

Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Acting Minister for Education and Child Development

Tuesday, 20 December 2016

New heights of achievement by SACE students

A record 15,003 South Australian students will celebrate their completion of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) today – an increase of 335 on the previous year.

The proportion of Year 12 students successfully achieving the SACE was a record high, rising to 96.3 per cent. Five years ago, the completion rate was 91.6 per cent.

The new benchmarks set by South Australian students:

- More Aboriginal students completed senior secondary education (319 students, 24 more than 2015)
- More students undertook vocational education and training (VET) in SACE (6330 students, 341 more than 2015)
- More students completed a modified SACE, offered to students with intellectual disabilities (226 students, 7 more than 2015)
- More students achieved merit certificates – (996 students, 76 more than 2015).

Background

Results will be available online from 8.30am on the SACE website at www.sace.sa.edu.au – students are scheduled to receive hard copies of their results today as well.

Further information and support relating to SACE results is available on the SACE website. Specific queries can be answered via the SACE Board's Results Enquiry Line on (08) 8373 0599 or for country students on 1800 652 230.

Quotes attributable to Acting Education Minister Ian Hunter

Having an increasing number of students complete Year 12 is a very pleasing result.

Secondary school completion is the single most important educational factor in future employment and social inclusion.

The SACE continues to deliver benefits for students and the wider South Australian community. These students have a globally recognised qualification that equips them with critical thinking skills needed to succeed in the workplace, for further study if they choose that path, and as citizens.

Quotes attributable to SACE Board Chief Executive Neil McGoran

The updated SACE was more rigorous than the previous certificate – with students required to meet defined literacy and numeracy standards.

These results demonstrate a clear commitment from schools to continuous improvement in a range of areas, including SACE completion, subject achievement, and teachers' assessment capacity.

We will work closely with schools to build upon this progress. Results from the past five years have vindicated the changes to the SACE.

The next five years are a critical opportunity to innovate – through renewed curriculum and digital assessment, to enable our young people to continue to meet the challenges of the future.

SACE Results 2016: At a Glance

- 15,003 students achieved their SACE – compared with 14,668 last year – an increase of 335 students.
- 319 Aboriginal students completed their SACE – the most ever – up from 295 in 2015.
- More students undertook VET in SACE – 6330 students compared with 5989 in 2015
 - More students completed a VET Certificate III or higher as part of their SACE – 1979 students compared with 1612 in 2015
 - More students counted a VET Certificate III or higher towards their ATAR – from 1235 students compared with 1060 in 2015
 - Students completed a broad range of VET qualifications, across a diverse range of industry areas, including sport and recreation (11.1 per cent), hospitality (10.2 per cent), and community services (7.7 per cent).
- A record 3995 South Australian country students celebrated their completion of the SACE— an increase of 162 compared with 2015
- A record number of students completed the Modified SACE by studying at least one modified subject – 226 compared to 219 last year.

Media Contact: Tanalee Smith 0408 377 584