



Our ref: ER0208-03; 2019/18675

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION CHANGES 2020

Today, the Minister for Education, Hon Sue Ellery, announced changes to the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requirements for students commencing Year 11 in 2020.

In October 2018, the Minister asked the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) to consult with key education stakeholders, including school leaders, training providers, parents and students, with regard to the four Year 12 ATAR courses or Certificate II requirement to achieve a WACE. Specifically, the Minister asked that the Authority begin consultation on whether the completion of a Certificate II or higher is delivering the best post-school outcomes for students who are not on an ATAR pathway.

While inclusion of a VET qualification as one element of the WACE has served many students well, the Minister requested the consultation consider whether some students may benefit from completing an education program covering more breadth and depth with rigorous course content in their senior secondary years, rather than including a VET qualification in their WACE.

Year 11 students commencing their senior secondary studies in 2020 will have an **additional option** to achieve their WACE. This additional option will provide students with the opportunity to complete five Year 12 General courses if they choose not to undertake four or more ATAR courses or a VET Certificate II or higher.

This additional pathway removes the need for students to enrol in VET programs that may not suit their post-school requirements. For some students, five Year 12 General courses (or a combination of General and up to three (3) ATAR courses) may be more suitable.

Please also note the additional information below:

- With the introduction of this additional Pathway all other requirements for achieving the WACE – the literacy and numeracy standard; breadth and depth requirement (20 units or the equivalent and a combination of list A and B courses) and achievement standard (a minimum number of C grades) remain unchanged.
- Of the 20 units students need to achieve their WACE, up to 4 units (two in Year 11 and two in Year 12), may be substituted through the completion of a Certificate II.
- Of the 20 units students need to achieve their WACE, up to 4 units (two in Year 11 and two in Year 12), may be substituted through the completion of Endorsed Programs.
- Students completing Foundation courses in Year 12 will be required to undertake the pathway requiring a Certificate II or higher VET qualification to achieve their WACE.

The *Year 10 Information Handbook* and support materials will be available on the Authority's website (www.scsa.wa.edu.au) today.

In addition, Frequently Asked Questions for students have also been published on the website. Further support materials, such as the *WACE Manual 2021* will be made available as we progress.

Be assured, the standard of the WACE has not changed. We want all students to be enrolled in challenging courses that will provide them with the best foundation for the pursuit of their career goals. Students now have more choice in their senior secondary study programs.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Garnett', written in a cursive style.

**PATRICK GARNETT
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY**

2 May 2019