

Tuesday 20 December 2016

Number of Aboriginal students completing SACE rises to record level

A record 319 Aboriginal students successfully completed their SACE – the most ever – up from 295 in 2015.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, was delighted that the number of Aboriginal students completing senior secondary school had more than doubled since 2011 (when 144 Aboriginal students completed their SACE).

Dr McGoran said this result shows very pleasing progress.

“Completing Year 12 is one of the most significant factors helping young people access personal career goals, including employment and further education,” he said.

“Encouraging young people to focus on education is an important way to drive social and economic prosperity in our communities. I congratulate each student on this achievement, and I commend families and schools for being supportive to allow these students to realise their potential.”

The new benchmarks for Aboriginal students in 2016 are:

- 155 students receiving an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) – the most ever
- 217 students receiving a TAFE SA Selection Score – a record high.

The Aboriginal student with the best overall performance in the SACE this year will receive the Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Award at an official ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

This year the award goes to India Shackleford, of Warradale.

India received the highest ATAR of 98.75. Her Stage 2 subjects were Physics, Specialist Mathematics, Mathematical Studies, Ensemble Performance, English Studies, Chemistry, and Research Project B (for which she achieved a merit). India is a keen soccer player, and is a member of the school concert band and flute and wind ensembles. As part of her busy time at school, she participated in an exchange to Japan, after-school Aboriginal painting workshops, was a guest announcer on the youth radio show 'Arch D Radio', and had a short story published. India also worked part time at a local supermarket.

India wants to study forensic chemistry at Flinders University next year and advises young Aboriginal students that the key to success is persistence: “Keep on doing your best, even if you encounter challenges and setbacks through the year,” she said.

Dr McGoran said in 2017 the SACE Board will launch the SACE Board Aboriginal Education Strategy 2017–2021 to support the increase in young Aboriginal people completing their senior secondary education. The strategy, to be launched with principals and leaders in March 2017, will support young Aboriginal students to develop essential capabilities to succeed in an ever changing world while maintaining their cultural identity.