



## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

### What if I am staying at school full-time until year 12?

Things will remain largely unchanged. You can still have a part-time job in addition to your studies and you can still choose to combine paid work and training through an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA) as part of your education program. Students undertaking these activities will not require an Approval Statement to do so.

### What if I want to leave school to enter the workforce or do work-related training such as an apprenticeship or traineeship?

You and your parents will need to seek an Approval Statement through the ACT Department of Education and Training to ensure the training or employment you plan to undertake meets the Department's guidelines.

### What if at the end of year 10 I want to study up to year 12 but not in a school setting?

You can choose to continue your studies through an education course delivered by an education provider registered to deliver accredited education courses such as the Canberra Institute of Technology. For more information about non-school education options visit [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au)

### Will this affect my Centrelink payments or other benefits?

Young people without year 12 or equivalent will need to meet the new participation requirements in order to be eligible for income support. More information about Centrelink payments is available from the Centrelink website: [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

### If I am a full-time student do I need permission to work in a part-time job?

No. You do not need permission to undertake part-time work in addition to your full-time studies.

### What if I am under 15 years old and want to work more than 10 hours a week?

If you are under the age of 15 years and wish to work for more than 10 hours a week, your employer must notify the ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services. For more information visit [www.dhcs.act.gov.au](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au)

### What if I want to engage in full-time work, education or training interstate or overseas and I'm under 17 years old?

If you are a child or young person of compulsory education age wishing to study, train or work interstate or overseas, you should contact the ACT Department of Education and Training to discuss your individual circumstances and to find out about the legislative requirements in the state or country you intend to reside in.

### If I was 15 or older and left school in 2009, do these changes apply to me?

No. If you had already turned 15 and left school at the end of 2009 and did not enrol to continue your studies in 2010, these changes do not apply to you. The changes came into effect on 1 January 2010. However we encourage all young people who have left school prior to completing year 12 or an equivalent to use the resources available through the ACT Department of Education and Training to consider future options for further education, training or employment.

### What if I live outside of the ACT and attend a school in the ACT?

The ACT legislative changes do not affect a child or young person of compulsory education age who is not living in the ACT.

### If I'm from interstate and I left school legally under the law of the state or territory I'm from, and moved to the ACT, do I have to be in education, training or employment until I turn 17 or complete year 12?

This depends on your circumstances, such as when you left school and how old you were at the time.

If you had already turned 15 and left school before 31 December 2009, and did not enrol at an ACT school for 2010, the changes do not apply to you.

If you did not leave school before 31 December 2009, and then moved to the ACT and are under 17, you must be in education, training or employment, unless you have completed year 12 or have an Exemption Certificate.

If you are unsure, please contact the Department to discuss your particular circumstances.

### Where can I get more information?

You can visit the ACT Department of Education and Training website at [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au), email [ACTYouthCommitment@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTYouthCommitment@act.gov.au) or phone (02) 6205 2254.

# CHANGES TO THE ACT SCHOOL LEAVING AGE WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

There have been some changes to the school leaving age and education participation requirements in the ACT.

It is important that parents, carers and students understand the implications of the recent reforms to the *Education Act 2004* (ACT).



# THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES TO THE ACT EDUCATION SYSTEM...

From 1 January 2010, a new compulsory education age of 17 replaced the previous ACT compulsory school age, which allowed students to leave at 15.

All young people are now required to participate in full-time education until they complete a year 10 program of study and then participate full-time in education, training or employment until completing year 12 or equivalent, or reaching age 17, whichever occurs first.

The majority of ACT students choose to continue in education until Year 12 or equivalent and are not affected by these changes.

However, students who have not turned 17, and are looking to undertake employment or work-related training after year 10 will need an Approval Statement from the ACT Department of Education and Training to do so.

This is required to ensure the training or employment meets the new legislative requirements and the Department's guidelines.

## WHY HAS IT CHANGED?

These reforms have been implemented to ensure that every young person in the ACT can make the most of the opportunities available to them to gain the knowledge and skills they need to participate in the community.

The new requirements seek to improve employment capacity and prospects, and to increase the earning potential of all young people.

They are also in-line with the ACT Government's commitment to increase the proportion of 19-year-olds with a Year 12 Certificate or equivalent from 90 per cent to 95 per cent by 2013.

In parallel to the reforms, ACT agencies and other interested parties are developing a *Youth Commitment* to ensure that no young person under 17 is lost from education, training or employment.

## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT?

Your child must remain in full-time education up to year 10, unless they receive an Exemption Certificate. Information on Exemption Certificates is available on the ACT Department of Education and Training website, [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au)

If your child has finished year 10 and is aged under 17 years you must ensure they are enrolled in full-time education, or have approval to undertake work-related training or employment.

Students looking to undertake work-related training or employment after year 10 will need to seek an Approval Statement from the ACT Department of Education and Training to ensure the training or employment meets the Department's guidelines.

There are many pathways and options available to students to fulfil the new requirements. This ensures every student is engaged in programs and activities which best cater for their strengths, needs, interests and aspirations.

Students undertaking Australian School-Based Apprenticeships, or working part-time in addition to their full-time studies, will not require an Approval Statement.

To obtain information on how to apply for Approval Statements, or to find out more about the options available for your child, visit your local high school or college; contact the ACT Department of Education and Training; or other education and training providers such as the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Parents can also visit the ACT Department of Education and Training website at [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au), email [ACTYouthCommitment@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTYouthCommitment@act.gov.au) or call 6205 2254 for more information.

## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDENT?

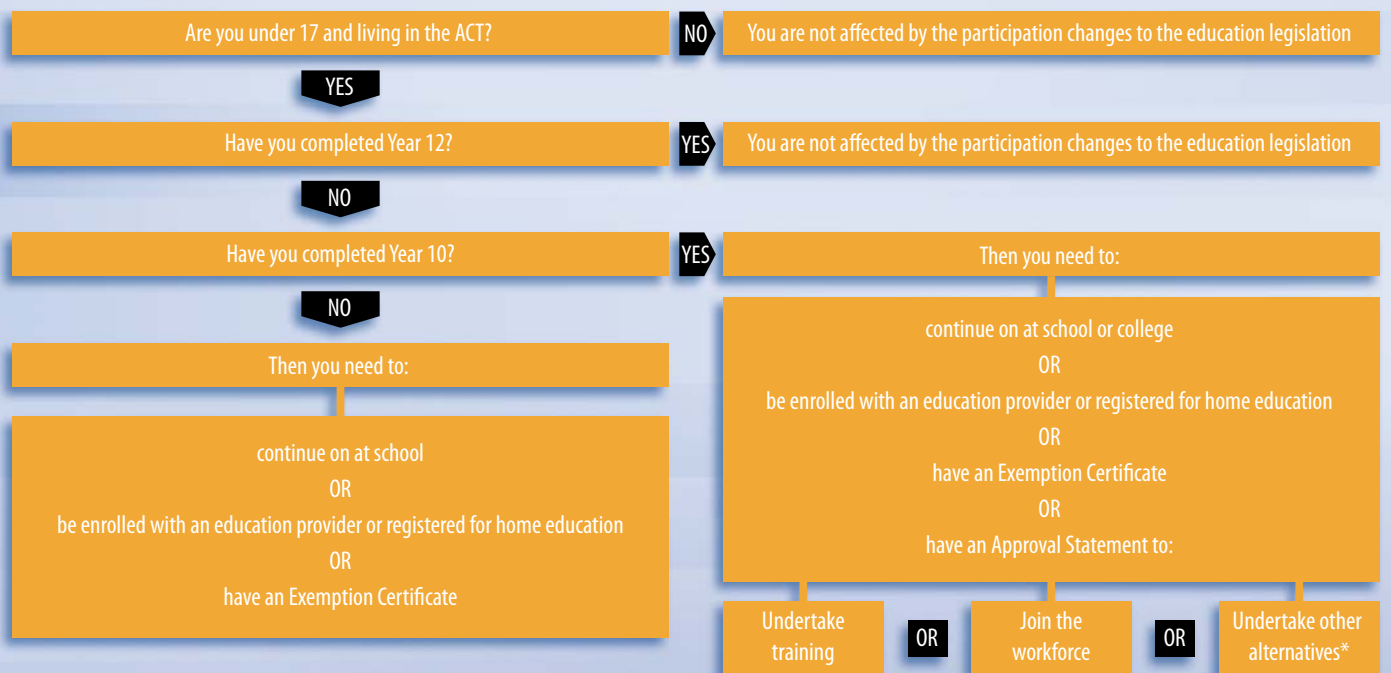
Firstly, you must remain in full-time education up to year 10, unless you receive an Exemption Certificate. Information on Exemption Certificates is available on the ACT Department of Education and Training website, [www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au)

Then, if you have finished year 10 and are aged under 17 years, you must be enrolled in full-time education or have approval to undertake work-related training or employment.

Students looking to undertake work-related training or employment after year 10 need to seek an Approval Statement from the ACT Department of Education and Training to ensure the training or employment meets the Department's guidelines.

Students should also be aware of the law around the employment of young people and the Children and Young People (Employment) Standards 2009 (No 1). The Standards further protect young people in employment. For more information visit [www.dhcs.act.gov.au](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au)

## AT A GLANCE: WHAT THE CHANGES MEAN FOR STUDENTS



\*such as a combination of education and/or training and/or employment options.