

## Co-constructing SACE solutions during COVID-19 pandemic

**Monday 27 April 2020**

**A total of 22 SACE subjects have today been modified to help support teachers deliver learning to students during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

The SACE Board has worked in partnership with teachers to co-construct modifications to specific subjects, particularly with school-based assessments that make up 70% of a student's assessed work. Modifications include providing teachers with the option of reducing an assessment task, while still assessing the students' full range of knowledge and skills.

An initial 13 SACE subjects were also modified at the end of Term 1.

SACE Board Chief Executive Professor Martin Westwell said the subject modifications would help schools to honour the learning for students.

"Think about the challenge we had – we wanted to look at all of the subjects available in the SACE and get the balance right between providing enough flexibility so students could continue learning, and keeping the promise of the SACE, that students will learn knowledge, skills and capabilities through their subjects. All this had to be done in time for the new school term," Professor Westwell said.

"We have worked with over 1,000 teachers to understand the challenges they were facing and to listen to their professional judgement about what extra flexibility might be required. We also had to ensure that whatever temporary modifications we make would be fair, and not compromise the rigorous and challenging assessment.

"We are still assessing the students' full range of knowledge and skills, but trusting teachers' professional judgement and providing them with the flexibility to reduce an assessment task, should they need to.

"These modifications released today have been through that process and have been approved by a special COVID-19 Response Committee formed by the SACE Board.

"We will continue to work with schools and teachers to ensure we navigate the challenges we face as a result of COVID-19 and that we can honour the promise we made to students undertaking their SACE. These modifications will provide students with different ways to demonstrate what they have learned.

"In all other subjects, we have provided statements about using the existing flexibilities within the subject, while still honouring the learning intent and maintaining the cognitive demand of the subject.

"The teaching community in South Australia and the Northern Territory have been absolutely fantastic, with each subject community working with the SACE Board to come up with solutions of how school-based assessments can be effectively undertaken in this current climate. Their input has been invaluable and has helped to inform the changes to specific subject outlines."

Professor Westwell said that end-of-year exams would still take place, with a final scheduling decision due to be made in the middle of this year.

"Our intention is that exams will occur as usual but we want to see how the school year progresses in the current COVID-19 climate, as well as ensuring there is national consistency to the timing of end-of-year exams.

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“My message to students is to continue the learning and know that your school and the SACE Board are working together to ensure that you can show the world what you know through your studies.

“There will be clear pathways for students to transition to their next step, whether it be university, TAFE, apprenticeships or another pathway.”

The subject outline changes can be found on the COVID-19 readiness portal on the [SACE website](#).

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