

Principals, SA/NT Secondary Schools  
cc: School SACE/NTCET Co-ordinators

4 December 2018

Dear Principal,

- **Currency of the ATAR**
- **Higher Education National Information Platform – Course Seeker website**
- **Reminder December and January offer rounds**

### **Currency of the ATAR**

There has been much discussion this year in the education sector, government, and the media regarding the suitability and future use of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

I am aware that many schools view the ATAR as negatively influencing students' year 12 subject choices. SATAC's member universities provide a number of admissions pathways to their courses in addition to the ATAR, so that students may focus on choosing appropriate subjects that reflect their interests, skills and goals.

Students, parents and counsellors should always be encouraged to consider the entry requirements of courses the student is interested in studying at university when making SACE/IB subject choices. If there is any doubt regarding the requirements or choices available, students and counsellors should talk to the relevant university course advisors to obtain more information.

I have also received reports that some schools have been advised the ATAR will cease to be used by 2022. I am unaware of any plan by the Commonwealth Government or SATAC's member universities to cease using the ATAR which is recognised and used nationally.

### **Higher Education National Information Platform – Course Seeker website**

A key recommendation of the Federal Government's Higher Education Standards Panel review in October 2016 was the establishment of a national information platform for higher education admissions. As a result of this recommendation, the Course Seeker website was launched by the Minister for Education, the Hon Mr Dan Tehan MP in late October. You can visit the Course Seeker website at: [www.courseseeker.edu.au](http://www.courseseeker.edu.au).

SATAC and its interstate counterparts had considerable involvement in developing Course Seeker. The purpose of the platform is to help applicants to tertiary education make informed decisions about future study options by facilitating clear and meaningful comparisons between the entry requirements of courses available Australia-wide. Applications for courses offered through SATAC but accessed from within Course Seeker will still come to SATAC for assessment.

## **December and January Offer rounds**

A reminder regarding the addition of an early offer round on 20 December, following the release of SACE/NTCET results to students. SATAC has already begun communicating with current year 12 applicants to inform them of the offer round and advise them of arrangements that will be in place for the day.

The 20 December offer round is limited to first preferences only, and not all courses will make offers in this round. The main offer round on 15 January 2019 will continue to consider all preferences and all undergraduate courses. SATAC will communicate arrangements for the main January offer round to applicants in early January 2019.

If you or your students require assistance from SATAC during December and January, our information team will be available across the holiday period during business hours except on public holidays. Please note, the SATAC office will be closed on Thursday 27 December 2018.

I wish your year 12 students every success in their SACE, NTCET or IB results and future studies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SM', followed by a horizontal line.

Mr Stuart Mossman  
Chief Executive Officer