

22 December 2015

## Aboriginal students set new benchmarks in their Year 12 studies

A record 292 Aboriginal students completed their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) this year – a 15 per cent increase on 2014 – with Indigenous students also setting new benchmarks in other key areas.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, extended his congratulations to all the Aboriginal students who successfully completed their SACE this year, as well as the communities that supported them throughout their schooling careers to reach their personal goals.

“The successful completion of Year 12 is one of the most significant factors in helping young people access further education, employment and their associated benefits, such as social inclusion and better health outcomes,” Dr McGoran said.

“The SACE Board is committed to ensuring all young Aboriginal South Australians are given every opportunity to reach their full potential. Since the updated SACE was introduced in 2011, the number of Aboriginal completers has more than doubled.

“The ‘Class of 2015’ has every reason to be proud of their achievements, and we are inspired by their drive and determination. We also recognise there is more to do and we will continue to work closely with communities and schools to ensure more Indigenous students attain their personal goals,” Dr McGoran said.

Other areas of achievement for Indigenous students in 2015 are:

- A record SACE completion rate – 93 per cent – up from 90.6 per cent in 2014
- 140 students receiving an ATAR – the most ever
- 194 students achieving a TAFE SA Selection Score – a new record high
- An equal-record four students receiving merits for their subjects

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 in February 2016.

This year, the award goes to Arabella Hart of Victor Harbor, who received merits in Chemistry and English Communications, and also studied Physics, Psychology, Mathematical Studies, and Research Project B.

Arabella said she is planning to study a Bachelor of Science (Advanced) at the University of Adelaide next year.

“Initially, I’m going to keep my options broad in the science field to see which areas interest me the most, but ultimately I would like a career in research,” Arabella said.

As for students undertaking Year 12 next year, Arabella advises: “Definitely ask questions - keep the lines of communication open with your teachers - and try and develop a greater understanding of your subjects and the concepts. And do your best, then you will be happy with the end result regardless.”