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**Government
of South Australia**

SACE BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2023 Annual Report



SACE Board of South Australia

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT for the SACE Board of South Australia

To:

The Hon Blair Boyer (MP)
Minister for Education, Training & Skills

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the SACE Board of South Australia by:

Michaela Bensley
Chief Executive



Date - 28th March 2024

Signature

From the Chief Executive



At the SACE Board, we are proud of the impact we have delivered in the third year of our strategic plan; *Shaping Education so that Students Thrive*. The bold ambition set out in the strategic plan was realised through building new partnerships with key stakeholders and implementing an operating model that could deliver on that vision.

The SACE Board worked with a wide range of critical partners, within and outside of the education community. We continued to strengthen our vital partnerships with schools, teachers, and school leaders, through the SACE Change Network, to develop new policy areas based on their experience and knowledge. We enhanced our affiliation with the tertiary education sector by creating new processes to enable better student alignment into higher education pathways. New relationships have been established with the business and industry sector to collaborate on school graduates' successful transition into training and employment. Internally, the organisation continued to recruit and build the right capabilities to deliver on our vision for a thriving learner, while continuing with our core operating and governance responsibilities in an agile and responsive manner.

In 2023, the SACE Board was able to deliver on its commitment to accredit two new subjects to replace the Stage 1 Personal Learning Plan and the Stage 2 Research Project. Over 500 teachers from 170 schools attended implementation workshops to begin implementing the new Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures, now known commonly as EIF. In addition, 62 schools completed the second pilot of the Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures subjects. Evaluation from teachers and students confirmed the subject delivered greater engagement for young people in their learning and stronger relationships with their teachers. Further, the subjects broadened the nature of evidence that students produce to demonstrate their learning and provided opportunities for students to evaluate their thinking to regulate the way they learn.

The Recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Learning Project progressed into its second pilot seeing 51 students receive this recognition as part of their SACE qualification completion requirements. This initiative, driven by the SACE Aboriginal Allyship, recognises the value of this learning for a young person, the broader community and to the SACE. Significantly, it also acknowledges the Aboriginal Community leaders as an 'authority' and respects different ways of knowing and being.

The NT Certificate of Education and Training is delivered through a partnership between the SACE Board and the Northern Territory Department of Education. Our partnership extends beyond operational delivery of the NTCET to involving NT leaders, teachers and students in our strategic projects.

The SACE Board continues to play a national role in navigating the complexity of developing, recognising, and certifying student capabilities alongside their subject learning. Forty-two representative schools participated in a second pilot and worked with their school community to explore how the education system might support a more holistic representation of student achievement. This work recognises that for students to be successful in an unpredictable and changeable world, they will require both deep discipline knowledge and capabilities to be best prepared for their chosen pathways.

The SACE International Program (SACEi) continues to export the SACE Thrive proposition for the benefit of students internationally through our school network in Malaysia, China, Vietnam, South Korea, Sri Lanka and the Pacific Islands. We have extended the SACE footprint in 2023 through the first ever delivery of an Australian Senior Secondary Qualification in Sri Lanka and finalised arrangements for an additional school in Vietnam.

The SACE Board remains committed to working in partnership with all Catholic, Independent and Government schooling sectors to enable the sectors to traverse a complex senior secondary education landscape, with multiple demands and competing priorities. Through these relationships, particularly with school leaders, teachers, and students we can continue to drive effective changes to the certificate to support all students to thrive. We are dedicated to improving senior secondary education to ensure that student health and well-being is aligned with academic performance. The strategic initiatives associated with our Thrive framework will evolve through the next iteration of the SACE strategic plan, so the development of the whole person is an intentional outcome of participating and completing our highly regarded qualification.



Michaela Bensley

Chief Executive

SACE Board of South Australia

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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose	Shaping Education so that Students Thrive
Our Vision	<p>The SACE Board of South Australia upholds the public sector values through its decisions, actions, and interactions. In addition, we are committed to our agency values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting with purpose • Respecting one another • Finding better ways • Working with the unknown
Our Priorities	<p>The SACE Board Strategic Plan 2020-2023 is a bold new vision for the SACE Board that has three key priorities.</p> <p>Bold Leader – Maintain and further develop the SACE Board as a leader in education and as an exemplary public service agency. We will be agile in our work, collaborative in our approach, and have beneficial impact on education and on our students.</p> <p>Connected Qualification – Maintain and further develop a qualification through which students can thrive and provides evidence of their knowledge, skills, capabilities, and other attributes that will connect them to industry sectors and other pathways.</p> <p>Thriving Learner - We will lead the development of learners who, with the six elements of Thrive can develop with vigour in whatever context they find themselves. The elements of Thrive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zest for Life (lifelong learning) • Deep understanding and skilful action • Ability to transfer learning • Agency • Human connectedness • Belonging
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	<p>The SACE Board functions include:</p> <p>Maintaining the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) qualification, ensuring that it provides for the learning to which students are entitled on leaving school and for a successful transition to their next step whether that be employment, a traineeship or apprenticeship or a pathway through TAFE or University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining the requirements for the achievement of the SACE and assessing achievement and developing those requirements over time in response to the changing needs of students, employers, and the wider community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accrediting subjects and courses and approving learning frameworks. • Maintaining records of assessments or achievements. • Supporting educators and influencing stakeholders to ensure that the intended impact and value of students' education is achieved.
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Our organisational structure

The SACE Board of South Australia is overseen by a Board and two standing committees.

The Board

The Board consists of 11 members nominated by the Minister and appointed by the Governor of South Australia, and the Chief Executive (ex officio). Membership of the Board is by call for expression of interest, and, as per the *SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983*, Board membership comprises persons who:

- (a) together provide a broad range of backgrounds that are relevant to the activities and interests of the Board; and
- (b) together have the abilities, knowledge, and experience necessary to enable the Board to carry out its functions effectively.

Board Member details

Name	Position	Term Dates	Number of Meetings
BLINKIRON, Ruth	Presiding Member	9/3/2023 to 8/3/2026	5 of 6
BALKWILL, Andrew	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	6 of 6
BROWNING, Tim	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	6 of 6
CHUI, Eliza	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	3 of 6
ELSTON, Georgette	Board Member	Appointed 11/12/2023	0 of 0
LEE, Diarmid	Board Member	Appointed 11/12/2023	0 of 0
MASTERS, Kristen	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	6 of 6
PAGE, Roy	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	5 of 6
PREST, Peter	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	6 of 6
SLEATH, Marilyn	Board Member	Appointed 11/12/2023	0 of 0
RONAN, Pam	Deputy Presiding Member	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2024	5 of 6
CAMPBELL, Kerrie	Board Member (inc Presiding Member)	1/7/2018 to 4/10/2023 (Presiding Member 1/1/2022 to 9/3/2023)	3 of 5
HAY, Iain	Board Member	1/7/2021 to 15/11/2023	4 of 5
KEOUGH, Andrew	Board Member	20/9/2018 to 17/4/2023	2 of 2

Planning, Finance, and Performance Committee

The Planning, Finance, and Performance Committee focuses on the SACE Board's budget, the financial performance of the SACE Board, the agency's internal and external risk management, and oversight of the audit strategies for the SACE Board.

Accreditation, Recognition, and Certification Committee

The Accreditation, Recognition and Certification Committee recommends to the Board the accreditation of subject outlines and the recognition of courses delivered and quality assured by schools, institutions and other authorities and organisations that contribute towards the SACE.

Changes to the agency

During 2023 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes. The agency moved to a new functional structure in 2022, and the only small change that occurred thereafter in 2023 was the placements of Claire Tola, Director Operations, Transformation and Enterprise Portfolio Management Office and Hassan Mekawy, Director of Education Services into the SACE Board Executive team.

Our Minister



The Hon. Blair Boyer MP is the Minister for Education, Training and Skills.

He represents the electorate of Wright in Adelaide's North-Eastern suburbs.

Hon. Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Education, Training and Skills
Member for Wright

Our Executive team

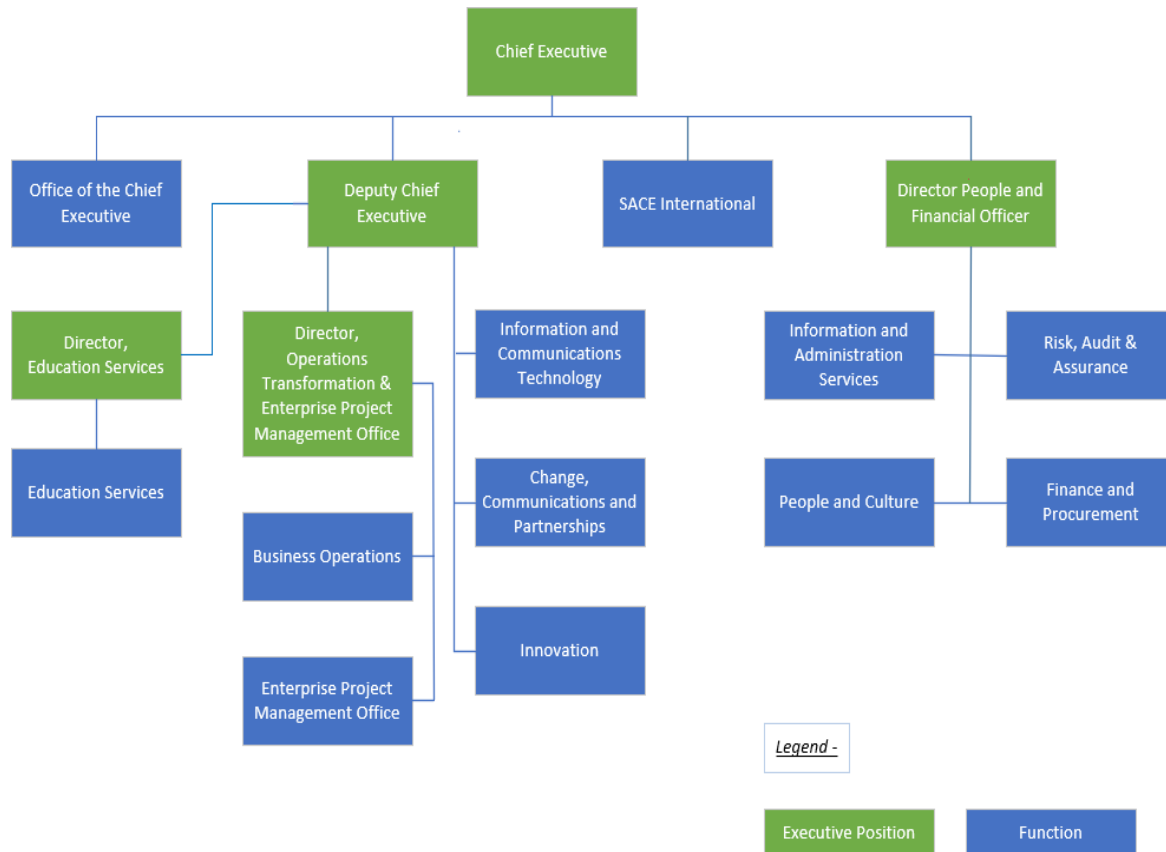
The SACE Board of South of Australia is led by Chief Executive Michaela Bensley, who is responsible for the leadership and management of the SACE Board of South Australia's policies and for the provision of its curriculum, assessment, certification, reporting and data/information services.

Natalie Hamood, Deputy Chief Executive worked in close partnership with the Chief Executive, and provides cultural, strategic and operational leadership across the SACE Board to ensure the achievement of operational and strategic goals.

Michelle Cox, Director People & Financial Officer was a member of the Executive team with responsibility for the strategic leadership and management of the People and Performance group.

Hassan Mekawy, Director Education Services is a member of the Executive team with responsibility for strategic development, recognition and implementation of curriculum, assessment and quality assurance.

Claire Tola, Director Operations Transformation and Enterprise Portfolio Management Office with responsibility for strategic operations, operating model and project delivery.



Legislation administered by the agency

- *SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983*
- *SACE Board of South Australia Regulations 2008*

Other related agencies (within the Minister’s area/s of responsibility)

- Department for Education
- TAFE SA
- Teachers Registration Board
- Education Standards Board

The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

During 2023, the SACE Board of South Australia led a range of programs, initiatives, policies and activities to achieve its priorities.

- Continued to adopt recommendations from the Shergold Review related to the development of a student learner profile and the recognition of Aboriginal students' cultural knowledge and learning.
- Successfully managed Pilot 2 of the Capabilities and Learner Profile project involving 42 schools across SA, NT and SACE International.
- Two new subjects, Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures and Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures, were piloted across 125 schools and formally accredited by the Board. The new subjects represent the revitalised Stage 1 Personal Learning Plan and Stage 2 Research Project.
- The SACE Board commenced implementation support for system-wide adoption of Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures.
- Successfully managed Pilot 2 of the Recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Learning project with 16 strategically selected schools across South Australia and the Northern Territory. Twenty-eight students received recognition for their cultural knowledge and learning toward the completion of their SACE qualification.
- Delivered 39 online and face-to-face SACE Change Network stakeholder engagement workshops involving over 650 teachers, SACE Coordinators and school leaders during 2023, to prototype and test new policy initiatives associated with the realisation of the SACE Board's strategic plan to shaping education so that students Thrive.
- Increased recognition locally, nationally, and internationally of the SACE as a qualification that entitles students to thrive through public events, media and marketing through events such as the 'Cultivating Conditions for a Thriving Learner' event for school leaders and the 'We are More' media campaign.
- Results were delivered to students in South Australia, Northern Territory, Malaysia, China, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam accurately and on time on 18 December 2023.
- 15 electronic exams were delivered in 2023.

A snapshot of achievements for South Australia's class of 2023 include:

- 15,699 students completed the SACE
- 2,930 students completed a VET Certificate III as part of their SACE
- 431 Aboriginal students completed the SACE
- 51 Aboriginal students also completed a VET Certificate III in their SACE studies
- A total of 1,337 merit certificates were awarded to 1,120 students for outstanding achievement in Stage 2 subjects
- A total of 28 Aboriginal students also received recognition for Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Learning
- 457 students completed the SACE by studying at least one modified subject. Modified subjects meet the learning needs of students with a significant impairment in intellectual functioning or adaptive behaviours.

The following tables summarises the objectives, indicators, and performance for the SACE Board of South Australia for the 2023 year.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Assessment and quality assurance</p>	<p>Progress electronic assessment for marking, moderation, and examination.</p> <p>Subjects have a stronger focus on new technology and 21st century learning.</p> <p>Students have the flexibility to present assignments in various modes and file types.</p> <p>Increased use of online tools to facilitate better collaboration with schools outside metropolitan Adelaide; teachers can undertake learning at times that suit them.</p> <p>Teachers interpret and apply performance standards consistently to students' work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully delivered and marked 15 electronic examinations. • Implemented enhanced security measures for electronic examinations delivery. • Received submissions and moderated all Stage 2 subjects online. • Provided online calibration of standards courses for teachers. • Implemented a hybrid online quality assurance process for Stage 1 Moderation • Trained all SACE Board appointed assessors with reference to the performance standards, so that students in all classes across all schools received comparable grades. • Piloted new methods of quality assurance that enhance student learning outcomes, provide better feedback, and support building of capability of teachers. • Implemented process improvements for processing of assessment and results to increase automation.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Professional learning and support for teachers</p>	<p>A high-quality teaching workforce.</p> <p>Strengthen and further develop educators' expertise in assessment knowledge and pedagogical practice.</p> <p>Changes to teacher practice that improves student learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided curriculum and assessment professional learning by offering over 160 online PLATO professional learning courses. • Delivered 10 Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures information sessions with school leaders and 20 implementation workshops for teachers. • Delivered two SACE Coordinator online workshops. • Developed, delivered, and evaluated 39 pedagogical practice workshops to 650 pilot teachers in the SACE Change Network. • Delivered two national professional learning events with a focus on effective feedback and recognition of learning to 300 participants. • Delivered a renewed onboarding program for new SACE International schools. • Delivered two community assessor training workshops to over 50 teachers, including Special Assistance Schools

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Curriculum Development and Support</p>	<p>Innovate SACE curriculum, assessment, and quality assurance to ensure that they suitably prepare young people for work, life, and future pathways.</p> <p>Increase recognition among South Australians of the SACE as a high quality international secondary school qualification.</p> <p>Better shape an education system that defines success through the development of capabilities alongside their curriculum achievement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided quality accreditation, certification, and recognition of SACE subjects. • Accredited the Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures subject outline in preparation for teaching in Semester 1 of 2025. • Accredited the Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures subject outline in preparation for teaching in Semester 1 of 2024. • Trialled new approaches to quality assurance that provide timely and effective feedback, build teacher capability and trust. • Extended the implementation of a range of subject adjustments to alleviate potential pressure on schools and students, due to residual effects of COVID-19. • Worked with industry and tertiary partners to conceptualise a model of better matching students to post-school pathways. • Developed a framework to effectively integrate SACE capabilities into SACE curriculum and assessment. • Progressed a Languages Discovery project to explore curriculum innovation in the delivery of languages.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Community and stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>Build capacity to listen and respond to stakeholders through research, and new systems and processes.</p> <p>Increased recognition among South Australians of the SACE as a qualification that entitles students to thrive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicated SACE relevance and value to the community through public events, media, and marketing, including the SACE Merit Ceremony, SACE Art Show, and the results release media event. • Continued the monthly communications, <i>The Standard</i>, with the latest news and updates from the SACE Board. • Hosted a ‘Cultivating Conditions for a Thriving Learner’ event for system leaders and school principals. • Embedded the SACE Change Network and engaged stakeholders including industry representatives and tertiary institutions and schools in 39 workshops. The purpose of these workshops was to prototype, test and design new policy initiatives to bring the SACE Board’s connected qualification and thriving learner strategy to life. • Continued partnership and collaboration with the Northern Territory Department of Education. • Developed new partnerships with stakeholders from Industry and the tertiary education sector. • Continued consultative approach with the Australian Education Union in quarterly meetings throughout the year.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
SACE International	Strengthen the international profile of the SACE, to enhance its reputation and contribute to the state's economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed 25 accredited SACE schools delivering the SACE to 1,069 students across seven countries, including the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu, delivering \$2.271m in gross revenue. • Celebrated 40 years since the first graduating cohort of students with Taylor's College in 1982 the South Australian Matriculation (SAM) program through a celebratory event in Kuala Lumpur and 40th anniversary marketing campaign. • Chief Executive invited as chief guest of the Gateway College Colombo Annual Awards day celebrating the first ever cohort to graduate with an Australian Senior Secondary Certificate delivered in Sri Lanka. • Extended the SACE footprint in Vietnam through the launch of the ABC Edu Bilingual School in Ho Chi Minh City. • Recommended the first face-to-face professional learning workshops since COVID with events held in Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi.

Corporate performance summary

During 2023, the SACE Board of South Australia led a range of corporate and operating initiatives and activities, highlights include:

- Accomplished the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 that has three key priorities; Bold Agency, Connected Qualification and Thriving Learner.
- Embedded the new functional operating structure to deliver on the strategic plan, which addressed, at the functional level, the gaps between current and future workforce resources and needs.

- Delivery of 115 project initiatives, through an agile project delivery methodology, which allows us to break up our work into phases and have an emphasis on continuous collaboration and improvement with our stakeholders.
- Embedded the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) into the culture and operations of the SACE Board to develop and strengthen respectful relationships and create meaningful opportunities with, and for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Established an ‘Employee Experience’ program of work in response to Your Voice public sector survey, with a focus on;
 - developing organisational values that were unique to the SACE Board and aligned to the public sector;
 - implementing an ‘Aboriginal Cultural Consciousness Framework’; and
 - establishing wellbeing and recognition programs and initiatives.

Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
Disability Employment	During 2023, the SACE Board did not engage any individuals via the Disability Employment Program.

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
All employees are required to take part in a formal performance management and development discussion with their manager biannually	81% of SACE Board of South Australia employees participated in a performance management and development review within the previous twelve months.

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
Work Health and Safety Management	<p>The SACE Board of South Australia completed the following initiatives to meet our legislative requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted workstation and ergonomic assessments for employees (where requested) • Conducted a fire drill for Waymouth St, Adelaide • WHS Committee met four times during the year • Appointed Health and Safety Representatives completed HSR Level 2 Training
Injury management	<p>The SACE Board of South Australia continued its Service Level Agreement with the Department of Education for provision of injury management services.</p>
Employee Assistance Program	<p>An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is in place to provide support for employees and family. The number of staff and family consultations totalled 9 in 2023.</p> <p>On site support was provided to employees in October and November following the passing of a fellow employee.</p>
Health & Wellbeing	<p>A focus on health and wellbeing included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu vaccinations offered to all employees • Covid management process in place • RUOK? Day initiatives • Respectful Behaviours Policy and Procedure launched • Ergonomic assessments conducted by an external Occupational Therapist for requesting employees • Sought expression of interest from employees to participate in a Smart Analysis Health Check initiative

Workplace injury claims	2023	2022	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	1	0	100 %
Fatalities	0	0	0 %
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0 %
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	1	0	100 %

*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

Work health and safety regulations	2023	2022	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>)	0	0	0 %
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>)	0	0	0 %

Return to work costs**	2023	2022	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers' compensation expenditure (\$)	\$ 1,640	\$ 200	720 %
Income support payments – gross (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	Nil

**before third-party recovery

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
Executive Level C (Not SAES)	1
Executive Level B (Not SAES)	2
Executive Level A (Not SAES)	2

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

The following is a summary of the overall financial position of the agency. Full audited financial statements for 2023 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2023 Actual \$000s	2022 Actual \$000s
Total Income	26 862	22 513
Total Expenses	24 475	22 966
Net Result	2 387	(453)
Total Comprehensive Result	2 387	(453)

Statement of Financial Position	2023 Actual \$000s	2022 Actual \$000s
Current assets	20 508	17 605
Non-current assets	6 755	7 352
Total assets	27 263	24 957
Current liabilities	3 180	3 190
Non-current liabilities	1 666	1 737
Total liabilities	4 846	4 927
Net assets	22 417	20 030
Equity	22 417	20 030

Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	Nil.	

Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual Payment
Clear Horizon Consulting Pty Ltd	Evaluation services	\$ 15,000
The University of Melbourne	Capabilities services	\$ 126,575
	Total	\$ 141,575

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual Payment
All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined	Various	\$ 36,857

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual Payment
Allan Cormack	Education services	\$ 19,125
Atd Audio & Media	Voice over & editing services	\$ 15,101
Blue Crystal Solutions	Cloud application services	\$ 105,444
Braw Media	Project videography	\$ 22,750
Conigrave Consulting	Graphic design	\$ 10,500
Cubesys Pty Ltd	Security testing services	\$ 68,868
Cybercx Pty Ltd	Security testing services	\$ 62,200
Datacom Systems (Au) Pty Ltd	Cloud assessment services	\$ 39,160
Dbusiness Pty Ltd	Event management services	\$ 38,050
Dxc Technology Australia Pty Ltd	Server and Cloud management services	\$ 23,073
Edified Pty Ltd	SACEi Strategy	\$ 82,950
Experience Matters Pty Ltd	Data review - Information Assets	\$ 18,664
Fragile To Agile (Asia Pac) Pty Ltd	Software architectural services	\$ 68,700
Galpins	Audit services	\$ 13,482
Hays Specialist Recruitment	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 331,396

Hender Careers	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 64,330
Hudson Global Resources	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 106,124
Hughes Public Relations	Communication Management	\$ 57,419
Insider Publishing Pty Ltd	Project videography	\$ 18,200
Kik Enterprises	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 47,048
Kojo Studios Pty Ltd	Website Audit Services	\$ 28,680
Mccrindle Research Pty Ltd	Graphic design	\$ 17,000
Megt (Australia) Ltd	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 11,107
Michael Vnuk	Editing services	\$ 53,876
Miller Hill Partners Pty Ltd	Strategy delivery	\$ 16,745
Objective Corporation Limited	File storage system	\$ 21,990
Paxus Australia Pty Ltd	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 70,033
Randstad Pty Ltd	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 286,416
Shouwn Oosting	Cultural learning	\$ 17,542
Square Holes Pty Ltd	Market research	\$ 19,440
Streamer Strategy	Communication strategy	\$ 30,831
Talent International (Sa) Pty Ltd	Recruitment & temporary staff	\$ 344,125
Taptu Pty Ltd	ICT Strategic planning	\$ 30,450
Timperley Consultant	Environmental Services	\$ 42,710
	Total	\$ 2,203,530

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

Risk Management is an integral part of reporting to the Board. The Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Policy are provided to all staff via the intranet.

Risk and audit is managed and reported through the Planning, Finance and Performance Committee (PFPC). PFPC focuses on the SACE Board's budget, financial performance, risk management and oversight of the audit strategies. PFPC has four committee members that are external to the SACE Board and three committee observers that are employees of the SACE Board.

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
Nil	-

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

The SACE Board has strategies in place to prevent fraud, including:

- The SACE Board adopts the *South Australian Public Sector Fraud and Corruption Control Policy* issued by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. The SACE Board *Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy* is applicable to all SACE Board employees, contractors, consultants and service providers. The policy formalises and communicates the processes and systems in place for preventing, detecting, managing and reporting fraud and corruption;
- Staff are aware of their obligations under the *SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983* and the *Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector*. As a component of their induction, employees are required to complete the Code of Ethics Awareness Program and sign the Code of Ethics and IT Users Agreement relevant to their role to support their employment at the SACE Board;
- Appropriate segregation of duties — the SACE Board implements controls that ensure individual employees are unable to complete transactions involving procurements, purchase requisitions and payments to suppliers without separate approval from a second authorised employee;
- Monthly reconciliations of balance sheet accounts are reviewed in accordance with segregation of duties to facilitate independent review;
- Post-transaction review — regular reconciliations of financial accounts and cash transactions are undertaken. Monthly comparisons of actual financial performance with budget are undertaken by management and variances are investigated and reported to the Planning, Finance and Performance Committee; and

- A financial management compliance program — this is an ongoing process that requires the Chief Executive to oversee the documentation of the internal controls and their effectiveness relating to critical functions and processes, including the management and control of fraud, corruption, and maladministration risks within the SACE Board.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Nil

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p><i>SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983</i></p>	<p>20—Report</p> <p>(1) The Board must, on or before 31 March in each year, deliver to the Minister a report of its operations during the period of 12 months that ended on the preceding 31 December.</p> <p>(1a) The report must—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) incorporate the audited accounts of the Board for the relevant year; and (b) include a specific report on the consultation processes that the Board has established or used for the purposes of this Act during the relevant year, including an assessment of the extent to which those processes have assisted the Board in the performance of its functions; and (c) contain any other information required by this Act. <p>(2) The Minister must, within 14 sitting days after receiving a report under this section, cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of Parliament.</p>

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	Nil
Number of negative feedback comments	Nil
Total number of feedback comments	Nil
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	n/a

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/organization/sace>

Service Improvements

The SACE Board has in place mechanisms which enable stakeholders and customers to make enquiries, provide feedback and submit grievances.

Channels available to provide feedback, make enquiries and access policy information include:

- Direct email requests via the AskSACE platform which allow electronic feedback to be provided via email.
- Direct telephone requests via the AskSACE customer service team.
- Policy information is accessible on the SACE Board website.

The SACE Board policy framework includes processes for submitting assessment related grievances, appeals and investigations.

Compliance Statement

The SACE Board of South Australia is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Partial
<p>The SACE Board of South Australia has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency’s related complaints policies and procedures to employees.</p> <p><i>The SACE Board policies and procedures for grievances are communicated to staff, in addition to the roles and responsibilities of team members who deliver services via the AskSACE mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>A Complaints Management Policy and supporting procedure will be implemented within 2024.</i></p>	No

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2023

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

SACE Board of South Australia
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income			
SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers	2.1	20 043	17 058
Fees and charges	2.2	58	44
Sales of goods and services	2.3	5 541	4 737
Resources received free of charge	2.4	86	74
Replacement teachers' write-back	2.5	104	88
Other income	2.6	1 030	512
Total income		26 862	22 513
Expenses			
Employee benefits expenses	3.3	15 112	14 201
Supplies and services	4.1	7 817	7 238
Depreciation and amortisation	5.1	1 321	1 308
Replacement teachers' expense	4.2	225	219
Total expenses		24 475	22 966
Net result		2 387	(453)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive result		2 387	(453)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The net result and total comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

SACE Board of South Australia
Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2	18 969	16 554
Receivables	6.3	1 539	1 051
Total current assets		20 508	17 605
Non-current Assets			
Receivables	6.3	33	12
Plant and equipment	5.2	905	1 203
Intangible assets	5.3	5 817	6 137
Total non-current assets		6 755	7 352
Total assets		27 263	24 957
Current Liabilities			
Payables	7.2	1 122	1 140
Contract liabilities	2.3	664	554
Employee benefits liability	3.4	1 259	1 337
Replacement teachers	7.3	108	135
Provisions	7.4	27	24
Total current liabilities		3 180	3 190
Non-current Liabilities			
Payables	7.2	111	116
Employee benefits liability	3.4	1 116	1 205
Provisions	7.4	439	416
Total non-current liabilities		1 666	1 737
Total liabilities		4 846	4 927
Net assets		22 417	20 030
Equity			
Retained earnings		22 417	20 030
Total equity		22 417	20 030

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

SACE Board of South Australia
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Retained Earnings \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance at 1 January 2022		20 483	20 483
Net result for 2022		(453)	(453)
Total comprehensive result for 2022		(453)	(453)
Balance at 1 January 2023		20 030	20 030
Net result for 2023		2 387	2 387
Total comprehensive result for 2023		2 387	2 387
Balance at 31 December 2023		22 417	22 417

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
All changes in equity are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

SACE Board of South Australia
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash Inflows			
SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers		20 043	17 058
Sales of goods and services		5 440	5 254
Fees and charges		58	44
Interest received		699	193
GST recovered from the ATO		470	368
Other receipts		401	328
Cash generated from operations		27 111	23 245
Cash Outflows			
Employee benefit payments		(15 390)	(14 528)
Payments for supplies and services		(8 455)	(7 500)
Replacement teachers		(148)	(114)
Cash used in operations		(23 993)	(22 142)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		3 118	1 103
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash Outflows			
Purchases of intangible assets		(703)	(659)
Purchases of leasehold improvements		-	(136)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(703)	(795)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2 415	308
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the calendar year		16 554	16 246
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the calendar year	6.2	18 969	16 554

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. About the SACE Board of South Australia (the SACE Board)

The SACE Board of South Australia is a statutory authority established under the *SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983* (the Act). The SACE Board does not control any other entity and has no interests in unconsolidated structured entities. The SACE Board has not entered into any contractual arrangements that involve the sharing of control or significant influence over another entity. The financial statements and accompanying notes include all the controlled activities of the SACE Board.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in compliance with:

- section 23 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*
- Treasurer's Instructions and Accounting Policy Statements issued by the Treasurer under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*; and
- relevant Australian Accounting Standards, applying simplified disclosures.

For the purposes of preparing the financial statements, the SACE Board is a not-for-profit entity.

The financial statements are prepared based on a 12 month reporting period and presented in Australian currency. The historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is identified in the notes to the financial statements.

Income, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

- when the GST incurred on a purchase of goods or services is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item applicable; and
- receivables and payables, which are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows include GST in the Statement of Cash Flows.

Assets and liabilities that are to be sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

1.2 Objectives and programs

The SACE Board aims to achieve student success through the South Australian Certificate of Education (the SACE), by providing a locally and internationally respected qualification that gives all students the capabilities to move successfully into further learning and work as confident and responsible citizens.

The SACE Board is actively pursuing three key strategic priorities:

- Bold Leader - further develop the SACE Board as a leader in education and as an exemplary public service agency.
- Connected Qualification - further develop a qualification through which students can thrive and provide evidence of their knowledge, skills, capabilities and other attributes that will connect them to industry sectors and other pathways.
- Thriving Learner - lead the development of learners who, with the six elements of thrive, can develop with vigour in whatever context they find themselves.

The main programs of the SACE Board, prescribed by the Act, are to:

- establish a qualification to be called the SACE;
- determine the requirements for the achievement of the SACE;
- accredit subjects and courses that will be recognised by the SACE Board as being suitable for the purposes of the SACE;
- assess achievements in or satisfactory completion of subjects or courses;
- assure the quality and suitability of processes and standards used to assess the achievements of students for the purposes of the SACE; and
- prepare and publish information and guidelines in relation to the requirements of the SACE.

The SACE Board is predominantly funded from grants provided by the State Government.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

2. Income

2.1 SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Transfers from the Department for Education	20 043	17 058
Total SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers	20 043	17 058

The transfer of funds is recognised as revenue when the SACE Board obtains control over the funding. Control over the funds is normally obtained upon receipt.

Total revenues consist of \$18 993 000 (2022: \$15 614 000) for operational funding and \$1 050 000 (2022: \$1 444 000) for capital projects.

2.2 Fees and charges

Students are charged for replacement certificates. Income is recognised when fees are received.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Regulatory fees	58	44
Total fees and charges	58	44

2.3 Sales of goods and services

All revenue from the sales of goods and services is revenue recognised from contracts with customers and therefore *AASB 15* has been applied.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Northern Territory Government	2 769	2 592
SACE International Program	2 271	1 691
Overseas students studying in South Australia	488	444
Prescient	13	10
Total sales of goods and services	5 541	4 737

Northern Territory arrangement

The SACE Board has an exclusive agreement with the Northern Territory Government to have the SACE delivered through all Northern Territory government schools.

This contract includes a number of performance obligations with related transaction prices allocated against each obligation. The majority of the performance obligations are recognised over the academic year as services are provided. The provision of results, being one of the performance obligations, is recognised at a point in time at the end of the academic year.

SACE International Program

SACE International program provides services to schools in China, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Malaysia, New Caledonia, Sri Lanka, and the Republic of Korea to support the provision of the SACE to students who select to undertake it.

Contracts with each school include performance obligations. In such cases, the transaction price is allocated to each obligation to determine when revenue is recognised based on expected work effort. Three components of the transaction price are outlined below:

- A program fee and enrolment fee annually charged to the school represents the provision of services to enable the school to offer the courses of study in accredited subjects. This is recognised over the academic year.
- Student fee charged per student recognised at a point in time at completion of the academic year when results are released.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Overseas students studying in South Australia

The SACE Board charges fees to international students who hold a sub-class visa 500 under the *SACE Board of South Australia Regulations 2008*.

The SACE Board has assessed that there is an implied contract between the SACE Board and each student with the performance obligation being the release of results and certificate. The revenue is recognised when the performance obligation is met at the end of the academic year.

Prescient

Prescient provides professional learning for teachers who are seeking to strengthen their expertise in the quality assessment of student achievement in accordance with the SACE Board's standards.

The learning program consists of the delivery of courses which are separately identifiable and can be sold separately. Therefore revenue is recognised at a point in time at completion of the delivery of each individual course being considered the satisfaction of the performance obligation.

Contract balances

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Receivables from contracts with customers included in 'Receivables'	531	454
Contract liabilities	664	554

Under revenue standard *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, receivables relate to the sales of goods and services from contracts with customers and contract liabilities relate to cash received or receivable from SACE International schools who have prepaid their fees. Revenue from contract liabilities will be earned within the next 12 months.

2.4 Resources received free of charge

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Services received free of charge - Shared Services SA	86	74
Total resources received free of charge	86	74

2.5 Replacement teachers' write-back

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Replacement teachers' write-back income	104	88
Total Replacement teacher's write-back income	104	88

The write-back relates to outstanding amounts previously recorded as expenses, for which schools have not sought reimbursement within the allowable claimable timeframe. This write-back is recorded as revenue in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in accordance with accounting standards. Refer to Note 7.3 for additional explanation of the liability for replacement teachers.

2.6 Other income

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Miscellaneous income	298	277
Interest on cash and cash equivalents	732	235
Total other income	1 030	512

Miscellaneous income includes the scaling grant, provided by the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) for the SACE Board to provide services on their behalf. This revenue has been recognised under *AASB 15* over the academic year. This fee is charged annually.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Board, committees and employees

3.1 Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the SACE Board include the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer, Board members, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, the Director of People and Performance, the Director Education Services and the Director Operations Transformation and Enterprise Portfolio Management Office.

Total compensation for the SACE Board's key management personnel was \$1 075 000 (2022: \$1 012 000). Salaries and other benefits the Minister for Education, Training and Skills receives are excluded from this total. The Minister's remuneration and allowances are set by the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* and the Remuneration Tribunal of SA respectively and are payable from the Consolidated Account (via the Department of Treasury and Finance) under section 6 of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*.

The SACE Board has not identified any material transactions with key management personnel and other related parties during 2023.

3.2 Board and committee members

Members during the 2023 calendar year were:

SACE Board of South Australia

Presiding Member

Ms Ruth Blenkiron - appointed 09/03/2023

Members

Mr Andrew Balkwill

Mr Timothy Browning

Ms Eliza Chui

Ms Kerrie Campbell - resigned 04/10/23

Ms Georgette Elston - appointed 11/12/23

Prof. Iain Hay - resigned 15/11/23

Mr Andrew Keough - resigned 17/04/23

Mr Diarmid Lee - appointed 11/12/23

Ms Kristen Masters*

Mr Roy Page*

Mr Peter Prest

Ms Pamela Ronan

Ms Marilyn Sleath - appointed 11/12/23

* In accordance with the *Premier and Cabinet Circular No.016*, government employees did not receive any remuneration for board/committee duties during the financial year.

Board and committee remuneration

The number of Board and committee members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
\$0 to \$19 999	13	9
\$20 000 to \$39 999	1	1
Total number of Board and committee members	14	10

The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$130 000 (2022: \$115 000). Remuneration of members includes sitting fees, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits, fringe benefits and any related fringe benefits tax.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

3.3 Employee benefits expenses

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Salaries and wages	9 146	8 912
Casual salaries external assessment	1 962	1 864
Casual salaries moderation	655	637
Casual salaries other	63	48
Targeted voluntary separation packages	138	-
Long service leave	144	(174)
Annual leave	769	824
Skills and experience retention leave	36	42
Employment on-costs - superannuation*	1 376	1 259
Employment on-costs - other	682	646
Fringe benefits tax	24	38
Board and committee fees	117	105
Total employee benefits expenses	15 112	14 201

***Employment on-costs - superannuation**

The superannuation employment on-cost charge represents the SACE Board's contributions to superannuation plans in respect of current services of current employees.

Employee remuneration

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
The number of employees whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:		
\$157 001 to \$160 000	N/A*	2
\$160 001 to \$180 000	3	2
\$180 001 to \$200 000	4	1
\$220 001 to \$240 000	-	1
\$300 001 to \$320 000	-	1
\$320 001 to \$340 000	1	-
Total	8	7

* This band has been included for the purpose of reporting comparative figures based on the executive base level remuneration rate for 2022

The total remuneration received by those employees for the year was \$1 577 000 (2022: \$1 356 000).

The table includes all employees whose normal remuneration was equal to or greater than the base executive remuneration level during the year. Remuneration of employees reflects all costs of employment including salaries and wages, payments in lieu of leave, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits and fringe benefits and any fringe benefits tax paid or payable in respect of those benefits.

Targeted voluntary separation packages (TVSPs)

The number of employees who received a TVSP during the reporting period was one.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Amount paid to separated employees:		
Targeted voluntary separation packages	138	-
Leave paid to separated employees	18	-
Net cost to the SACE Board	156	-

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023**3.4 Employee benefits liability**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Accrued salaries and wages	38	93
Annual leave	821	876
Long service leave	348	325
Skills and experience retention leave	52	43
Total current employee benefits	1 259	1 337
Non-current		
Long service leave	1 116	1 205
Total non-current employee benefits	1 116	1 205
Total employee benefits	2 375	2 542

Employee benefits accrue as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid. Long-term employee benefits are measured at present value and short-term employee benefits are measured at nominal amounts.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. The expected timing and amount of long service leave payments is determined through whole-of-government actuarial calculations, which is then applied to the SACE Board's employee details. Key assumptions include whether the characteristics of employee remuneration, terms of service with the public sector, and expectations as to when employees take long service leave, as established by the actuary, are applicable to employees of the SACE Board. These assumptions affect both the expected amount to be paid that has been factored into the calculation of the liability. The discount rate used in measuring the liability is another key assumption. The discount rate is reflective of long-term Commonwealth Government bonds.

The yield on long-term Commonwealth Government bonds has decreased from 4% (2022) to 3.75% (2023) which results in an increase in the reported LSL Liability.

The calculated current liability value was based on the three year average of actual payments for LSL to SACE Board staff.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Expenses

Employee benefits expenses are disclosed in note 3.3.

4.1 Supplies and services

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Office accommodation	1 220	1 135
Computing and communication	1 052	803
Fleet management costs	2	3
Shared Services SA charges	126	98
Consultants	142	80
Contractors	2 240	2 060
Printing	133	122
Travel and accommodation	172	93
Postage, courier, and freight	289	280
Motor vehicle transport	23	21
Software	1 440	1 319
Venue hire	130	64
Hospitality	134	55
Stationery and office supplies	22	38
Equipment hire	76	66
Repairs and maintenance	13	355
Security	6	6
Staff development	161	208
Impairment loss on receivables	8	31
Other	428	401
Total supplies and services	7 817	7 238

Office Accommodation

The SACE Board's accommodation is provided by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport under Memoranda of Administrative Arrangement (MoAAs) issued in accordance with Government-wide accommodation policies. MoAAs do not meet the definition of a lease set out in *AASB 16*.

Other

Audit fees payable to the Auditor-General's Department relating to work performed under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* totalled \$54 000 (2022: \$60 000). No other services were provided by the Auditor-General's Department.

4.2 Replacement teachers' expense

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Temporary replacement teachers	225	219
Total replacement teachers' expense	225	219

This expense relates to the reimbursement of costs incurred by schools for the release of teachers to undertake duties for the SACE Board. The SACE Board issues schools with vouchers entitling them to make a claim for reimbursement of their costs. The expense comprises a total of the amount of claims paid by the SACE Board plus an estimate of the cost of outstanding claims not yet received. The estimate of the cost of claims not yet received is equal to the number of unclaimed vouchers issued to schools at a value per voucher of the average cost per claim in 2023.

See also Note 7.3 for details of the unclaimed funds as at 31 December 2023.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

5. Non-financial assets

The SACE Board is required to manage a large range of information, including students' results over many years. Bespoke IT systems deliver the required functionality to manage the integrity of the information. Software is under constant development and enhancement to support the SACE Board's functions, with much of this effort capitalised in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The SACE Board does not require significant physical assets to perform its functions.

5.1 Useful life and depreciation

Depreciation and amortisation	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Equipment	-	13
Computer equipment	5	7
Leasehold improvements	293	284
Intangible assets	1 023	1 004
Total depreciation and amortisation	1 321	1 308

All non-current assets with a limited useful life are systematically depreciated/amortised over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Useful life

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated on a straight-line basis.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the lease term. Owned plant and equipment and intangible assets are depreciated and amortised over the estimated useful life as follows:

Class of asset	Useful Life (Years)
Equipment	3 - 10 years
Computer Equipment	3 - 8 years
Off the Shelf Software	5 - 10 years
Internally Developed Software	5 - 10 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. The SACE Board only has intangible assets with finite lives.

Review of accounting estimates

Assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation/amortisation methods are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate, on an annual basis. Changes in the expected life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the time period or method, as appropriate.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

5.2 Plant and equipment

Equipment comprises owned assets.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Leasehold improvements		
Leasehold improvements at fair value	1 659	1 659
Accumulated depreciation at the end of the period	(754)	(461)
Total leasehold improvements	905	1 198
Equipment		
Equipment at cost (deemed fair value)	42	110
Accumulated depreciation at the end of the period	(42)	(110)
Total equipment	-	-
Computer equipment		
Computer equipment at cost (deemed fair value)	475	475
Accumulated depreciation at the end of the period	(475)	(470)
Total computer equipment	-	5
Total plant and equipment	905	1 203

Owned equipment with a value equal to or in excess of \$10 000 is capitalised, otherwise it is expensed.

Owned equipment is recorded at fair value.

Impairment

There were no indications of impairment, as at 31 December 2023.

Reconciliation 2023

	Leasehold improve- ments	Equipment	Computer equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at 1 January 2023	1 198	-	5	1 203
Depreciation	(293)	-	(5)	(298)
Carrying amount at 31 December 2023	905	-	-	905

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

5.3 Intangible assets

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Internally developed computer software		
Internally developed computer software	13 920	13 366
Accumulated amortisation	(8 582)	(7 592)
Total Internally developed computer software	5 338	5 774
Purchased computer software		
Purchased computer software	381	351
Accumulated amortisation	(239)	(206)
Total Purchased computer software	142	145
Work in progress		
Internally developed computer software	337	218
Total Work in progress	337	218
Total intangible assets	5 817	6 137

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost and are tested for indications of impairment at each reporting date. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The acquisition of or internal development of software is capitalised only when the expenditure meets the definition and recognition criteria and when the amount of expenditure is greater than or equal to \$10 000.

The internally developed computer software relates to the SACE Board's Schools Online and Students Online systems. These systems are recorded in the SACE Board's asset register as a consolidated asset with a carrying amount of \$5 338 000 and are being amortised with a useful life of 10 years.

Reconciliation 2023

	Internally developed computer software \$'000	Other computer software \$'000	WIP \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying amount at 1 January 2023	5 774	145	218	6 137
Additions	-	-	703	703
Transfers (Work in progress)	554	30	(584)	-
Amortisation	(990)	(33)	-	(1 023)
Carrying amount at 31 December 2023	5 338	142	337	5 817

6. Financial assets

6.1 Categorisation of financial assets

	Notes	2023 Carrying amount \$'000	2022 Carrying amount \$'000
Financial assets			
Cash and equivalents			
- Cash and cash equivalents	6.2	18 969	16 554
Financial assets at amortised cost			
- Receivables	6.3	946	520
Total financial assets		19 915	17 074

Receivables as disclosed in this note do not include statutory amounts, overpayment recoveries and prepayments as these are not financial instruments.

SACE Board of South Australia
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

6.2 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Operating account	8 282	6 261
Deposit with SAFA	10 687	10 293
Total cash and cash equivalents	18 969	16 554

6.3 Receivables

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Contractual receivables		
From non-government entities	879	484
Less allowance for impairment loss on receivables	(10)	(8)
Total contractual receivables	869	476
Salary overpayment recoveries	42	62
Less allowance for impairment loss on salary overpayment recoveries	(31)	(31)
Prepayments	468	435
Accrued revenues	77	44
GST receivable	114	65
Total current receivables	1 539	1 051
Non-current		
Prepayments	33	12
Total non-current receivables	33	12
Total receivables	1 572	1 063

Contractual receivables arise in the normal course of selling goods and services to other government agencies and to the public. Contractual receivables are normally settled within 30 days after the issue of an invoice or the goods/services have been provided under a contractual arrangement.

Overpayment recoveries include assessment panellist members who were overpaid in December 2021. Recoveries are ongoing and are expected to be resolved within the next twelve months.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts with customers. They are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes.

Receivables, prepayments and accrued revenues are non-interest bearing. Contractual receivables are held with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and they are measured at amortised cost. The GST included as part of the receivables, is the net amount recoverable from the ATO.

Impairment losses relate to contracts with customers external to SA Government and salary overpayment recoveries.

Allowance for impairment loss on receivables

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at 1 January 2023	39	24
Amounts written off	(6)	(16)
Increase/(decrease) in the allowance	8	31
Carrying amount at 31 December 2023	41	39

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7. Liabilities

Employee benefits liabilities are disclosed in note 3.4.

7.1 Categorisation of financial liabilities

	Notes	2023 Carrying amount \$'000	2022 Carrying amount \$'000
Financial liabilities			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost			
- Payables	7.2	721	627
- Other financial liabilities (Replacement Teachers)	7.3	108	135
Total financial liabilities		829	762

Payables as disclosed in this note do not include statutory amounts as these are not financial instruments.

7.2 Payables

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Contractual payables	192	66
Accrued expenses	529	561
Statutory payables	60	66
Employment on-costs	341	440
Paid Parental Leave Scheme payable	-	7
Total current payables	1 122	1 140
Non-current		
Employment on-costs	111	116
Total non-current payables	111	116
Total payables	1 233	1 256

Payables and accruals are raised for all amounts owing but unpaid. Sundry payables are normally settled within 15 days from the date the invoice is first received. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to their short term nature.

Statutory payables do not arise from contracts with customers. They are recognised and measured similarly to contractual/trade payables but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes.

The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included as part of receivables. However, if a net GST payable arises then this amount would be disclosed in this Payables note.

Employment on-costs

Employment on-costs include payroll tax, Return to Work SA levies and superannuation contributions, and are settled when the respective employee benefits that they relate to are discharged.

The SACE Board makes contributions to several South Australian Government and externally managed superannuation schemes. These contributions are treated as an expense when they occur. There is no liability for payments to beneficiaries, as they have been assumed by the respective superannuation schemes. The only liability outstanding at reporting date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid to either the South Australian Superannuation Board, or non-SA Government funds.

As a result of an actuarial assessment performed by the Department of Treasury and Finance, the proportion of long service leave taken as leave has increased in 2023 (43%) from 2022 (42%) and the average factor for the calculation of employer superannuation on-cost has increased in 2023 (11.1%) from 2022 (10.6%). These rates are used in the employment on-cost calculation. The net financial effect of the changes in the current year is not material. The impact on future periods is impracticable to estimate as the long service leave liability is calculated using a number of assumptions.

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7.3 Replacement teachers

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Temporary replacement teachers	108	135
Total replacement teachers' liability	108	135

The liability for replacement teachers represents the estimated cost of amounts owing to schools but not yet claimed as at 31 December 2023.

7.4 Provisions

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Provision for workers' compensation	27	24
Total current provisions	27	24
Non-current		
Provision for workers' compensation	93	70
Make good provision	346	346
Total non-current provisions	439	416
Total provisions	466	440
Movement in provisions	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount at the beginning of the period	440	72
Additional provisions recognised	26	368
Carrying amount at the end of the period	466	440

A provision has been reported to reflect unsettled workers' compensation claims. The workers' compensation provision is based on an actuarial assessment of the outstanding liability as at 30 June 2023 provided by a consulting actuary engaged through the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. The provision is for the estimated cost of ongoing payments to employees as required under current legislation.

The SACE Board is responsible for the payment of workers' compensation claims.

During the reporting year the make good provision for our Waymouth Street tenancy premises remained the same. The provision is based on advice received from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. The provision is for the estimated cost of repairs and maintenance required to complete decommissioning activities.

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8. Outlook

8.1 Unrecognised contractual commitments

Commitments include operating and outsourcing arrangements arising from contractual or statutory sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

Expenditure commitments

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Within one year	2 907	3 621
Later than one year but not longer than five years	5 436	6 302
Total other commitments	8 343	9 923

The SACE Board's expenditure commitments are for a range of outsourcing services and contracts including printing and distribution of SACE results, ICT services, and facility maintenance.

Office accommodation is provided for via Memoranda of Administrative Arrangements with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

8.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

The SACE Board is not aware of any contingent assets and liabilities.

8.3 Events after the reporting period

There are no known events after balance date that affect these financial statements.

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Certification of the Financial Statements

To the best of our knowledge and belief we certify that the attached draft general purpose financial statements for the SACE Board of South Australia:

comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under section 41 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and relevant Australian Accounting Standards;

are in accordance with the accounts and records of the SACE Board of South Australia; and

present a true and fair view of the financial position of the SACE Board of South Australia as at 31 December 2023 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the calendar year.

We certify that the internal controls employed by the SACE Board of South Australia for the calendar year over its financial reporting and its preparation of the general purpose financial statements have been effective throughout the reporting period.



Ruth Blenkiron
Presiding Member

Date:

15/3/24



Michaela Bensley
Chief Executive

Date:

15/3/24



Sam Mill
Director People and Performance

Date:

15/3/24

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**To the Chief Executive
SACE Board of South Australia**

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the SACE Board of South Australia for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the SACE Board of South Australia as at 31 December 2023, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Reporting Requirements.

The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2023
a Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2023
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2023
- notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information
- a Certificate from the Presiding Member, the Chief Executive and the Director People and Performance.

Basis for opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report' section of my report. I am independent of the SACE Board of South Australia. The *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* establishes the independence of the Auditor-General. In conducting the audit, the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* have been met.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive and the SACE Board for the financial report

The Chief Executive is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Reporting Requirements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Chief Executive is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account any policy or funding decisions the government has made which affect the continued existence of the entity. The Chief Executive is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

The SACE Board is responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by section 31(1)(6) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and section 19A of the *SACE Board of South Australia Act 1983*, I have audited the financial report of the SACE Board of South Australia for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the SACE Board of South Australia's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Chief Executive
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Chief Executive's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

My report refers only to the financial report described above and does not provide assurance over the integrity of electronic publication by the entity on any website nor does it provide an opinion on other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the report.

I communicate with the Chief Executive and the SACE Board about, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during the audit.



Daniel O'Donohue
Assistant Auditor-General (Financial Audit)

22 March 2024