disabilities, who demonstrates outstanding achievement through SACE modified subjects.

Victoria Kitschke – Mount Gambier

Victoria has organised to participate in a yLead immersion to Tanzania. Outside school Victoria has completed her AUSTSWIM swimming instructor certificate, and is involved in regular youth masses in the local parish. She is also involved in local sporting clubs – she coaches younger players in netball and organised a fundraising dinner for a local tennis club. Victoria works part time as a swimming instructor and a waiter.