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A TERTIARY AND NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION RESOURCE



THE SEX FILES

PAGE 32

New curriculum on hold until 2015

EducationNow's special report on the state of sex education in schools and the rates of pregnancy and STIs among teens.

CANDICE KELLER
EDUCATION REPORTER

SENIOR secondary students in South Australia will be two years behind taking on the new national curriculum because of the new SACE having just been brought in. The head of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) - which writes the curriculum - has said SA might not see the national guidelines implemented in Years 11 and 12 until 2015 - two years after it is expected to be rolled out nation-wide.

Dr Peter Hill said the timing was not "ideal" for SA and that teachers already had enough to deal with in terms of the new SACE, let alone a new curriculum, too.

"The important thing for SA is for the new SACE to be bedded down," Dr Hill said. "Teachers are entitled to get their heads around the new certificate first."

Plans for the new SACE were announced by the State Government in 2006, with Premier Mike Rann pledging \$54 million for the new scheme.

One subject of the new certificate was introduced to Year 10 students last year.

This year's Year 11 students are the first to trial the new SACE and those students who continue on to Year 12, will be the first to graduate.

Under the new certificate, students are required to complete a Personal Learning Plan in Year 10, a literacy and numeracy component in Year 11, and two other subjects plus a research project in Year 12.

Remaining credits can be gained through additional subjects or SACE Board-recognised courses including Vocational Education and Training (VET) units or community learning.



BRILLIANT BLOGS: EducationNow brings you some of the best science blogs in the state for teachers and students. Among them is "Disease of the Week", a blog that tackles illnesses ranging from genital warts, rabies, malaria, puffer-fish poisoning and the plague. Bloggers, Adelaide University PhD students James Byrne and Thomas Tu, have even connected tuberculosis to vampires and pirates. Find out more on Page 66. **Picture: CAMPBELL BRODIE**



GAOL IN 3D

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A 3D video game, based on the Old Adelaide Gaol, is being developed to educate students about the life and times of a South Australian prisoner in the 1800s.



VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES

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Australian Council on Children and the Media vice-president Professor Elizabeth Handsley enters the debate on the classification of violent video games.

Australian Education Union SA president Correna Haythorpe said while they welcomed plans for a national curriculum, Year 11 and 12 teachers were focusing on delivering the new SACE to students.

"The State Government has invested a significant amount of time and money into bringing in the changes for the new SACE," Ms Haythorpe said.

"But we're supportive of a national

framework and national curriculum." The first draft of the new national curriculum covering the core subjects of English, mathematics, science and history for students in Reception to Year 10 was released late last month.

Drafts are due later this year for a senior secondary framework as well as the second and third stages of the Reception to Year 10 curriculum, which will include guidelines on

arts, languages, health and physical education. Dr Hill hoped the final document would be signed off by all state education ministers by October.

"The education ministers have agreed to have most of the subjects implemented by 2013," Dr Hill said. "Some schools will bring in elements right away."

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