

Martin Hamilton-Smith

Minister for Defence Industries

Susan Close

Minister for Education and Child Development

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South Australian students armed with defence industry skills

Thirteen high school students are prepared to build the nation's Future Frigates and Submarines after graduating from the Defence Industry Pathways Program.

Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said the program conducted at TAFE SA's Regency Park Advanced Manufacturing Centre was an example of industry and government collaboration to build a brighter future for young South Australians.

"The Defence Industry Pathways Program provides students with a stepping stone from high school into the defence manufacturing industry," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"The defence industry is a critical contributor to the South Australian economy and ensuring we have skilled workers is vital to the success of our future shipbuilding projects.

"Previous students have been involved in the Air Warfare Destroyer project and we hope these graduates will continue to work in the local defence industry, including on the Off-Shore Patrol Vessels, the Future Frigates and next generation of submarines.

"This program is a fantastic example of a local initiative supporting our future workforce."

The program is supported by submarine maintainer and shipbuilder ASC who is one of the largest employers of apprentices in South Australia.

"ASC do an excellent job in employing young South Australians and growing our defence manufacturing industry, currently employing over 120 apprentices," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

Minister for Education and Child Development Susan Close said the program had been successfully delivered for nine years and provided new opportunities for students.

"Shipbuilding requires a very specific set of skills. This program arms students with the expertise to embark on a rewarding defence industry career," Ms Close said.

"The Defence Industry Pathways Program exposes students to skill sets that can be applied to a broad range of engineering and advanced manufacturing career pathways.

"The hands-on program requires students to design and build model submarines and destroyers," Ms Close said.

The thirteen graduates successfully completed an accredited SACE Stage 1 Design and Technology 10 point unit.