



THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE TO THE ACT EDUCATION SYSTEM...

There has been a major change to education requirements for young people in the ACT with a recent amendment to the Education Act.

Students and their parents need to be aware of their new education responsibilities.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

From 1 January 2010, a new compulsory education age will replace the current ACT compulsory school age ending at 15. All young people will be required to remain in education until completing 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.

WHY HAS IT CHANGED?

The reform is to ensure that every young person in the ACT can make the most of the opportunities available to gain the knowledge and skills they need to participate in the community. It will lead to improved employment capacity and prospects, and increased earning potential for all young people.

It is 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.

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 and you can still do an Australian School Based Apprenticeship in your education program.

WHAT IF I WANT TO LEAVE SCHOOL TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE, DO WORK-RELATED TRAINING OR GET 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 you receive or employment you 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 complete your Year 10 or Year 12 studies with an education provider such as the Canberra Institute of Technology or in a home school setting. For more information about non-school options visit our website below.

IF I'M 15 OR 16 AND HAVE ALREADY LEFT SCHOOL IN 2009, DO THESE CHANGES APPLY TO ME?

No. If you have already turned 15 and leave at the end of 2009 these changes do not apply to you.

For further information visit www.det.act.gov.au, Phone 6205 2254 or email ACTYouthCommitment@act.gov.au



Education and Training