

News Release Minister Jennifer Rankine

Minister for Education and Child Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

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Modified SACE awards for two outstanding students

Two students who achieved great success while studying modified SACE subjects will today receive an award from the Minister for Education and Child Development Jennifer Rankine.

Ms Rankine will present the SACE Excellence in Modified Subjects Award to Matthew Kilworth from Gawler High School and Nicolas Willson Jones from Clare High School.

Both students live with an intellectual disability and undertook modified subjects in 2012.

Ms Rankine said South Australia is the only State where students living with intellectual disabilities can access the same senior secondary certificate, through modified subjects.

Last year 105 students completed their SACE by studying at least one modified subject.

“This empowers students to develop their capabilities. Matthew and Nicolas have both demonstrated outstanding achievements.”

Matthew gained his learners’ driving permit, and undertook a Red Cross First Aid Course, while completing his SACE at Gawler High School last year.

“He continually strives for greater independent living and is confidently planning his future.

“Nicolas has demonstrated excellence in his SACE while being involved in many community and school-based events. People who know Nicolas say his greatest strength is his ability to talk to anyone.

“This has enabled him to develop a network of community support which will help him become independent and successful after leaving school.

“I wish both Nicolas and Matthew well as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.”

Disabilities Minister Tony Piccolo said it is important people living with disability have access to the same education opportunities afforded to the wider community.

“These achievements are shining examples of what can be achieved by young people living with disability when we take a more socially inclusive approach to things like education,” Mr Piccolo said.

“I have known Matthew for some time and have seen first-hand his development. Both of these young men have exhibited a real dedication and commitment to learning.