

RECRUITING: Senior Constable Scott Milich with German shepherd Mack. Picture: SARAH REED

Search for top cop dogs

DOUG ROBERTSON
POLICE REPORTER

THE police want to recruit the state's most talented male German shepherds as the next generation of police dogs.

And SA Police is willing to pay for suitable dogs.

At least six of the highly intelligent and athletic hounds are needed almost immediately to boost the ranks at SA Police's Dog Operations Branch.

The dogs are perfect for

training at 10 months but older dogs will be considered, if they have the right qualities.

With a sense of smell 100 times more sensitive than humans and hearing at least four times keener, the dogs can track missing people - including offenders - and detect drugs, firearms or explosives.

"(German shepherds) pick up on our training quite quickly and turn into exceptional police dogs," handler Senior Constable Scott Milich said. "We're after as many as

we can get and if you think you've got a dog that's suitable, we're happy to come out and have a look."

They also form an inseparable bond with their handlers in a full-time friendship. They even stay together after the dogs retire at the age of eight.

Dogs must pass a tough test to prove they have what it takes for police work.

People who think they have a suitable dog can contact Dog Operations on 8207 4177.

Get set to discover how your child rates

LAUREN NOVAK
EDUCATION REPORTER

FOR the first time parents will receive a new report card showing how their child's performance in literacy and numeracy compares with others around the country.

The Advertiser has obtained an example of the report card, to be sent to parents from next week, ahead of the expected release of national comparative test results today.

About 75,000 South Australian children joined students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 around the country to take consistent reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy tests in May.

The results, to be released by the Federal Government, will be the first to make public comparisons between states' performances.

Late last month, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced his Government would require schools to publicly report performance indicators and provide more information to parents from next year.

Parent and teacher groups are eagerly awaiting the test results and, particularly, how South Australia will rate.

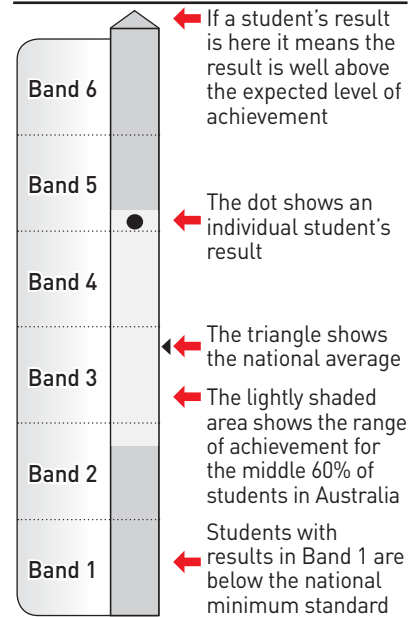
SA Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said the results would be a taste of things to come.

However, the Australian Education Union does not support the comparison of results and is advising teachers to balance the report cards with teacher feedback.

Union state president Correna Haythorpe said she "won't be paying too much attention in terms of the results".

"We believe the best judgment of

THE NEW REPORT



a child's ability is the teacher's judgment," she said.

The Education Department has advised schools they must begin sending home the reports by Wednesday and all parents should receive them by September 26.

They will show the national average performance of children in four categories - reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy - and whether a child has scored at, above or below that level.

Each child's ability will be categorised into one of six bands, detailing their level of competency. A summary of the skills assessed and the testing method also will be given.

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PARENTS: How do you rate the new report card?

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