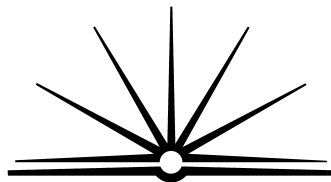


# **Media Guide 2007**

Higher School Certificate  
and School Certificate



**B O A R D O F S T U D I E S**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

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## 1 Important Dates

8 October	HSC Advice Line opens on 13 11 12.
<b>18 October</b>	<b>Higher School Certificate written examinations begin.</b>
12–16 November	School Certificate tests.
8 November	HSC Advice Line closes at 10 pm.
<b>13 November</b>	<b>Higher School Certificate written examinations finish.</b>
3 December	DesignTECH – a selection of the best HSC major works from 2007 Design and Technology students – launched at Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.
13 December	School Certificate award documents arrive in schools.
18 December	First-in-course awards ceremony and media conference re HSC Results Release at Sydney Conservatorium of Music.
<b>19 December</b>	<b>HSC results available to students by internet/SMS message/telephone.</b> <b>Media conference releasing HSC results to media, venue TBC.</b> HSC Examination Inquiry Centre opens on 13 11 12.
20 December	University Admissions Centre releases UAI rankings online for students (for information, see <a href="http://www.uac.edu.au">www.uac.edu.au</a> ). Newspapers print embargoed HSC merit lists.
21 December	HSC Student Results Summary delivered by mail. Students receive written advice of UAI rankings.
15 January	Formal HSC student credentials delivered by mail.
21 January	Unveiling of Art Express works in David Jones windows.
4 February	Official opening of Art Express at the Art Gallery of NSW.

## 2 2007 HSC Facts at a Glance

### The Big Picture

- This year there are **67 189** HSC students.
- Most students will sit six exam papers each in about 750 exam centres including schools in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. There are 110 different examinations for courses ranging from English to Latin, Physics to Drama, and Software Design and Development to Primary Industries.
- Students will read from 13 million printed pages of questions and submit answers in 1.75 million writing booklets.
- A team of more than 30 people took nearly six weeks to pack all written examination papers for each exam centre, creating more than 50 000 parcels for distribution.
- The Board employs more than 5000 exam supervisors and more than 7000 markers.

- Marking takes place at venues across NSW, including Sydney, Bathurst, Coffs Harbour, Gosford, Newcastle, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.
- Schools have submitted their locally assessed marks for each student; this means 50 per cent of students' total HSC marks are already held on the Board's secure system.
- Several million individual marks are processed to produce students' examination marks in each course. The exam mark and the school mark are added together to produce the HSC mark.
- Each student's performance is measured against consistent academic standards to create a fair and easily understood result for each student.

### Top 15 subjects by enrolment 2007

Subject	Total
1. English	63 693
2. Mathematics	52 122
3. Business Studies	15 993
4. Biology	14 620
5. Personal Development, Health and PE	13 278
6. Studies of Religion	13 236
7. Ancient History	11 495
8. Chemistry	10 444
9. Modern History	9 769
10. Visual Arts	9 420
11. Physics	9 253
12. Legal Studies	8 799
13. Hospitality	7 747
14. Economics	5 762
15. Music	5 540

### Enrolment trends

The candidature for the 2007 HSC is the highest on record with 67 189 students enrolled in one or more courses – passing the 67 000 mark for the first time.

The female to male ratio remains stable at 52 per cent female students compared with 48 per cent male students – the same as last year.

With around 1000 more students this year than in 2006, there have been slight increases in some courses. However, overall there have been no substantial changes in 12 months.

Given fluctuations in course enrolments from year to year, comparisons are provided with 2003 figures (comprising five HSCs) to illustrate any trends.

Some subject areas that may be of interest in 2007 are:

#### *English*

- English is the only mandatory subject in the HSC.
- The number of students taking the most demanding 2 unit course - English

(Advanced) - continues to grow and now stands at 28 258 students, representing 44 per cent of all English enrolments and a 14 per cent increase on 2003.

### *Mathematics*

- More than 52 000 Year 12 students have chosen to take Mathematics, which is by far the most popular HSC elective subject.
- This means 78 per cent of all HSC students are taking Mathematics.
- Of the total number of students eligible for an HSC in 2007, 55 394 students (or 88 per cent) are sitting a Mathematics exam or have completed a Year 11 or Year 12 course in Mathematics in previous years.

### *Science*

- Almost half (44 per cent) of all HSC students are studying at least one science course.
- Enrolments in science courses have remained fairly stable. Biology has continued its growth to 14 620 candidates and remains the fourth largest HSC subject. Since 2003, the number of students taking Biology has increased by 18 per cent. Chemistry is the eighth largest subject with 10 444 students and Physics is the 11th largest with 9253.

### *History*

- Almost a third (30 per cent) of HSC candidates are enrolled in a history course.
- Of all the HSC subjects, Ancient History has maintained the seventh largest enrolment with 11 495 students – an increase of 30 per cent on 2003 – and Modern History is in ninth position with 9769.
- There are 1960 students studying both Ancient and Modern History this year.

### *Economics*

- The number of students taking Economics is growing. The 2007 total of 5762 is an increase of 10 per cent on 2003.
- Business Studies, a related course, continues to be popular. With 15 993 students it has the third highest candidature.

### *Technology courses*

- There has been an increased uptake of technology courses among HSC students.
- Textiles and Design (2104) enrolments have risen by 34 per cent since 2003, while Food Technology (3372) increased by eight per cent in the same period.
- Engineering Studies experienced a 20 per cent rise in enrolments from 1290 in 2003 to 1554 in 2007.

### *Vocational Education and Training (VET)*

- There are 20 579 students in Year 12 doing one or more VET courses. This represents almost 31 per cent of the candidature who will gain nationally recognised employment qualifications along with their HSC this year.
- A high percentage of VET students have opted to take examinations as part of their assessment, making their course eligible for a UAI ranking. For example, 87 per cent of Hospitality students and 85 per cent of Entertainment Industry students have chosen to sit the written HSC exam.
- Some of the fastest growing VET courses this year are Construction (up 32 per cent on 2003) and Metal and Engineering (up 13 per cent in that period). Hospitality

remains the largest VET course with 7747 students, and has grown eight per cent since 2003.

- Accounting students have balanced the books with equal numbers of male and female students – 236.

#### *Visual Arts*

- Visual Arts is in 10th position with 9420 students.
- The best work of this year's students will be included in the 25th anniversary of the Art Express exhibition which will be launched in Sydney this January before touring the rest of NSW during 2008.

#### *Languages*

- This year's top three languages are again: French (1410 students), Japanese (1376 students) and Chinese (1147 students).
- Many language courses have shown significant increases since 2003. These include French Extension up 31 per cent to 221 and Japanese Beginners up 38 per cent to 634. Spanish Beginners, one of the smaller courses, has more than doubled from 74 to 168, an increase of 127 per cent.
- The 10 most popular language subjects include five European languages (French, Italian, German, Spanish and Modern Greek) and three Asian languages (Japanese, Chinese and Indonesian), while one is Middle-Eastern (Arabic) and one is classical (Latin).

Top 10 languages by enrolment:

	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	French	1410
2.	Japanese	1376
3.	Chinese	1147
4.	Italian	719
5.	German	568
6.	Spanish	376
7.	Arabic	237
8.	Indonesian	215
9.	Latin	184
10.	Modern Greek	169

### 3 2007 HSC and SC Enrolment Statistics by Region

The locations are based on the Board of Studies regions. See the maps in Section 9 of this guide. Students doing the HSC outside of NSW and those studying by self-tuition are included in 'Other Categories'.

#### 2007 HSC candidates by geographical location

<i>Location</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total Percentage</i>	
<b>Metropolitan</b>				
Metropolitan East	5453	5286	10739	15.98%
Metropolitan North	5174	5329	10503	15.63%
Metropolitan North West	4386	3927	8313	12.37%
Metropolitan South West	5183	4727	9910	14.75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20196</b>	<b>19269</b>	<b>39465</b>	<b>58.74%</b>
<b>Country</b>				
Hunter	3839	3337	7176	10.68%
North Coast	2750	2416	5166	7.69%
North West	1182	925	2107	3.14%
Riverina	1672	1367	3039	4.52%
South Coast	3521	3139	6660	9.91%
Western	1671	1404	3075	4.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14635</b>	<b>12588</b>	<b>27223</b>	<b>40.52%</b>
<b>Other Categories</b>	173	328	501	0.75%
<b>Total of all Categories</b>	<b>35004</b>	<b>32185</b>	<b>67189</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Candidates by institution type

School students	65698	97.78%
TAFE students	1479	2.20%
Self-tuition students	12	0.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67189</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### 2007 School Certificate candidates by geographical location

<i>Location</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total Percentage</i>	
<b>Metropolitan</b>				
Metropolitan East	5217	5453	10670	12.30%
Metropolitan North	5637	5670	11307	13.04%
Metropolitan North West	5489	5660	11149	12.85%
Metropolitan South West	6246	6595	12841	14.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22589</b>	<b>23378</b>	<b>45967</b>	<b>52.99%</b>
<b>Country</b>				
Hunter	5257	5636	10893	12.56%
North Coast	3741	3996	7737	8.92%
North West	1577	1594	3171	3.66%
Riverina	2241	2384	4625	5.33%
South Coast	4604	4860	9464	10.91%
Western	2341	2341	4682	5.40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19761</b>	<b>20811</b>	<b>40572</b>	<b>46.77%</b>
<b>Other Categories</b>	93	108	201	0.23%
<b>Total of all Categories</b>	<b>42443</b>	<b>44297</b>	<b>86740</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 4 2007 HSC Enrolment Statistics by Course

### 2007 HSC Student enrolments by subject, course and gender

Course Name	Units	Female	Male	Total
<i>HSC Courses</i>				
Aboriginal Studies	2	233	90	323
Agriculture	2	559	715	1274
Ancient History	2	6839	4656	11495
Biology	2	9147	5473	14620
Business Studies	2	7887	8106	15993
Chemistry	2	4702	5742	10444
Community & Family Studies	2	4530	268	4798
Dance	2	687	29	716
Design and Technology	2	1647	2298	3945
Distinction Course – Comparative Literature	2	11	3	14
Distinction Course – Cosmology	2	8	22	30
Distinction Course – Philosophy	2	30	24	54
Drama	2	3589	1527	5116
Earth & Environmental Science	2	565	692	1257
Economics	2	2247	3515	5762
Engineering Studies	2	61	1493	1554
English (Advanced)	2	16647	11611	28258
English (Standard)	2	14798	16565	31363
English as a Second Language	2	1334	1393	2727
English Extension 1	1	4070	2178	6248
English Extension 2	1	1708	846	2554
Food Technology	2	2541	831	3372
Geography	2	2179	2382	4561
History Extension	1	1359	919	2278
Industrial Technology	2	264	3352	3616
Information Processes and Technology	2	1517	3744	5261
Legal Studies	2	5420	3379	8799
General Mathematics	2	15258	14488	29746
Mathematics	2	8326	9808	18134
Mathematics Extension 1	1	3727	5132	8859
Mathematics Extension 2	2	1173	1903	3076
Modern History	2	5302	4467	9769
Music 1	2	2141	2700	4841
Music 2	2	371	321	692
Music Extension	1	210	195	405
Personal Development, Health & Physical Education	2	6805	5722	12527
Physics	2	2264	6989	9253
Senior Science	2	1872	2405	4277
Society and Culture	2	3110	621	3731
Software Design & Development	2	147	1730	1877
Studies of Religion I	1	5429	4743	10172
Studies of Religion II	2	2102	962	3064
Textiles and Design	2	2062	42	2104
Visual Arts	2	6513	2907	9420

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i><b>Languages</b></i>				
Arabic Continuers	2	138	98	236
Arabic Extension	1	43	33	76
Armenian Continuers	2	15	8	23
Chinese Background Speakers	2	487	512	999
Chinese Beginners	2	17	1	18
Chinese Continuers	2	69	61	130
Chinese Extension	1	20	19	39
Classical Greek Continuers	2	6	10	16
Classical Greek Extension	1	4	8	12
Classical Hebrew Continuers	2	38	16	54
Classical Hebrew Extension	1	20	12	32
Croatian Continuers	2	11	13	24
Dutch Continuers	2	2	2	4
Filipino Continuers	2	10	11	21
French Beginners	2	470	80	550
French Continuers	2	603	241	844
French Extension	1	141	80	221
German Beginners	2	88	50	138
German Continuers	2	244	180	424
German Extension	1	66	59	125
Hindi Continuers	2	23	17	40
Hungarian Continuers	2	2	5	7
Indonesian Background Speakers	2	44	42	86
Indonesian Beginners	2	35	8	43
Indonesian Continuers	2	59	27	86
Indonesian Extension	1	15	9	24
Italian Beginners	2	282	59	341
Italian Continuers	2	274	94	368
Italian Extension	1	37	15	52
Japanese Background Speakers	2	26	29	55
Japanese Beginners	2	408	226	634
Japanese Continuers	2	427	250	677
Japanese Extension	1	140	98	238
Khmer Continuers	2	9	6	15
Korean Background Speakers	2	58	61	119
Korean Continuers	2	4	1	5
Latin Continuers	2	75	105	180
Latin Extension	1	34	66	100
Macedonian Continuers	2	12	10	22
Maltese Continuers	2	2	1	3
Modern Greek Beginners	2	30	12	42
Modern Greek Continuers	2	71	56	127
Modern Greek Extension	1	33	19	52
Modern Hebrew Continuers	2	27	18	45
Persian Background Speakers	2	21	22	43
Polish Continuers	2	18	17	35
Portuguese Continuers	2	11	7	18
Russian Background Speakers	2	11	12	23
Serbian Continuers	2	18	6	24
Spanish Beginners	2	132	36	168
Spanish Continuers	2	131	77	208
Spanish Extension	1	59	20	79
Swedish Continuers	2	7	4	11

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tamil Continuers	2	9	11	20
Turkish Continuers	2	42	19	61
Ukrainian Continuers	2	1	0	1
Vietnamese Continuers	2	75	53	128
<b><i>Vocational Education and Training</i></b>				
Accounting	2	236	236	472
Business Services		1852	485	2337
Business Services Extension		6	0	6
Business Services Examination	2	1406	310	1716
Construction		28	2235	2263
Construction Specialisation Studies		0	17	17
Construction Examination	2	22	1767	1789
Entertainment Industry		442	489	931
Entertainment Industry Examination	2	390	400	790
Hospitality		5346	2401	7747
Hospitality Extension		129	72	201
Hospitality Examination	2	4706	2010	6716
Information Technology		728	2104	2832
Information Technology Specialisation Studies		3	48	51
Information Technology Examination	2	547	1788	2335
Metal and Engineering		19	822	841
Metal and Engineering Extension – Specialist Studies		1	39	40
Metal and Engineering Examination	2	16	609	625
Primary Industries		237	439	676
Primary Industries Extension/Specialisation Studies		7	22	29
Primary Industries Examination	2	197	331	528
Retail Operations		1534	656	2190
Retail Operations Examination	2	1225	492	1717
Tourism	2	438	45	483
Tourism Extension		5	0	5
Tourism Examination	2	336	31	367
<b><i>Life Skills</i></b>				
Citizenship and Society Life Skills	2	235	337	572
Creative Arts Life Skills	2	271	342	613
English Life Skills	2	541	768	1309
Mathematics Life Skills	2	452	649	1101
Personal Development, Health & PE Life Skills	2	293	458	751
Science Life Skills	2	149	242	391
Technology & Applied Studies Life Skills	2	289	458	747
Work and the Community Life Skills	2	347	494	841

**Note:** There are multiple courses available within each VET industry framework, allowing for flexible delivery throughout Stage 6. The courses have been combined to show entries in the base course, entries in any extension or specialisation courses and the entries in the optional examination. Due to the consolidation, no course number or unit value can be shown for these courses.

## 5 The HSC Advice Line – 13 11 12

The Advice Line is a telephone information service for students preparing for the HSC examinations. It provides an after-hours and weekend service leading up to and during the examination period. The Advice Line has received almost 320 000 calls since it began in 1995.

The 2007 HSC Advice Line opened on Monday 8 October. It will close at 10 pm on Thursday 8 November 2007.

The service is open from:

Monday to Friday	4 pm to 10 pm
Saturday	10 am to 6 pm
Sunday	10 am to 10 pm

The HSC Advice Line telephone number is **13 11 12**.

The cost is only 25 cents, no matter where a student is calling from in NSW or how long the call lasts. Calls to the Advice Line cannot be made from mobile phones.

Up to 80 lines are open at any one time for teachers to answer questions, no matter how simple or complex. Some of the questions students commonly ask are:

*What kinds of exam questions will be asked in this subject?*

*How do I structure an essay or use quotes and reference material?*

*Do I have the right answer to the question in the specimen exam paper?*

*I need more information on this topic – help!*

*What equipment do I need to take into the exam room?*

## 6 Release of HSC Results to Students

The HSC results are available to students via the internet, SMS text message and automated telephone services from 6 am on Wednesday 19 December. Students will receive HSC results summaries in the mail on Friday 21 December and their full credentials on Tuesday 15 January 2008.

The pre-Christmas release of HSC results gives students more time to take advantage of career counselling and other support services before making decisions about university, TAFE and employment offers or other plans

### The Internet Results Service

- Students can access their HSC results on three Board of Studies websites from 6 am on Wednesday 19 December by typing in their student number and PIN at:  
www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au  
or  
www.hscreults.nsw.edu.au  
or  
www.hsc-results.nsw.edu.au
- There is no cost to students who use a website other than the charges applied by their internet service provider and/or the cost of the call.

### Release of results by SMS text message – 0427 659 900

- Students who want to automatically receive their HSC results by SMS can **pre-register** for the SMS service by text-messaging their student number and PIN to **0427 659 900**. Registrations for results delivery via SMS commence on **Monday, November 5, 2007**
- A return text message to the student confirms that they have registered for the service and the results will be sent to their mobile phone at approximately 6 am on 19 December.
- Students who do not pre-register can still get their results by SMS by messaging their student number and PIN to the service **after** 6 am on 19 December.
- Students should check that their phone is in credit and that there is room for messages in their phone's inbox.
- The SMS service will be charged at the standard price of a text message.

### The Telephone Results Service – 1300 669 248

- Students can access their HSC results from 6 am on Wednesday 19 December by using the automated telephone service.
- Students call **1300 669 248** and follow the voice prompts. They will be asked to enter their student number and PIN.
- Calls will be charged at standard local call rates. Mobile and payphone calls are extra.

## **7 HSC Examination Inquiry Centre – 13 11 12**

The HSC Examination Inquiry Centre will operate from 9 am on Wednesday 19 December 2007 until the New Year. Students can talk to experienced Board of Studies and school staff about their Higher School Certificate results.

Inquiries relating to the UAI, university admissions, post-secondary education and work should be directed to the Universities Admissions Centre or the annual Careers Advisory Service for School Leavers.

## **8 Careers Advisory Services – [www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au)**

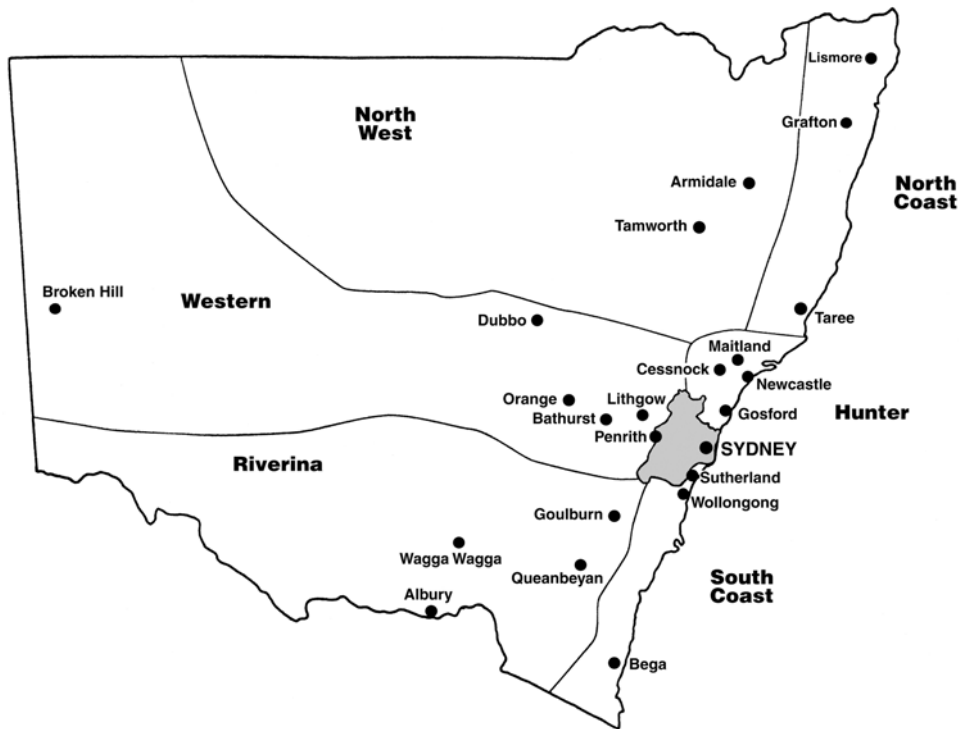
Each year, following the release of the Higher School Certificate results, the NSW Department of Education and Training offers free Careers Advisory Services which provide students and their families or caregivers with up-to-date and relevant information about the range of available career and study options.

The Careers Advisory Services will be open from Wednesday 19 December 2007 to Friday 18 January 2008. Students can contact the service by calling 1300 300 687, or email [careers@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:careers@det.nsw.edu.au).

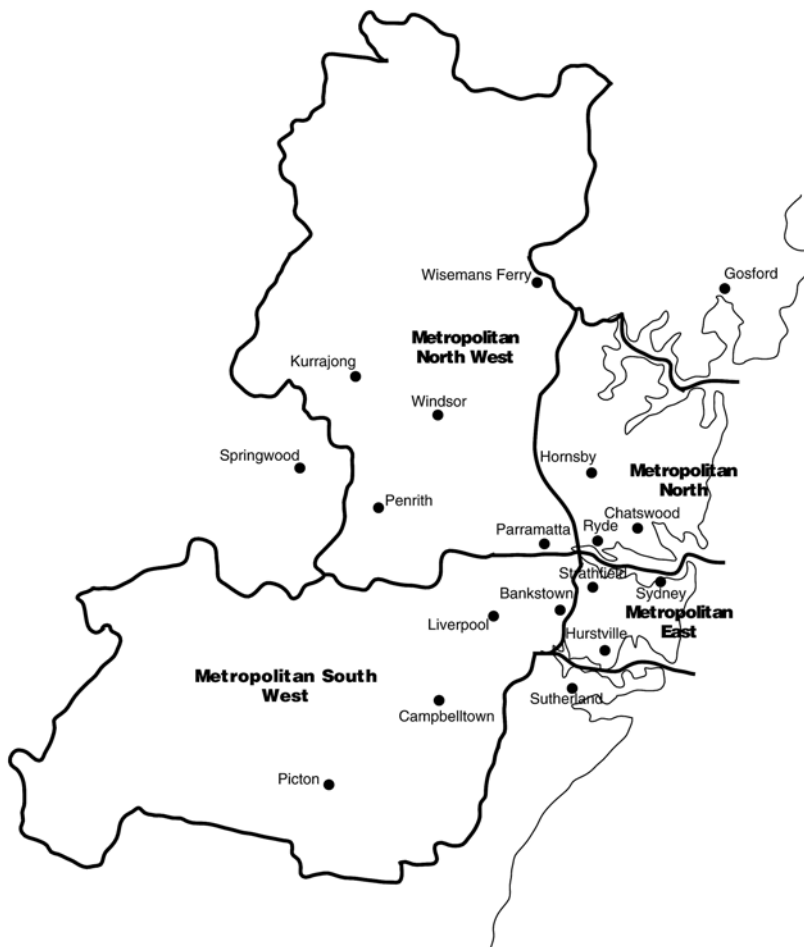
More information and contact details are available at [www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au).

## 9 Maps of Board of Studies Regions

### New South Wales



### Sydney Metropolitan



## 10 Media Inquiries and Guidelines for Contacting Students

### Media Inquiries

Please direct all your HSC media inquiries to:

Natalie Laharnar  
Chief Media Officer  
Office of the Board of Studies  
Tel: (02) 9367 8066  
Mobile: 0438 497 766  
Fax: (02) 9367 8035  
Email: natalie.laharnar@bos.nsw.edu.au

### Guidelines for Contacting Students and Schools

**It's important that students are free to concentrate solely on their exams. For this reason media outlets should not attend schools before or during exams.**

- **Mock-up shots after the exam** can be arranged to provide images of students concentrating on their exam papers. Call the Board of Studies to make arrangements.
- Journalists seeking access to a **government school** or telephone interviews with teachers should contact a Department of Education and Training media liaison officer on (02) 9561 8501, preferably 24 hours in advance.
- Journalists seeking access to a **non-government school** should contact the school principal directly.
- Be aware that **in some cases parental permission must be obtained** for students to be photographed or filmed or otherwise identified or interviewed. Check this with the principal.
- Always notify the school principal on your arrival at the school.

Please call the above media inquiries number at **any time** with questions or special requests.

Additional media information and copies of this Media Guide can be found on the Board of Studies website:

**[www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)**