

## Introduction

The SATAC Bulletin is published for the information of school staff and others who provide advice to prospective tertiary students.

It provides information and updates on SATAC services, courses available through SATAC, and the admissions process.

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## Counsellor Information Sessions for 2018

A number of information sessions will be offered over the coming months for the benefit of school and other staff providing information to prospective applicants.

Tertiary institution and TAFE SA staff should note that these sessions are primarily aimed at meeting the needs of school counsellors, Year 12 coordinators and others engaged in providing advice to prospective applicants.

SATAC and the tertiary institutions themselves provide training to meet the needs of staff from the tertiary institutions.

### New Counsellor Information Session

An information session for those new to year 12 counselling is scheduled for Tuesday 15 May 2018 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at SATAC, 104 Frome Street, Adelaide.

This session will provide an opportunity for school staff and others who are not familiar with the SATAC admissions system to find out about the basics.

Numbers are limited so bookings are essential. Invitations to attend will be sent to schools soon.

### Regional SA Counsellor Information Sessions

Information sessions will be offered this year at Renmark, Mt Gambier, Port Pirie and Whyalla. The information provided is similar to that available at the metropolitan sessions but without the direct input of representatives from the institutions.

The visits and venues are scheduled as follows and a booking invitation will be sent closer to the dates:

- Whyalla, Wednesday 13 June 2018, 9.30am to 12:00pm
- Port Pirie, Friday 15 June 2018, 9.30am to 12.00pm
- Renmark, Monday 18 June 2018, 9.30am to 12.00pm (SATAC only)
- Mt Gambier, Monday 25 June 2018, 10.00am to 1.00pm (with VTAC)

### Adelaide Counsellor Sessions

These information sessions provide an opportunity to catch up on changes to the SATAC admissions system.

Representatives from the tertiary institutions also attend.

Sessions will be held at the Royal Banquet Room, Adelaide Showground, Wayville at the following times, a booking invitation will be sent closer to the dates:

- Wednesday 25 July 2018, 9am to 12 noon
- Thursday 26 July 2018, 12.30pm to 3.30pm
- Friday 27 July 2018, 9am to 12 noon

## Northern Territory Counsellor Information Sessions

Information sessions will be offered in Darwin and Alice Springs at the following times and a booking invitation will be sent closer to the dates:

- Darwin, Thursday 2 August 2018, 9.30am to 12 noon
- Alice Springs, Friday 3 August 2018, 9.00am to 12 noon

## 2017 University aggregate to ATAR table

Please be advised that SATAC has published the last 5 years of Aggregate to ATAR tables on the SATAC website. These can be found at [www.satac.edu.au/calculating-the-university-aggregate-and-atar](http://www.satac.edu.au/calculating-the-university-aggregate-and-atar)

Students, teachers, parents and caregivers should note that prior year information cannot be used accurately to predict ATARs for students in future years. Students in particular should be wary of any advice that purports to do so.

The relationship between the university aggregate and the ATAR changes every year, depending on the population of 16 – 20 year olds in South Australia and the Northern Territory. For example, in 2015, an aggregate of 80.0/90.0 was awarded an ATAR of 95.20. Yet in 2016, an aggregate of 80.0/90.0 was awarded an ATAR of 94.75.

In addition, the scaling outcomes for individual subjects change from year to year. So it is not possible to predict the scaled score outcomes of studies in any year based on predicted A+ to E- SACE/NTCET grades.

SATAC is aware that there are websites that claim to contain "ATAR calculators". These do not accurately calculate ATARs for students.

## Admissions transparency

In 2017 the Australian Government's Higher Education Standards Panel (HESP) published recommendations on ways to improve the transparency of higher education admissions.

As part of these recommendations, universities and other education providers have agreed to adopt a set of common terms for providing information to prospective students about admissions processes for their courses.

SATAC will also adopt this common terminology across our publications and website for 2019 admissions.

Information about these changes is available from the SATAC website [www.satac.edu.au/admissions-transparency](http://www.satac.edu.au/admissions-transparency)

## SATAC Guide survey

At the end of 2017 SATAC invited school counsellors and staff to participate in a survey seeking information about the way in which schools use the SATAC Guide and the importance schools and students place on its content and format.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the survey. We are currently working on the 2019 SATAC Guide and your feedback will help to inform decisions about how it can be improved.

SATAC will seek to conduct further surveys of schools, students and applicants over the coming year about how we can improve our service to you.