KEEN: Amber, from Salisbury Academy; Natalia, from Murray Bridge Academy; and Eric, from Mark Oliphant College Academy.

In fast lane for success in class thanks to sport

Dragon boat racing was part of a recent two-day sports carnival held for 220 students from 14 South Australian Aboriginal Sports Academies.

The students traveled from around the state to compete in the fourth annual SAASTA UniSA Shield, to compete in dragon boat racing and soccer.

Students who took part were required to meet educational targets that included 80 per cent school attendance.

DECD executive director of Students, Aboriginal and Family Services David Rathman said it was one of the program’s biggest events of the year.

"Sport is the passion that drives all SAASTA students and for many it is the key motivator for them to stay in school," Mr Rathman said.

"This year we have 59 Year 12 students on track to complete their SACE, with a further 116 students on track to complete a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.

Students represented their academies in these teams: Ceduna, Port Pirie, Murray Bridge, Salisbury, Christies Beach, Le Fevre, Mark Oliphant, Whyalla, Coober Pedy, Maitland, Port Augusta, Gawler, Mawson Lakes and Port Lincoln."