



Syd Stirling

Minister for Employment, Education & Training

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REVIEW SUPPORTS MIDDLE YEARS APPROACH

A South Australian review into secondary education further supports the Territory Government's plan to implement middle years in 2007, Education Minister, Syd Stirling said today.

The report, *Ministerial Review of Senior Secondary Education and South Australia*, says that South Australia needs to more closely link year 10 students with years 11 and 12 to lift their results.

As part of the report's recommendations year 10 students will be required to undertake compulsory subjects that count toward their final yr 12 score (SACE).

Mr Stirling said this complements the Territory Government's plan for middle years which will see years 10 – 12 form the 'senior years' and years 7 – 9 form their own distinct 'middle years'.

"The Martin Government wants to improve our education system and lift student outcomes," he said.

"This South Australian Review supports the direction we are taking linking year 10 with year 11 and 12 as the senior years.

"To stimulate community discussion a number of middle years models have now been released about how this new approach could be implemented our local schools."

Mr Stirling said the S.A review also highlights both the Territory's poor performance in secondary education results and the need to make urgent changes.

"Over the past five-years our year 12 scores in the Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) have consistently been around 5 points lower than South Australian scores," he said.

"The review says the percentage of students leaving Territory school in years 11 and 12 is greater than in South Australia and that even our best performing schools don't match their average results.

"What makes this more worrying is that South Australia is performing below the national average, so we are at the bottom of the bottom in terms of the outcomes we are achieving."

Mr Stirling said discussion forums on Government's middle years models will be held during March.

Information on middle years can be found at: www.betterschools.nt.gov.au. A copy of the South Australian review can be found at: www.sacereview.sa.gov.au

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