

Record number of Aboriginal students on a tertiary or TAFE pathway

Tuesday 18 December 2018

More South Australian Aboriginal students than ever before are on a tertiary entrance or TAFE pathway, according to today's SACE results.

This year a record 174 Aboriginal students are receiving an ATAR while 230 students have a TAFE selection score – the highest number since records began in 2011.

A total of 364 students who started their Personal Learning Plan (PLP) in 2016 went on to complete their SACE this year – which represents a 55.7% completion rate.

SACE Board Chief Executive Professor Martin Westwell congratulated all Aboriginal students for completing their SACE but said significant work was ahead to increase the SACE completion rate for Aboriginal students.

"Today is a real day of celebration for all 364 students who have completed their SACE, all their hard work and persistence has really paid off," Professor Westwell said.

"For the first time, more than half of Aboriginal students who started their PLP are going on to complete their SACE and more students than ever before are achieving an ATAR score or TAFE selection score.

"We are slowly but surely tipping the scales towards more Aboriginal students achieving their SACE.

"But through the SACE Board Aboriginal Education Strategy 2017–2021, we are committed to continuously trying to close this gap so that every Aboriginal student who starts their secondary studies is leaving school with this valuable qualification.

"The SACE sets up students to develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities to succeed in whichever pathway suits them, whether it's university, TAFE, or employment."

Tobias Turner has become the first male to receive the Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Excellence Award. The 18-year-old from Tatachilla Lutheran College has also been awarded the Governor of South Australia Excellence Award.

Tobias will receive both commendations at an official ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 5 February 2019.

Tobias played a key leadership role in the development of the College's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community policies and practices. He was also a mentor, supporting students and staff regarding Aboriginal perspectives within the community, curriculum and the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee.

He has represented and worked alongside his community at a local and state level, including being part of a group who worked with the Government to explore the creation of a Kurna Cultural Centre at Belair National Park.

He also works with a language group who have promoted the Kurna language and have been involved in consultation across sectors regarding appropriate use, spelling and signage of language.

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