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A TERTIARY AND NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION RESOURCE

“Only a select few attain a level of success and profile that would allow them to rely on their sport as a long term occupation.”



WINNING AT ELITE SPORT AND STUDY.
Page 30

“The bars are not the big hive of social activity they used to be.”



CAMPUS CULTURE CHANGES. Page 67

“Many staff in their thirties have already been on these contracts for a decade, but cannot get a loan to buy a house or a car.”



CASUAL CONTRACTS UNDER FIRE. Page 69

Literary tests for student teachers

LAUREN NOVAK
EDUCATION REPORTER

EDUCATORS want student teachers to pass uniform literacy and numeracy benchmarks before graduating, amid parental concerns sliding teacher competency is affecting student outcomes.

Flinders University Dean of Education Professor Bob Conway said the literacy and numeracy levels of students coming into teaching courses were sometimes below par and this had to be addressed.

Other critics suggested raising the tertiary entrance score required to enter teaching.

Professor Conway suggested South Australia follow the lead of interstate institutions which test students before they graduate as teachers, so principals could be confident of their competency, regardless of where they studied.

The test could also be introduced as a prerequisite to study entry, to ensure the quality of applicants.

“We should be, in universities, making sure we have benchmarks for literacy and numeracy for people going into teaching,” Professor Conway said.

“We’ve had it in IT courses; in the same way we should have basic literacy and numeracy standards in teaching. They do it interstate but we don’t in South Australia.”

South Australian Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey, who represents the parents of public school students, said they often raised concerns with him about the competency of teachers.

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HEALTHY OUTLOOK: Flinders University 2nd Year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery students Julia Cox and Wilhelm Daehn.
PICTURE: Alice Prokopec

Medicine places increase

LAUREN NOVAK
EDUCATION REPORTER

MORE South Australian students will get the chance to study medicine locally when Flinders University begins offering a medical qualification for school leavers from next year.

The University scrapped a previous undergraduate medical degree in 1994 but, from next year, will offer a six-year combined Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. Until now students could only study medicine at a post-graduate level at the university. The new “accelerated” course will be open to 25 school leavers annually and, from 2011, five of the students must be indigenous.

The Tertiary Entrance Ranking is expected to be 95 or higher and will account for a far greater proportion of the entry requirement than for entry to the University of Adelaide’s prestigious six-year

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery program – a 90 per cent weighting compared to 40 per cent.

An Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test will account for the remaining 10 per cent. The TER requirement at the University of Adelaide is 90, and applicants (of which 173 were accepted for this year) also take a University Medical Admission test (worth 20 per cent) and must pass an interview (worth 40 per cent).

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< Students studying Astronomy.

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