

Important Notice to Secondary Students and their Parents/Carers

Reforms to the Education ACT 2004 (ACT) and Education ACT 1990 (NSW)

From 1 January 2010 the 'Compulsory Education Age' (ACT) and 'Compulsory School Age' (NSW) will replace the current compulsory school age of 15 years as part of the mandatory requirement for all young people to participate in schooling (or approved equivalent) until they reach 17 years of age.

This means that from 1 January 2010:

- students in the ACT and NSW will no longer be allowed to leave school on the date of their 15th birthday.
- students will be required to remain at school until the end of Year 10 and then stay in education, training or employment (or a combination of these) until they turn 17 years of age.
- young people aged under 17 years without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification (VET Certificate II) will be required to undertake full-time (more than 25 hours per week) education or training, or part-time education or training supplemented by work, in order to be eligible for Centrelink income support ('Youth Allowance – Other').
- In the ACT:
 - Students who are under 17 years of age and wish to change from full-time education to part-time education or a combination of education, training and work will need to apply for an '**Approval Statement**' through the ACT Department of Education and Training. This is to ensure the training received or employment undertaken represents a meaningful pathway for students and meets the Department's guidelines.
 - All ACT College Principals will be sent information concerning the Application Package about this in January 2010. Information will also be posted on the Department's website at www.det.act.gov.au in the near future.