SACE BOARD
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Bright minds, big hearts: SA students celebrated for all-round excellence

Forty South Australian students, who collectively earned 44 subject Merits, are being celebrated today at Government House — not just for their academic brilliance, but for their leadership, creativity, capabilities and contributions to their communities.

They will receive the prestigious Governor of South Australia Commendation at the first of four ceremonies being held to celebrate 1,221 students who received one or more subject Merits as part of their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) in 2025.

Commendation recipient and student representative Grace Muhama says: "Completing the SACE is more than a certificate — it's a journey that has sparked our passions, built lifelong friendships and equipped us with the skills and values to make a difference beyond the classroom."

Grace excelled in Specialist Mathematics, English Literary Studies and Biology, while tutoring literacy and numeracy skills to new migrant parents in her community. She plans to become a surgical oncologist.

At the ceremony, Leni Fendt will receive the Tennyson Medal, awarded for the highest result in English Literary Studies in 2025 — one of the oldest and most prestigious awards presented by the SACE Board.

The Commendations celebrate students who combine excellence in their studies, with significant capabilities and contributions to school and community life, as judged by an expert panel including the Governor of South Australia Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC. Merit recipients must gain an overall grade of A+ in a Stage 2 SACE subject and demonstrate exceptional achievement in the subject.

Attributable quotes

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia:

"It is a great pleasure to host the SACE Merit Ceremony at Government House and to welcome South Australia's top students from across the state.

"This ceremony celebrates students' outstanding academic results, as well as the dedication, focus and perseverance they have shown in achieving them.

"The Governor of South Australia Commendations recognise 40 students from diverse social and geographical backgrounds who have gone beyond academic success to make a meaningful difference in their schools and communities.

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Government of South Australia

"From leading mental health and wellbeing initiatives, championing sustainability and inclusion, to advancing reconciliation and cultural understanding, these students exemplify initiative, resilience and leadership.

"I hope all students recognised at the ceremony will continue to build on their achievements and use their talents to contribute to the future of South Australia."

Minister for Education, Training and Skills Blair Boyer:

"Congratulations to the 1,221 students who received one or more subject Merits – it's a credit to you and all of the hard work throughout your schooling.

"It's also a credit to the wonderful support of the families and teachers who guide students through these pivotal years. It takes a whole team to support a student through school.

"Students are now entering the next phase of their lives – whether its further study at TAFE or university, or an apprenticeship or traineeship, or walking straight into a job – school leavers have never had so many opportunities available to them right here in South Australia."

SACE Board Acting Chief Executive Hassan Mekawy:

"Congratulations to each of the student recipients on this outstanding achievement and on the personal best they have demonstrated through their SACE journey.

"The SACE is designed to equip young people with knowledge, skills and capabilities that matter in life, work and further learning, including critical thinking, personal initiative and the confidence to act with integrity in a complex world."

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