

Revitalising the Research Project

Monday 4 March 2019

The Research Project will be revitalised by the SACE Board as part of a suite of planned changes in response to the independent review of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

The current Research Project will be replaced with a new compulsory 10 credit Research Project that students would need to complete at either Stage 1 or Stage 2.

Students may choose to take their research further through an optional 20 credit Research Project subject at Stage 2.

Students who undertake the Stage 1 Research Project subject would need a minimum of 70 credits at Stage 2 to complete their SACE.

SACE Board Chief Executive Professor Martin Westwell reaffirmed the SACE Board's commitment to the value of the Research Project, but recognised the current subject has to change.

"While we have received significant correspondence from schools and teachers who recognise how valuable the Research Project is for our students, we know from the findings of the SACE review that the current subject is not universally valued and needs to change," Professor Westwell said.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to revitalise the Research Project and further develop students' entitlement to obtain the skills they learn through the Research Project, which will help them for their future work, life and further study.

"This change will allow schools to move the Research Project to Stage 1 or retain it in Stage 2 in response to the perceived educational needs of their students."

A dedicated team will work with the South Australian schooling sectors and interstate partners to develop the new Research Project subject.

"We want to make sure that the new Research Project is world-leading but also achievable for schools to deliver to their students," Professor Westwell said.

"Subject to State Government funding, our plan is to develop a pilot Research Project by 2020 that will be taught by a number of early adopters.

"The next step will be ensuring all schools are ready to teach the new subject by 2022 through a staged rollout across the system. We will support all teachers to teach the new Research Project through professional learning, and make sure they are ready to teach the new subject to their students by the time the new subject is rolled out."

Other responses to the review include:

- exploring the feasibility of an Industry Framework Subject that will create opportunities for students to learn about emerging industries in South Australia such as cybersecurity and the space industry
- developing entrepreneurial thinking within SACE subjects
- continuing to promote the importance of Vocational Education and Training (VET) or learning through School Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships (SBATs) to students.

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