



## **TISC Consultation on Year 12 course incentives – October 2024 Update**

TISC has undertaken significant consultation on Year 12 course incentives over June-August 2024. TISC met with a wide range of stakeholder groups and individuals and received over 30 written submissions. Stakeholder groups included universities, schools, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA), the WA Student Council, the WA Council of State School Organisations, Catholic Education WA, the Association of Independent Schools WA, the Anglican Schools Commission, mathematics and languages associations, school sector leaders, teachers, students, and members of the public. The TISC Board sincerely thanks all individuals and organisations that invested their time and resources to make these submissions.

Key themes from consultation meetings and submissions include:

1. Wide recognition of the equity issues associated with the current 10% bonus incentive embedded within the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) and WA Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).
2. A preference held by students, schools, organisations, universities, and individuals, for preparing students for the global economy, a variety of potential career opportunities, and on-going personal/professional skills development over their lifetimes. Many of these stakeholders expressed their preference for all fields of study to be of equal weight to facilitate maximum student agency rather than maximum possible ATAR.
3. Strong support from mathematics stakeholders, and others, for continuing incentives for higher maths courses based on the concepts covered in these courses being required for many university disciplines, as well as agreement about the utility of maths generally.
4. Enthusiasm from language other than English (LoTE) teachers and academics, and others, for continuing incentives for LoTE due to the benefits of language education to students and society in general.
5. Support for pre-requisite ATAR courses to be used by universities more widely.
6. Concerns about lower enrolment numbers in Mathematics Methods, Mathematics Specialist, and LoTE if there are no Year 12 incentives for these courses.
7. Concerns about why mathematics and languages are the only fields of education considered worthy of incentives.
8. Acknowledgement that the outcomes of the Pathways to Post School Success Report (PPSS Report) and SCSA's WACE Refresh initiatives will be important factors in the design of any revised Year 12 course incentives.

The TISC Board considered the range of themes within the submissions received and acknowledged the potential for advice during 2024-25 on recommendations of the PPSS Report and the SCSA's WACE Refresh elements. This advice may have significant impacts on senior secondary schooling in the medium-long term.

With that context the TISC Board has agreed to:

- 1. Continue the current Year 12 course incentives approach for Year 12 students to 2027 (i.e. 10% bonuses on scaled scores for Mathematics Methods, Mathematics Specialist, and a student's highest language other than English scaled score); and**
- 2. Constitute an Incentives Taskforce to:**
  - a. review submissions to the Year 12 Course Incentives Discussion Paper,**
  - b. develop proposals for the more equitable calculation of the tertiary entrance aggregate and/or selection ranks from 2028 onwards,**
  - c. consult with education systems, students, schools, and other stakeholders as required on those proposals, and**
  - d. make recommendations to the TISC Board by its August 2025 meeting on the calculation of the tertiary entrance aggregate and/or selection ranks from 2028 onwards.**

E/Professor Andrew Taggart  
Chair, TISC Board

8 October 2024