

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

SACE modernisation part of \$548 million investment in education

The 2016-17 State Budget includes \$10.6 million over five years to modernise the delivery of the South Australian Certificate of Education, supporting more students to complete their SACE and make the certificate more attractive internationally.

The changes to SACE include transitioning to electronic exams and assessments, reflecting the way students already learn in the classroom and reducing the cost and administrative burden of the paper-based system.

The investment will also allow for the introduction of a mid-year assessment for SACE students in Asia, which will enable them to be considered for mid-year entry in South Australian universities.

The measure is part of a significant investment in education in the 2016-17 State Budget including:

- \$250 million to build and upgrade advanced technology and science labs in our public schools to ensure students have the skills for future careers.
- \$250 million for a low interest loan program for non-government schools to modernise their facilities.
- \$38 million in additional support for more educators in publicly funded pre-schools.

Background

Students who complete year 12 have a higher chance of gaining employment.

Electronic assessment and exams will enable the SACE Board to develop and assess a broader range of skills that students will need to succeed in work, further training or study.

School assessment currently involves the packaging and movement of more than 12,000 plastic bags of student work and 42,000 envelopes and papers.

A move to electronic assessment will reduce the administrative burden, allowing teachers more time in the classroom with students and extending the teaching program.

A record number of students achieved their SACE last year, and the number has grown in each of the past five years.

The SACE International curriculum is currently taught by five colleges in Malaysia and three in China.

Since 2015, a further five schools in China and one in Vietnam have signed MoUs to use the SACE.

Three of those schools will start delivering the SACE in September this year, with the rest due to start in January 2017.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Modernising our high-quality SACE by moving to electronic assessment will allow us to re-invest in subject renewal, ensuring the curriculum provides relevant, innovative and future-focused skills for our students.

The SACE modernisation project will deliver significant net economic benefits over 10 years, which will help the SACE Board continue delivering its program to an increasing numbers of students in South Australia and abroad.

Introducing a mid-year assessment cycle in Asia will further grow our economy as we will see growing numbers of international secondary students look to South Australia to further their education.

Quotes attributable to Education Minister Susan Close

We want to ensure that SACE continues to be the highest quality and most equitable senior secondary qualification in Australia, and that it continues to spread further into Asia.

South Australian students have access to modern teaching and learning technologies and so it makes sense that SACE be better aligned to the way students learn in the classroom.

The project will be implemented progressively over five years to ensure that we address any challenges faced by regional schools.

A modern SACE will embed innovation, entrepreneurial and IT skills into the curriculum to the benefit of our students aiming for the jobs of the future.

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