

## **ACHPER (SA) Response to Future SACE Draft Learning Areas and Subjects**

October 24, 2007

To the Future SACE Office,

As part of the consultative process for future SACE, ACHPER (SA) as the Professional Association for educators of Health & PE would like to offer feedback on the draft Future SACE discussion paper and, in particular, regarding “any subjects that are not included in the proposed Stage 1 and Stage 2 subjects”.

This response has been formulated in collaboration with teachers who are currently teaching the Physical Education SACE course and members who attended an ACHPER (SA) coordinated Future SACE forum held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

In the latest future SACE discussion paper there is a Learning Area called Health and Physical Education, but the subject of Physical Education has not been included within the document. Within the learning area, we believe that the subject Physical Education needs to be added.

ACHPER is extremely surprised that the subject of Physical Education, crucial to the Health & PE learning area, is not included. ACHPER (SA) through our forum and feedback gained from teachers believe strongly that Physical Education should be included as a subject in the revised list of proposed subjects for the following reasons:

- Currently there is a Stage 1 and 2 Physical Education taught in South Australian Schools. The rationale in the curriculum document clearly states ‘Physical Education will enable students to understand the place of physical activity, sport, recreation, and fitness in their present life as well as in further education, in the workplace, and in the wider community, now and potentially in the future’. This recognition of the diversity and uniqueness of the concept of Physical Education is consistent with definitions throughout the academic and education worlds.
- That Physical Education encompasses a broad area of study that promotes physical activity with both immediate and long term effects.
- The current Physical Education course is extremely popular among students, having ranked in the top 5 most popular subjects in the State consistently over the past number of years.
- The broad and flexible nature of the subject allows teachers to tailor aspects of the course to suit their students’ needs.
- From discussions among teachers it appears that students enjoy the course, especially the applied element of it. This in turn assists in the retention of students and therefore completion of their SACE
- Currently there exists in all secondary schools a subject called Physical Education that is studied from Years 8 to 10. Students should be able to follow this subject through to the completion of their Future SACE.

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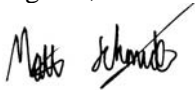
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- Amongst teachers, parents and students the subject named Physical Education has achieved credibility. This is supported by the fact that it has a high number of students completing this subject when compared to other subjects and it is a HESS general subject.
- Physical Education is a subject area that is recognised in schools and universities throughout the world.
- Flinders University students can proceed through a combined BEd/BA or BEd/BHS degree courses to major or minor in a subject area named Physical Education Studies. University of SA students can likewise major or minor in Physical Education. It is therefore viewed as critical in assisting students' career pathways that Physical Education exist as a subject at SACE level.

In conclusion, ACHPER (SA) requests that Physical Education be included as a subject under the Health & Physical Education learning area, and we look forward to ongoing growth and development of our credible, important and popular subject.

Please contact myself for any further information,

Regards,



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