

Special Provisions Data 2015

Baseline Data

In 2015, 23028 students undertook at least one Stage 2 subject. Of these students 55.4% undertook at least one subject with an examination.

The following table shows what percentage of the total number of students applied for special provisions for external assessments and what percentage were granted special provision(s).

	Percentage based on students with a Stage 2 enrolment
Percentage of students who applied for special provisions	4.4%
Percentage of students who were granted special provisions	4.1%

Table 1: Baseline student data 2015

Applications Received

A panel appointed by the Board is responsible for considering and, where appropriate, approving requests for reasonable adjustments for external assessments at Stage 2.

In 2015, the SACE Board received applications for special provisions relating to external assessments for Stage 2 subjects from 1016 students. 92% of these students' applications were approved.

The basis for these applications was as follows:

Special provisions applications	Number of students who applied*
Long Term Impairment	429
Short Term Impairment	55
Misadventure	268
Illness/Misadventure in examination**	401
Total	1153

Table 2: Number of students who applied for special provisions by type, 2015

* A student may make an application under more than one 'special provision type'. A student may therefore be counted more than once in this table. For example, a student may submit an application seeking provisions for vision impairment, and also submit an application for a misadventure due to bereavement.

** The number of students applying on the grounds of misadventure can vary considerably each year; for example, in the case of a disruption during an examination where a large class of students is affected.

Grounds For Applications

When illness, impairment, or personal circumstances impact in an adverse and significant way on a student's capacity to participate in an assessment, the grounds for which special provisions can be granted are:

- physical disability;
- vision impairment;
- hearing impairment;
- medical condition;
- psychological illness;
- specific learning disabilities (a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction);
- misadventure (an accident beyond the student's control); or
- personal circumstances.

In 2015 special provisions applications were received for the following reasons:

Application Grounds	Count of students per reason[^]
Hearing Impairment	6
Medical Conditions	365
Allergies	1
Asthma	3
Cancer	4
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	8
Cystic Fibrosis	1
Diabetes	14
Epilepsy	4
Glandular Fever	25
Infectious/Contagious diseases	1
Injury	46
Migraine	15
Motor vehicle accident	5
Other Medical Condition	119
Pregnancy	4
Surgery	9
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	27
Viral Illness	79
Misadventure	247
Examination disruption	136
Loss or Damage - Assessment Materials	17
Other	94
Physical Disability	21
Cerebral Palsy	7
Physical disability - other	14
Psychological Illness	312
Anorexia nervosa	4
Anxiety disorder	133
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	7
Autism and Asperger Disorder	27
Depression	42
Emotional Impairment - bereavement/grief	91
Mental Illness/Schizophrenia	7
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	1
Sight impairment	10
Specific Learning Difficulty	134
Dysgraphia	12
Dyslexia/Dyscalculia/other	122

Table 3: Grounds for special provisions applications, 2015

[^]Note that these numbers represent, per reason, a count of students who made a special provisions application. A student can apply for more than one reason and therefore may be counted more than once in this table.

Types of Provisions Granted

For eligible students, evidence is required to determine the most appropriate, fair, and reasonable adjustment to facilitate the student's ability to participate in, or comply with the requirements of conditions of the assessment on the same basis as other students.

There are over thirty different types of adjustments that can be granted as a special provision. The following table shows the frequency of the most common of these granted to students in 2015:

Type of Provisions	Number of students granted a provision
Use of moderated predicted mark(s)	379
Supervised rest breaks	313
Separate invigilation	129
Examination script(s) reviewed by SACE Board to check for evidence of any disadvantage***	72
Use of word processor (or similar) in an examination	62
Additional time to complete an examination	59

Table 4: Most common provisions granted, 2015

Note: A number of provisions may be granted for each individual application. A student may make an application for a number of subjects/assessment tasks and for a number of different reasons. For example, a student may be granted both supervised rest breaks and separate invigilation for an anxiety disorder.

*** This provision is most commonly provided where the school reports an incident such as a fire alarm that may have had an impact on a class sitting an examination. Although the school may report that they dealt with the situation appropriately, the SACE Board checks all students' results to ensure there was no disadvantage.

Data caveats

- The figures provided in this data release are based on the number of students who applied to the SACE Board for special provisions for Stage 2 externally assessed tasks (completed enrolments only).
- Only students attending schools in South Australia are represented.
- A student may submit more than one application per subject, per external assessment task and/or for various reasons/types of impairments. Note that this dataset represents figures as a student count (rather than an application count).
- This data is current as at the close of the SACE Board clerical check period for 2015.