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New SACE website engineered to better meet mobile needs of SA students

To more effectively meet the online needs of South Australian students, families and teachers, the SACE Board has significantly upgraded its website.

Among the improvements, the website - www.sace.sa.edu.au - is now more responsive to mobile devices featuring touch-friendly menus and layouts to make it accessible anywhere, anytime.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said the upgrade keeps pace with current and future demand in smartphone and tablet usage.

“The uptrend in people using mobile devices to access online information was clearly illustrated during the release of SACE results last month,” Dr McGoran said.

On the day Year 12 results were released, 13,740 people accessed the SACE website via a smartphone or tablet - compared to 3167 in 2011 - a 334 per cent increase.

Other improvements include the availability of a dedicated *Students* section, which can be accessed from the homepage, to make it easier for families and students to find relevant information about the SACE process and subjects.

In addition, as a result of the upgrade:

- The website is quicker and easier to navigate via a streamlined menu structure and a ‘mega menu’ that provides one-click access to many more pages.
- Important content has been made more prominent.
- Web content and hundreds of documents have been updated for improved accessibility, for people with disabilities and those using assistive technologies.

Apart from the improved responsiveness for mobile devices, the website, which is visited about 800,000 times each year with about 3.5 million page views, has also been designed to be quicker and more intuitive to use on desktop computers.

“Teachers and students were consulted as part of the upgrade, and overwhelmingly they report that the new-look website is more intuitive to use. Feedback from schools is that the site is actually quicker and easier to use on desktop computers, as well as on tablets and smartphones,” Dr McGoran said.

“Importantly, the improvements are in line with the SACE Board’s commitment to using digital and online innovations to benefit teachers’ work and use of time. They also reflect the Board’s priority in streamlining the way we work with and support teachers and schools.

“The new *Schools* section featuring direct access to updated 2015 operational information and the online calendar will prove particularly helpful for school teachers and leaders,” he added.