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Budding historian recognised as highest Aboriginal achiever in the SACE

A budding historian is this year's recipient of the Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Award.

The award recognises Jade Pass as the highest overall Aboriginal achiever in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) in 2012.

Jade achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 98.4, and she now hopes to study archaeology and anthropology in the United Kingdom next year.

Jade was completely taken aback when she received her results, and surprised and excited to hear that she is the highest Aboriginal achiever in the SACE this year.

“I wasn't expecting such good results. It's exciting to think that the world is now my oyster,” she said.

“This is even more amazing given that my great grandmother didn't have the chance to go to school.”

Jade's mother's family come from the Alice Springs region and Jade hopes to return to the area to learn more about Indigenous communities after she has completed her tertiary studies.

This year 84.5 per cent of Aboriginal students who started Year 12 went on to complete their SACE, an increase from 84.3 per cent in 2011.

A total of 180 Aboriginal students achieved their SACE this year – the highest on record.

In addition, 56.1 per cent of Aboriginal SACE completers gained an ATAR; 78.9 per cent achieved a TAFE score.

SACE Board Chief Executive Dr Paul Kilvert said it is encouraging to see an increasing number of Aboriginal students completing their SACE, and to see students like Jade achieving such good results.

“Jade is to be congratulated on her achievement, and I hope that her excellent results and the Aboriginal Student SACE Award will enable her to follow her passions.”

Jade will receive her Commendation at the SACE Merit Ceremony on 12 February 2013.