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Powerball 8

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**ADELAIDE INVITATIONAL CHALLENGE**

Catch all the action of the Adelaide Invitational Challenge Games from 2.30pm today, January 8, and then from 9am for the following three days

[bit.ly/ADL\\_bball\\_challenge](http://bit.ly/ADL_bball_challenge)



# Research points to year 12 topic reform

CHRIS RUSSELL

MAJOR changes to a key, compulsory high school subject will be trialled this year, broadening student choice.

An entrepreneurial business project, a leadership role at school or in the community, or university-oriented work are likely options in a replacement to the compulsory research project.

The long-awaited South Australian Certificate of Education reform is planned to apply to all schools from 2023, pending a trial at 58 schools this year.

The SACE Board, which runs the senior curriculum, said the compulsory personal learning plan - usually taken in year 10 - will also change, with students to say "who they want to be" rather than "what they want to do".

"Successful learning and the ability to thrive is not purely based on academic results," the SACE Board said.

"Every student is different, and the revitalised subjects are designed to allow each student to build upon their knowledge, skills, attitudes and dispositions."

The personal learning plan will be renamed "Exploring Identities and Futures" and the research project "Activating Identities and Futures".

The existing research project already allows students to investigate any topic - from areas including sciences, arts,



Streaky Bay Area School graduate Tayla Roberts is committed to working in the country. Picture: Robert Lang

sport, politics or community. The board said in the new investigative subject, students would "come up with their own ways to solve a problem" rather than "following the usual methods of research".

A 2018 SACE review recommended it should include entrepreneurial or vocational skills, partly because it favoured students aiming for university who could write well or had "strong networks of useful contacts".

"Students on a vocational

pathway; students who are less advantaged; students with restricted networks, learning difficulties, language restrictions or a creative approach to multimodal presentations were all seen as being disadvantaged," the review found.

The review called for the new project to no longer count toward an ATAR but, at least for this year, that change will not apply to students in the pilot so they will not be advantaged or disadvantaged.

As the next batch of senior students prepare for the new year starting on January 31, the class of 2021 is getting ready for life after school.

Among graduates is Streaky Bay Area School's Tayla Roberts, who achieved the maximum ATAR of 99.95 and whose dedication to study and advocacy for regional education earned her a commendation from Governor Frances Adamson.

At Streaky Bay, she was among only eight year 12s,

presenting a big challenge to study her preferred subjects.

Tayla, 18, had to take some subjects through Tumbly Bay Area School and some at Edward John Eyre in Whyalla.

She was a Rural Youth Ambassador and is deciding between optometry, physiotherapy and other health fields. "I want to choose something that will allow me to move back to the country and work," Tayla said.

**20-PAGE YEAR 12 MERIT LIFTOUT INSIDE TODAY**

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