

19 December 2017

## Record rise in Aboriginal students completing SACE

**The number of Aboriginal students completing their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) has risen for the seventh consecutive year – with a record 377 students completing senior secondary school.**

The proportion of Year 12 Aboriginal students successfully achieving their SACE increased to 96.4 per cent in 2017, compared to 84.3 per cent in 2011 when the new SACE was introduced.

A snapshot of achievements for South Australia's Aboriginal students in 2017 includes:

- More Aboriginal students completed their SACE (377 students – 58 more than 2016)
- 167 students receiving an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) – the most ever
- 227 students receiving a TAFE SA Selection Score – a record high.

SACE Board of South Australia Acting Chief Executive Jan Raymond congratulated the academic achievements of this year's Aboriginal students.

"It's extremely positive that we have had the single biggest increase in the number of Aboriginal students completing their SACE," Ms Raymond said.

"The SACE is supporting young Aboriginal students to develop the essential capabilities to succeed in an ever-changing world, while maintaining their cultural identity.

"This year we launched the [SACE Board Aboriginal Education Strategy 2017–2021](#), where we are continuing to work with a range of sectors to support more Aboriginal students to complete the SACE.

"We also saw 140 Aboriginal students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from across South Australia attend the Aboriginal Student Pathways Conference to explore higher education, training and job options."

The Aboriginal student with the best overall performance in the SACE and demonstrated excellence against one or more of the capabilities this year will receive the Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Excellence Award at an official ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 6 February 2018.

This year the award goes to Laura Montague from Wilderness School. Her Stage 2 subjects were the Research Project, Society and Culture, General Mathematics, Legal Studies, English Literary Studies, and Biology.

Laura will also receive a Governor of South Australia Commendation — Excellence Award.

Laura led her school community in a genuine and respectful way to raise awareness of the importance of reconciliation.

This led to the installation of a new flag pole and the raising of the Aboriginal flag at the school for the first time in the 133-year history of the school.

Laura has competed in rowing, lacrosse, netball, football and soccer. She demonstrated her commitment to her own personal development when she successfully applied and took part in four Indigenous Programs during her school holidays.

The courses included the UniNSW Winter Law Program, work experience in a government program run by the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation in Canberra, Bunga Barrabugu Summer School at Sydney University, and the Indigenous Engineering Summer School at Sydney University.