Research Project Clarifying Forum

****Introduction****

**Hi my name’s Luke, I’m a Curriculum Officer at the SACE Board of South Australia.**

**Welcome to this online multimedia Clarifying Forum.**

**The purpose of clarifying is to develop an understanding of the standards, so in this example it will be developing an understanding of the standards in Research Project A and Research Project B.**

**Just reading the performance standards won’t enable you to get a full understanding of the standards, so it is important that we actually look at the performance standard in relation to student work to develop a full and complete understanding of the standards.**

**This video will be constructed in parts and it is encouraged that you will look at the work available, which is available on our website. Familiarise yourself with that work and then work your way through the little tutorials or the little videos that we have prepared for you, in order for you to develop an better understanding or a full understanding of the standards in relation to Research Project.**

**When viewing the work, it is important to understand that the work you are looking at is actual student work from actual students and the work itself is designed to be used in the context that they are for training purposes. These are not exemplars, so this is actual work to illustrate the actual standard and our discussions around the work shouldn’t include things like how neat it is, or whether it has come from a particular type of student or particular school or anything like that. It is about the evidence against the standard and our discussions will be focusing upon that.**

**So although the work may look different to work you would normally expect in your school, it is important to understand that work can look different in all sorts of different ways and it’s important to be able to separate your understanding from that and look at the work on face value in relation to the performance standards.**

**When preparing to teach the Research Project, it is important that you familiarise yourself with the documentation which is available on the Research Project minisite. For example, the Chief Assessor’s report is a vital document in order to look at some improvement advice written by Chief Assessors. So when we do our quality assurance processes throughout the year – both the marking process and the moderation process – we ask for some feedback from our markers and moderators and that feedback is recorded in this document so this is an improvement advice document, which I encourage you to familiarise yourself with.**

**This year has been the introduction of two distinct codes Research Project A and Research Project B, now there is a separate subject outline for both subjects. So it is really important that we consider these subjects as separate subjects, so just like we have Biology and Scientific Studies we have Research Project A and Research Project B. Although a lot of the criteria and the course work – the school assessed work – is the same, the external assessment is very different. From our perspective here at the SACE Board we consider them as separate subjects and therefore you should think of them as separate subjects as well, which means they will have different results. So you will result them separately, you will package them separately and you will enrol them separately.**

**So it’s important to understand when counselling students having a last minute swap from one to the other may impact on that student’s ability to be successful in the one they have swapped to, because of the change or the difference in criteria particularly around the external assessment.**

**The other thing to consider is that when packaging for moderation that you don’t include work for Research Project A in the same bag as work for Research Project B. This could lead to confusion and it could lead to a student’s work not being looked at as thoroughly as it deserves to be.**

**The last piece of information which is very, very important for teachers is the operational information. This can be found on the subject minisite, on the SACE Board website. The Research Project minisite is a vital piece of information, because it gives clear guidance as regards to the packaging and submission dates required for both Research Project A and Research Project B.**

**My colleague Bob who we will meet shortly, will be talking about the folio and the requirements around the 10 pages, that information is clearly stated in this document, so it is important that teachers and students and are familiar with this document, both in regards to when work is due, but also in regards to the folio, how that work should be presented.**