

Minister Susan Close

Minister for Education and Child Development

Tuesday, 15 December 2015

Records tumble as SACE students celebrate Year 12 results

A record 14,594 South Australian students will receive their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) today – an increase of 544 over last year.

The proportion of Year 12 students successfully achieving the SACE was also a record high, rising from 94.5 per cent in 2014 to 96 per cent.

Some of the State's top overall students – recipients of the Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation – will meet Education Minister Susan Close at Adelaide Oval this afternoon to celebrate their achievements.

Dr Close said it was inspiring to see so many young South Australians excel in their Year 12 studies.

“Through completing the SACE, these students have achieved a high quality, globally recognised qualification that equips them with the skills – including critical thinking and problem-solving – that they will need to succeed in the workplace, further study and the broader community,” Dr Close said.

This is the fifth group of students to undertake the updated SACE, introduced in 2011.

“Since then, the qualification has been successful in improving excellence and equity among students, with more achieving merits in their subjects, many more going on to tertiary studies and historic rises in achievement among disadvantaged groups,” she said.

The number of students who have achieved the SACE this year would fill the Riverbank Stand or the Western Stand at the newly renovated Adelaide Oval – while the total number of students who have achieved the qualification since 2011 - more than 68,000 - would fill the ground to overflowing.

Other new benchmarks set by the ‘Class of 2015’ include:

- The number of students to achieve Subject Merits was 920 compared to 874 the previous year.
- 1,541 students achieved a Certificate III VET qualification while achieving their SACE – compared to 1,262 the previous year.
- 5,945 students completed their SACE with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) component, compared to 5,728 last year.
- 292 Aboriginal students completed their SACE – the most ever – up from 253 in 2014.
- The total number of students who gained an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank for entry into universities was 11,874 – up from 11,741 in 2014.

“It’s encouraging to see more students completing their schooling with job-ready vocational qualifications, as well as meeting SACE literacy and numeracy requirements,” Dr Close said.

“Importantly, teachers and school communities across the State are to be commended for supporting students to reach their personal goals during what can be a challenging year.

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This year, for the first time, the SACE Board separated printed and electronic information to allow students earlier access to their results.

“This will ensure students receive their results as early as possible, providing more time for them, their families, and schools to access any necessary support and clarification prior to Christmas,” said SACE Board Chief Executive Neil McGoran.

“For those who did not reach their personal goals, I urge them to take comfort in the fact there are other opportunities to pursue their study goals,” he said.

Results will be available online from 8.30am on Tuesday 15 December on the SACE website at www.sace.sa.edu.au – students are scheduled to receive hard copies of their results documents by the end of this week (Friday 18 December).

Further information and support relating to SACE results is available on the SACE website. Specific queries can be answered via the SACE Board’s Results Enquiry Line on (08) 8373 0599 or for country students on 1800 652 230.

SACE Results 2015: At a Glance

- 14,594 students achieved their SACE in 2015 – compared to 14,050 last year – an increase of 544 students.
- The overall completion rate (students who complete the SACE as a proportion of those attempting to complete) increased from 94.5 per cent in 2014 to 96 per cent this year.
- 292 Aboriginal students completed their SACE – the most ever – up from 253 in 2014.
- A record number of students completed the SACE who studied at least one modified subject – 219 compared to 128 last year.
- A record 219 students, who studied modified subjects, completed the SACE in 2015, compared to 128 last year.
- The number of Merits awarded for subjects was 1232, versus 1173 for 2014. The number of students to achieve at least one Merit was 920 compared to 874 the previous year.
- The total number of students who gained an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank for entry into universities was up from 11,741 in 2014 to 11,874 this year.
- Of the students who completed their SACE, 6859 were male and 7735 were female in comparison to 6470 and 7580 respectively in 2014.
- 5,945 students completed their SACE with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) component, compared to 5,728 last year.
- 1,541 students achieved a Certificate III VET qualification while achieving their SACE – compared to 1,262 the previous year.
- The total number of students receiving a TAFE SA selection score has risen from 12,838 in 2014 to 13,247 this year.
- 27 students to receive Governor of South Australia Commendations – including 11 for ‘A+ with Merit’ grades in five or more subjects including the Research Project.

Figures for 2015 are provisional figures as at December 2015 and are subject to final clerical changes in February 2016. Figures for 2014 are the final figures as at February 2015.