

Minister Susan Close

Minister for Education and Child Development

Monday, 21 December 2015

South Australia's country students set new SACE records

A record 3819 country students have achieved their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) – an increase of 116 over the previous year.

Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close said nine country students were also among the 28 South Australians named as Governor of South Australia Commendation recipients.

"It's exciting to see so many country students setting new levels of excellence in their studies this year, and they all deserve to be extremely proud of their efforts.

"Importantly, I also commend teachers and school communities for supporting students through what can be a demanding year and helping them to fulfil their personal goals," Dr Close said.

"The SACE is a high quality, internationally-recognised qualification that provides students with the skills to successfully live, work and pursue further study pathways in their communities and beyond."

In addition, 292 Aboriginal students – the highest number ever – completed their SACE across the State, with 110 coming from country areas.

"When it comes to completing the SACE, closing the gap among indigenous students is one of our priorities and, while there is more to do, it is heartening to see a record number rising to the challenge, with the support of their communities," Dr Close said.

The nine country students who received the Governor of South Australia Commendation include the Aboriginal Student SACE Award winner, Arabella Hart, of Victor Harbor, and the Excellence in Modified SACE Award winner, Katrina Arnold, of Meadows.

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.

"These students have excelled, both in their SACE studies and in the SACE capabilities of communication, learning, personal development, citizenship, and work. They are to be commended for their outstanding achievements," said SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran.

The other seven students from country areas that received commendations are: Amy Badenoch (Mount Gambier), Ella Graham (Melrose), Jonah Hansen (Loxton), Jade Maiden (Mount Gambier), Abby Moore (Tanunda), Elisa Prior (Hamilton), and Ricky Stocker-Johns (Glossop).

"While achieving the SACE signals the end of the high school journey, it is the beginning of a new world of career and study opportunities for our State's young people," Dr McGoran said.

Further information and support relating to SACE results is available on the SACE website, and in an information booklet included in results envelopes. For country students, specific queries can be answered via the Results Enquiry Line on **1800 652 230**.

Media contact: Tanalee Smith – 0408 377 584 / Daniel Dew (SACE) 0448 671 050

Governor of South Australia Commendation recipients from Country SA:

Amy Badenoch - Mount Gambier

Amy achieved 5 subject Merits, in Accounting, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and the Research Project.

Ella Graham - Melrose

Ella achieved 3 subject Merits, in Society and Culture, English Communications and the Research Project. Ella was awarded the Booleroo Medical Centre Student of the Year Award, recognising her outstanding academic and extra-curricular ability, cooperation and courtesy. She is an exceptional writer and was a winner of the ABC Heywire Competition. She also won the Premier's Natural Resources Management Award and was shortlisted in the Channel 9 Young Achievers Award. Ella will be travelling to Malawi as a volunteer teacher for a 4-month period next year.

Jonah Hansen - Loxton

Jonah received 2 subject Merits, in Specialist Mathematics and Physics. Jonah is a recipient of the prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship to study at Australian National University in 2016. He was one of only three students to represent Australia at the international Youth Science Forum in Heidelberg, and in 2015 made the semi-finals of Rostrum. A keen musician, Jonah performs at many local musical events, participates in Cub Scouts, tennis and hockey. He also fundraises and volunteers for Rotary.

Jade Maiden - Mount Gambier

Jade achieved a subject Merit in the Research Project. Last year, she was awarded a Student Citizenship Award from the Order of Australia Association (SA branch). Jade organised a family fun day and a number of events to raise money for Destiny Rescue, an organisation that fights child slavery and trafficking. She won the 2015 Indigenous Young Achiever of the Year Award, the 2015 Young Citizen of the Year by the Mount Gambier City Council and was nominated for the Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year award.

Abby Moore - Tanunda

Abby achieved 3 subject Merits, in Chemistry, Mathematical Studies and the Research Project. Abby was the recipient of the Caltex All-Rounder award in 2015. She plays netball and tennis, and coached a team in the local senior night tennis competition. In addition to her studies, Abby works part-time assisting local caterers at catering events and volunteers at a local nursing home. She is also a talent musician, performing as a guest piano soloist at a number of local events.

Elisa Prior - Hamilton

Elisa achieved 2 subject Merits, in English Communications and the Research Project. Since falling ill with Chronic Fatigue in Year 8, Elise has been unable to experience life as a typical teenager. Although unable to attend school on a full-time basis, she has worked hard to achieve outstanding results and to set achievable goals for herself. While in Year 11, Elise was instrumental in raising funds to organise two guest speakers to come to the school and raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol-fuelled violence and ways for students to protect themselves and their friends.

Ricky Stocker-Johns - Glossop

Ricky has been part of the Youth Reference Group for Headspace, helping the group to understand how to best meet the needs of youth in the Riverland. He assists with the Riding for the Disabled Association of the Riverland by caring for and feeding five horses at all times of the day and night. Ricky wants to continue to serve the community, hoping to get into medicine.

Arabella Hart -Victor Harbor (Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Award)

Arabella is the highest overall Aboriginal achiever in the SACE. This year Arabella achieved subject Merits in Chemistry and English Communications.

Katrina Arnold - Meadows (Governor of South Australia Commendation – Excellence in Modified SACE Award)

Katrina is the highest overall Modified Subjects achiever in the SACE after successfully completing Business and Enterprise, English Pathways, Health, Mathematics Pathways and the Research Project.