

2009

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

(As presented)

(Minister for Education and Training)

# Education (Participation) Amendment Bill 2009

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# Education (Participation) Amendment Bill 2009

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## A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Education Act 2004*, and for other purposes

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The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

1 **1 Name of Act**

2 This Act is the *Education (Participation) Amendment Act 2009*.

3 **2 Commencement**

4 This Act commences on 1 January 2010.

5 *Note* The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on  
6 the notification day (see Legislation Act, s 75 (1)).

7 **3 Legislation amended**

8 This Act amends the *Education Act 2004*.

9 *Note* This Act also amends the following legislation (see sch 1):

- 10 • *Children and Young People Act 2008*
- 11 • *Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1991*.

12 **4 Main objects of Act**  
13 **Section 8 (b)**

14 *substitute*

15 (b) to promote compulsory education by ensuring that—

16 (i) children complete year 10; and

17 (ii) children participate in education until they are 17 years  
18 old or complete year 12 (whichever happens first), with  
19 the opportunity to participate in training or employment  
20 after year 10; and

21 (ba) to state the circumstances in which school attendance is not  
22 required, including providing for suspension and exclusion  
23 from school; and

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**5 Chapter 2***substitute***Chapter 2 Compulsory education****Part 2.1 Preliminary—ch 2****9 Meaning of *compulsory education age*—ch 2**

For this chapter, a child is of *compulsory education age* if the child is at least 6 years old and under the age that the first of the following happens:

- (a) the child is 17 years old;
- (b) the child completes year 12.

**9A Meaning of *education course* and *education provider*—Act**

- (1) For this Act, each of the courses mentioned in table 9A, column 2 is an *education course*, and the entity mentioned in column 3 for the course is the provider (the *education provider*) of the course.
- (2) Also, the chief executive may approve another course as an *education course* and an entity as the provider (the *education provider*) of the course.
- (3) An approval is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

**Table 9A**

<b>column 1 item</b>	<b>column 2 education course</b>	<b>column 3 education provider</b>
1	a course of study	a school
2	a course of study	a school under a law of a State or another Territory
3	a course of study leading to the completion of year 10 or year 12	a registered training organisation under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i> or a registered training organisation (however described) under a law of a State or another Territory
4	a vocational education and training course under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>	a registered training organisation under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>
5	a vocational education and training course (however described) under a law of a State or another Territory	a registered training organisation (however described) under a law of a State or another Territory
6	a higher education course under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>	a higher education provider under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>
7	a higher education course under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>	a university under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>

1    **9B           Meaning of *completes year 10*—Act**

2           (1) For this Act, a child *completes year 10* at an education provider if  
3           the child—

4                   (a) is awarded or has completed the requirements for being  
5                   awarded a year 10 certificate (however described) by the  
6                   provider; or

7                   (b) is given or has completed the requirements for being given a  
8                   high school record (however described) in relation to year 10  
9                   by the provider; or

10                  (c) is awarded a certificate (however described) approved by the  
11                  chief executive.

12           (2) An approval is a notifiable instrument.

13                  *Note*     A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

14           (3) Also, for this Act, a child *completes year 10* if—

15                   (a) the child is awarded or has completed the requirements for  
16                   being awarded a year 10 certificate (however described) in a  
17                   State or another Territory under a law of the State or Territory;  
18                   or

19                   (b) the chief executive is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the  
20                   child has completed year 10 or its equivalent in the ACT, a  
21                   State, another Territory or a foreign country.

22           (4) A child mentioned in subsection (3) (b) may be given a certificate or  
23           record by the chief executive.

24                  *Note*     If a form is approved under s 154 for s (4), the form must be used.

1     **9C           Meaning of *completes year 12*—Act**

2           (1) For this Act, a child *completes year 12* if the child is awarded or has  
3           completed the requirements for being awarded—

4                   (a) a year 12 certificate (however described) by the Board of  
5                   Senior Secondary Studies under the *Board of Senior Secondary*  
6                   *Studies Act 1997*; or

7                   (b) a certificate equivalent to a year 12 certificate that shows  
8                   completion of a higher education pre-entry course; or

9                           **Examples**

10                           1     the Certificate of General Education for Adults (at Certificate II or  
11                                    above)

12                           2     the International Baccalaureate

13                           *Note*     An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,  
14                                    but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it  
15                                    appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

16                           (c) a certificate equivalent to a year 12 certificate issued under the  
17                                    AQF; or

18                                   **Example**

19                                   the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate II

20                           (d) a certificate (however described) approved by the chief  
21                                    executive.

22           (2) An approval is a notifiable instrument.

23                   *Note*     A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

24           (3) Also, for this Act, a child *completes year 12* if—

25                   (a) the child is awarded or has completed the requirements for  
26                   being awarded a year 12 certificate (however described) in a  
27                   State or another Territory under a law of the State or Territory;  
28                   or



1 (b) the chief executive is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the  
2 child has completed year 12 or its equivalent in the ACT, a  
3 State, another Territory or a foreign country.

4 (4) A child mentioned in subsection (3) (b) may be given a certificate or  
5 record by the chief executive.

6 *Note* If a form is approved under s 154 for s (4), the form must be used.

7 (5) In this section:

8 *AQF*—see the *Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003*,  
9 dictionary.

## 10 **9D Guidelines—certain chief executive functions**

11 (1) The chief executive may make guidelines about the exercise of the  
12 chief executive's functions under the following provisions:

- 13 • section 10 (5) (c) (Child of compulsory education age—  
14 enrolment and registration requirement);
- 15 • section 10A (3) (Child of compulsory education age—  
16 enrolment and registration requirement);
- 17 • section 10D (4) (Child of compulsory education age—  
18 participation requirement);
- 19 • section 14D (3) (Approval statement—compliance  
20 requirement).

21 (2) A guideline is a notifiable instrument.

22 *Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

23 (3) The chief executive must comply with any guidelines.

1 **Part 2.2** **Compulsory education**  
2 **requirements**

3 **Division 2.2.1** **Enrolment, registration and**  
4 **attendance requirements**

5 **10** **Child of compulsory education age—enrolment and**  
6 **registration requirement**

- 7 (1) This section applies if a child—  
8 (a) lives in the ACT; and  
9 (b) is of compulsory education age.
- 10 (2) The child's parents must do either or both of the following:  
11 (a) enrol the child at an education provider for the purpose of the  
12 provider's education course not later than 14 days after the day  
13 the course starts;  
14 (b) apply to register the child for home education not later than  
15 10 school term days after the first of the following happens:  
16 (i) the start of the school year;  
17 (ii) the day the child begins to live in the ACT.
- 18 (3) Also, the child's parents must enrol the child under  
19 subsection (2) (a) not later than 10 school term days after—  
20 (a) the day the child turns 6 years old; or  
21 (b) for a child who has not completed year 10—the day the child  
22 begins to live in the ACT.

- 1 (4) If the child's enrolment at an education provider is cancelled by the  
2 child's parents, the parents must do either or both of the following  
3 within 14 days after the day the enrolment is cancelled:
- 4 (a) enrol the child at another education provider for the purpose of  
5 the provider's education course;
- 6 (b) apply to register the child for home education.
- 7 (5) This section does not apply if—
- 8 (a) an exemption certificate is in force for the child; or
- 9 (b) the child is participating in a training or employment  
10 alternative in accordance with part 2.4 (After year 10—training  
11 and employment alternatives); or
- 12 (c) the child's parents have an excuse for not complying with this  
13 section that the chief executive is satisfied is a reasonable  
14 excuse.
- 15 *Note 1* The chief executive must comply with any guidelines about the exercise  
16 of the chief executive's functions under s (5) (c) (see s 9D).
- 17 *Note 2* For offences in relation to this requirement, see pt 2.6 (Offences—  
18 parents).

19 **10A Child of compulsory education age—school attendance**  
20 **requirement**

- 21 (1) This section applies if a child—
- 22 (a) lives in the ACT; and
- 23 (b) is of compulsory education age; and
- 24 (c) is enrolled at a school.
- 25 (2) The child's parents must ensure that the child—
- 26 (a) attends the school on every day, and during the times on every  
27 day, when the school is open for attendance; and

- 1 (b) attends every activity of the school (including attendance at an  
2 approved educational course) that the school requires the child  
3 to attend.
- 4 (3) This section does not apply if the child's parents have an excuse for  
5 not complying with this section that the chief executive is satisfied  
6 is a reasonable excuse.
- 7 *Note 1* The chief executive must comply with any guidelines about the exercise  
8 of the chief executive's functions under s (3) (see s 9D).
- 9 *Note 2* For offences in relation to this requirement, see pt 2.6 (Offences—  
10 parents).

## 11 **Division 2.2.2 Participation requirement**

### 12 **10B Meaning of *participates* in education course—div 2.2.2**

13 For this division, a child *participates* in an education course if the  
14 child complies with—

- 15 (a) the provider's requirements about physically attending, at  
16 particular times, the provider's premises or another place; or
- 17 (b) for an education course that is completed by distance education  
18 (however described)—the provider's requirements for distance  
19 education.

#### 20 **Examples—par (b)**

- 21 1 complete and return the assigned work for the course
- 22 2 communicate with or contact the provider for the purpose of  
23 participating in the course
- 24 3 attend the provider for 1 week twice a year

25 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,  
26 but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it  
27 appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

- 1 **10C** **Meaning of *full-time participation* in education course—**  
2 **div 2.2.2**
- 3 (1) For this division, *full-time participation* in an education course  
4 means participation in the course—
- 5 (a) at a level that is full-time under the requirements of the course;  
6 or
- 7 (b) for at least 25 hours each week.
- 8 (2) Also, for this division, *full-time participation* in an education course  
9 includes—
- 10 (a) part-time participation in 2 or more education courses to an  
11 extent that is at least equivalent to full-time participation in  
12 1 education course; and
- 13 (b) participation in any combination of the following that is  
14 equivalent to full-time participation in 1 education course:
- 15 (i) an education course;
- 16 (ii) a training alternative;
- 17 (iii) an employment alternative.
- 18 *Note* A child needs the chief executive's approval to participate in a training  
19 or employment alternative (see pt 2.4 (After year 10—training and  
20 employment alternatives)).
- 21 **10D** **Child of compulsory education age—participation**  
22 **requirement**
- 23 (1) This section applies if a child—
- 24 (a) lives in the ACT; and
- 25 (b) is of compulsory education age; and
- 26 (c) is enrolled at an education provider other than a school for the  
27 purpose of the provider's education course.

- 1           (2) The child's parents must ensure that the child participates in the  
2           education course.
- 3           (3) Also, the child's participation must be—
- 4               (a) full-time participation (the *full-time participation*  
5               *requirement*); or
- 6               (b) if an exemption certificate is in force for the child for the  
7               course—participation in accordance with the certificate.
- 8           (4) This section does not apply if the child's parents have an excuse for  
9           not complying with this section that the chief executive is satisfied  
10          is a reasonable excuse.

11           *Note 1*   The chief executive must comply with any guidelines about the exercise  
12                   of the chief executive's functions under s (4) (see s 9D).

13           *Note 2*   For offences in relation to this requirement, see pt 2.6 (Offences—  
14                   parents).

## 15   **11           Participation requirement—absence**

16           A child's participation in an education course is taken for this Act to  
17           continue during an absence that is—

- 18               (a) allowed under the requirements of the course or by the  
19               provider of the course; or
- 20               (b) required under a territory law or a law of the Commonwealth, a  
21               State or another Territory.

### 22           **Example—par (b)**

23           Will is absent from an education provider because a public health direction  
24           under the *Public Health Act 1997* requires that he be confined to home for  
25           2 weeks.

26           *Note*    An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,  
27                   but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it  
28                   appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

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1    **11A       Participation requirement—suspension**

- 2           (1) This section applies if a child participating in an education course  
3           stops attending the provider because the child has been suspended  
4           from attending the provider.
- 5           (2) The child’s participation in the course is taken for this Act to  
6           continue during the suspension period.

7    **11B       Participation requirement—exclusion**

- 8           (1) This section applies if a child participating in an education course  
9           stops attending the provider because the child has been excluded  
10          from attending the provider.
- 11          (2) The child’s participation in the course is taken for this Act to  
12          continue—
- 13           (a) at the same level as before the exclusion; and
- 14           (b) for the time reasonably required for the child to resume  
15           participation in an education course or apply for approval to  
16           participate in a training or employment alternative under  
17           part 2.4 (After year 10—training and employment  
18           alternatives).

19   **Division 2.2.3       Information requirement**

20   **11C       Giving information notice**

- 21          (1) This section applies if a child—
- 22           (a) lives in the ACT; and
- 23           (b) is at least 6 years old but under 17 years old.
- 24          (2) The chief executive may give a written notice (an *information*  
25          *notice*) to the child’s parents if the chief executive believes on  
26          reasonable grounds that—
- 27           (a) the child is not enrolled at an education provider; or

- 1 (b) the child is not registered for home education; or  
2 (c) if the child is enrolled at a school—the child is not attending  
3 the school; or  
4 (d) if the child is enrolled at an education provider other than a  
5 school for the purpose of the provider’s education course—the  
6 child is not participating in the course or the child is  
7 contravening section 10D (3) (Child of compulsory education  
8 age—participation requirement); or  
9 (e) the child is not participating in a training or employment  
10 alternative in accordance with part 2.4 (After year 10—training  
11 and employment alternatives).

12 *Note* For how documents may be served, see the Legislation Act, pt 19.5.

13 **11D Contents of information notice**

- 14 (1) An information notice in relation to a child must—  
15 (a) state that it is an information notice under this Act; and  
16 (b) state the information sought; and  
17 (c) state what the child’s parents need to do to comply with the  
18 notice; and  
19 (d) state the period for complying with the notice; and  
20 (e) contain a statement to the effect that failure to comply with the  
21 notice is an offence.  
22 (2) The information notice may include any other information the chief  
23 executive considers appropriate.



- 1    **11E       Extension of time for compliance with information notice**
- 2       (1) This section applies if a child’s parents have been given an
- 3       information notice.
- 4       (2) The chief executive may, by written notice given to the child’s
- 5       parents, extend the compliance period for the information notice on
- 6       the chief executive’s own initiative or if asked by the parents.
- 7       (3) However, the chief executive may extend the compliance period
- 8       only if the period has not ended.
- 9       (4) In this section:
- 10       *compliance period* means the period stated in the information notice
- 11       under section 11D (1) (d), and includes the period as extended under
- 12       this section.

- 13    **11F       Revocation of information notice on compliance**
- 14       If the chief executive is satisfied on reasonable grounds that an
- 15       information notice given to a child’s parents has been complied
- 16       with, the chief executive must revoke the notice by written notice
- 17       given to the parents.

## 18    **Part 2.3                   Exemption certificates**

- 19    **11G       Meaning of *full-time participation requirement*—pt 2.3**
- 20       In this part:
- 21       *full-time participation requirement*—see section 10D (3).

1     **11H     Exemption certificate—application**

2           (1) A child or the child’s parents may apply to the chief executive for a  
3           certificate (an *exemption certificate*) exempting the child from—

4           (a) the requirement to be enrolled at an education provider or  
5           registered for home education; or

6           *Note*     See s 10 (Child of compulsory education age—enrolment and  
7                     registration requirement).

8           (b) the full-time participation requirement.

9           *Note*     See s 10D (Child of compulsory education age—participation  
10                    requirement).

11          (2) Application may be made for either or both of the following:

12          (a) exempting the child until the child is 17 years old or for a  
13          shorter period;

14          (b) exempting the child from the full-time participation  
15          requirement.

16          (3) An application made by a child must contain the signed consent of  
17          the child’s parents.

18          (4) However, subsection (3) does not apply if the chief executive is  
19          satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is not appropriate to require  
20          the signed consent.

21          *Note*     If a form is approved under s 154 for this provision, the form must be  
22                     used.

23     **12     Exemption certificate—requirement for further**  
24     **information**

25           (1) The chief executive may give an applicant mentioned in  
26           section 11H (1) a written notice requiring the applicant to give the  
27           chief executive stated further information or documents that the  
28           chief executive reasonably needs to decide the application.

- 1 (2) If the applicant does not comply with the requirement, the chief  
2 executive may refuse to consider the application further.

3 **12A Exemption certificate—issue**

- 4 (1) The chief executive may—
- 5 (a) issue an exemption certificate for a child if the chief executive  
6 is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is in the child's best  
7 interests to issue the certificate; or
- 8 (b) refuse to issue an exemption certificate for a child.
- 9 (2) Without limiting subsection (1) (a), in deciding whether it is in a  
10 child's best interests to exempt the child, the chief executive may  
11 consider the following:
- 12 (a) the child's health;
- 13 (b) the child's education;
- 14 (c) the child's sense of racial, ethnic, religious or cultural identity;
- 15 (d) the child's development;
- 16 (e) whether the exemption would benefit the child.

17 **Example—par (e)**

18 Felicity's education alternative finishes shortly before she turns 17. The  
19 chief executive is satisfied that exempting Felicity from participating in  
20 another education alternative until she turns 17 benefits her, because it  
21 means that she is not compelled to participate in another education  
22 alternative for a short time just to comply with the participation  
23 requirement.

24 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,  
25 but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it  
26 appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

1 (3) An exemption certificate for a child may be issued for either or both  
2 of the following:

3 (a) exempting the child until the child is 17 years old or for a  
4 shorter period;

5 (b) exempting the child from the full-time participation  
6 requirement.

7 **12B Exemption certificate—form**

8 An exemption certificate issued for a child must—

9 (a) state the day it is issued; and

10 (b) state the child's name; and

11 (c) state the period for which it is in force; and

12 (d) for an exemption from the full-time participation  
13 requirement—state the exemption and the extent to which the  
14 child must participate; and

15 (e) state any condition to which it is subject; and

16 (f) contain any other particulars prescribed by regulation.

17 **12C Exemption certificate—conditions**

18 The chief executive may issue an exemption certificate subject to  
19 any condition that the chief executive believes on reasonable  
20 grounds is appropriate.

21 **12D Exemption certificate—duration**

22 An exemption certificate may be issued for a child until—

23 (a) the end of the period stated in the certificate; or

24 (b) the ground for the issue of the certificate no longer applies in  
25 relation to the child.

---

1    **13           Exemption certificate—revocation**

2           The chief executive may revoke an exemption certificate issued for  
3           a child if—

- 4           (a) the certificate is issued in error; or
- 5           (b) the ground for the issue of the certificate no longer applies in  
6           relation to the child; or
- 7           (c) a condition of the certificate has been contravened.

8           **Part 2.4                    After year 10—training and**  
9                                       **employment alternatives**

10          **Division 2.4.1           Definitions—pt 2.4**

11          **13A           Meaning of *training alternative* and *training alternative***  
12                                       ***provider*—Act**

- 13           (1) For this Act, each training mentioned in table 13A, column 2 is a  
14           *training alternative*, and the entity mentioned in column 3 for the  
15           training alternative is the provider (the *training alternative*  
16           *provider*) of the training alternative.
- 17           (2) Also, the chief executive may approve other training as a *training*  
18           *alternative*, and an entity as the provider (the *training alternative*  
19           *provider*) of the training alternative.
- 20           (3) An approval is a notifiable instrument.

21           *Note*    A notifiable instrument must be notified under the Legislation Act.

Table 13A

column 1 item	column 2 training alternative	column 3 training alternative provider
1	work-related training under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i>	employer with whom child has approved training contract under the <i>Training and Tertiary Education Act 2003</i> in relation to the work-related training
2	work-related training (however described) under a law of a State or another Territory	provider (however described) under a law of the State or other Territory

1 **13B** **Meaning of *employment alternative*—Act**

2 For this Act, each of the following is an *employment alternative*:

- 3 (a) performance of paid work under a contract of service (whether  
4 written or unwritten);
- 5 (b) performance of paid work under a contract for services  
6 (whether written or unwritten).

7 *Note* The *Children and Young People Act 2008*, ch 21 deals with the  
8 employment of children and young people.

9 **13C** **Meaning of *full-time participation* in training or  
10 *employment alternative*—pt 2.4**

11 (1) For this part, *full-time participation* in a training or employment  
12 alternative means participation in the alternative—

- 13 (a) at a level that is full-time under the requirements of the  
14 alternative; or
- 15 (b) for at least 25 hours each week.

1 (2) Also, for this part, *full-time participation* in a training or  
2 employment alternative includes—

3 (a) part-time participation in 2 or more of a particular alternative  
4 to an extent that is at least equivalent to full-time participation  
5 in 1 of the particular alternatives; and

6 (b) participation in any combination of training and employment  
7 alternatives to an extent that is at least equivalent to full-time  
8 participation in 1 training or employment alternative.

9 **Example—s (2) (a)**

10 part-time participation in 2 or more training alternatives to an extent that is at least  
11 equivalent to full-time participation in 1 training alternative

12 **Example—s (2) (b)**

13 part-time participation in a training alternative and part-time participation in an  
14 employment alternative for a combined total of at least 25 hours each week

15 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend, but  
16 does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it appears (see  
17 Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

18 **Division 2.4.2 Approval to participate in training and**  
19 **employment alternatives**

20 **13D Approval statement—application**

21 (1) A child or the child's parents may apply to the chief executive for a  
22 statement (an *approval statement*) approving the child's  
23 participation in a training or employment alternative during the  
24 child's post-year 10 period.

25 (2) Application may be made for either or both of the following:

26 (a) approving the child's participation in a training or employment  
27 alternative for all or part of the child's post-year 10 period;

28 (b) approving that the child's participation in a training or  
29 employment alternative be other than full-time participation.

- 1 (3) An application made by a child must contain the signed consent of  
2 the child's parents.
- 3 (4) However, subsection (3) does not apply if the chief executive is  
4 satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is not appropriate to require  
5 the signed consent.
- 6 (5) For this section, a child's *post-year 10 period* starts when the child  
7 completes year 10 and ends when the first of the following happens:  
8 (a) the child completes year 12;  
9 (b) the child is 17 years old.
- 10 *Note* If a form is approved under s 154 for this provision, the form must be  
11 used.

12 **14 Approval statement—requirement for further information**

- 13 (1) The chief executive may give an applicant mentioned in  
14 section 13D (1) a written notice requiring the applicant to give the  
15 chief executive stated further information or documents that the  
16 chief executive reasonably needs to decide the application.
- 17 (2) If the applicant does not comply with the requirement, the chief  
18 executive may refuse to consider the application further.

19 **14A Approval statement—issue**

- 20 (1) The chief executive may—  
21 (a) issue an approval statement for a child if the chief executive is  
22 satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is in the child's best  
23 interests to issue the statement; or  
24 (b) refuse to issue an approval statement for a child.
- 25 (2) Without limiting subsection (1) (a), in deciding whether it is in a  
26 child's best interests to issue an approval statement for the child, the  
27 chief executive may consider the following:  
28 (a) the child's health;



- 1 (b) the child's education;
- 2 (c) the child's sense of racial, ethnic, religious or cultural identity;
- 3 (d) the child's development;
- 4 (e) whether the training or employment alternative for which the
- 5 statement is sought would benefit the child.

6 **Example—par (e)**

7 Thomas is 15 years old, has completed year 10 and wants to be a chef.

8 Thomas has been offered an apprenticeship with a chef. The chief

9 executive decides that it is in Thomas's best interests to issue an approval

10 statement for him, because it means that Thomas can pursue the career path

11 that he wants to pursue.

12 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,

13 but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it

14 appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

- 15 (3) An approval statement may be issued for a child for either or both of
- 16 the following:
- 17 (a) approving the child's participation in a training or employment
- 18 alternative for all or part of the child's post-year 10 period;
- 19 (b) approving that the child's participation in a training or
- 20 employment alternative be other than full-time participation.

- 21 (4) In this section:

22 *post-year 10 period*—see section 13D (5).

23 **14B Approval statement—form**

24 An approval statement issued for a child must—

- 25 (a) state the day it is issued; and
- 26 (b) state the child's name; and
- 27 (c) state the period for which it is in force; and

- 1 (d) if the child's approved participation in a training or  
2 employment alternative is other than full-time participation—  
3 state the approval and the extent to which the child is required  
4 to participate in the alternative; and
- 5 (e) state any condition to which it is subject; and
- 6 (f) contain any other particulars prescribed by regulation.

7 **14C Approval statement—conditions**

- 8 (1) An approval statement issued for a child is subject to a condition  
9 that—
- 10 (a) the child's participation is full-time participation unless  
11 otherwise stated in the statement; or
- 12 (b) if the statement contains a statement mentioned in  
13 section 14B (d)—the child must comply with the stated  
14 participation requirement.
- 15 (2) An approval statement that approves a child's participation in a  
16 training alternative is also subject to each of the following  
17 conditions:
- 18 (a) that the child is enrolled with the training alternative provider;
- 19 (b) that the child complies with the training alternative provider's  
20 attendance requirements.
- 21 (3) The training alternative provider's attendance requirements are the  
22 requirements about physically attending, at particular times, the  
23 provider's premises or another place.

- 1 (4) The chief executive may issue an approval statement subject to any  
2 condition that the chief executive believes on reasonable grounds is  
3 appropriate.

4 **Example—s (4)**

5 Farouk wants to participate part-time in an education course and part-time in an  
6 employment alternative (he wants to work at least 10 hours each week). Under  
7 this Act, an approval statement is not required for an education course, but is for  
8 an employment alternative. The chief executive issues an approval statement for  
9 the employment alternative that states that Farouk's approved participation in that  
10 employment is part-time, and that he must participate in that employment for at  
11 least 10 hours each week. The chief executive also puts a condition on the  
12 approval statement that Farouk must participate in the education course for at  
13 least 15 hours each week.

14 *Note* An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend, but  
15 does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it appears (see  
16 Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

17 **14D Approval statement—compliance requirement**

- 18 (1) This section applies if an approval statement is issued for a child.  
19 (2) The child's parents must ensure that the child complies with the  
20 statement, including any conditions of the statement.  
21 (3) This section does not apply if the child's parents have an excuse for  
22 not complying with this section that the chief executive is satisfied  
23 is a reasonable excuse.

24 *Note 1* The chief executive must comply with any guidelines about the exercise  
25 of the chief executive's functions under s (3) (see s 9D).

26 *Note 2* For offences in relation to this requirement, see pt 2.6 (Offences—  
27 parents).

1    **15           Approval statement—duration**

2           An approval statement may be issued for a child until—

- 3           (a) the end of the period stated in the statement; or
- 4           (b) the ground for the issue of the statement no longer applies in
- 5                 relation to the child.

6    **15A          Approval statement—revocation**

7           The chief executive may revoke an approval statement issued for a

8           child if—

- 9           (a) the statement is issued in error; or
- 10          (b) the ground for the issue of the statement no longer applies in
- 11                 relation to the child; or
- 12          (c) a condition of the statement has been contravened.

13   **15B          Return to education while approval statement in force**

14          (1) This section applies if—

- 15           (a) an approval statement is in force for a child; and
- 16           (b) the child is enrolled at an education provider for the purpose of
- 17                 the provider’s education course.

18          (2) The child’s parents must tell the chief executive in writing about the

19                 enrolment.

---

1     **Division 2.4.3            Training and employment**  
2                                    **alternatives—deemed participation**

3     **15C            Training and employment alternatives—absence**

4            A child’s participation in a training or employment alternative is  
5            taken for this Act to continue during an absence that is—

- 6            (a) allowed under the requirements of the alternative; or  
7            (b) required under a territory law or a law of the Commonwealth, a  
8            State or another Territory.

9            **Example—par (b)**

10           Sarah is absent from a training alternative provider because a personal  
11           protection order prohibits her from attending the provider.

12           *Note*     An example is part of the Act, is not exhaustive and may extend,  
13           but does not limit, the meaning of the provision in which it  
14           appears (see Legislation Act, s 126 and s 132).

15     **15D            Training alternative—suspension**

- 16           (1) This section applies if a child participating in a training alternative  
17           stops attending the training alternative provider because the child  
18           has been suspended from attending the provider.  
19           (2) The child’s participation in the alternative is taken for this Act to  
20           continue during the suspension period.

21     **16            Training alternative—exclusion**

- 22           (1) This section applies if a child participating in a training alternative  
23           stops attending the training alternative provider because the child  
24           has been excluded from attending the provider.

- 1           (2) The child's participation in the training alternative is taken for this  
2           Act to continue—
- 3           (a) at the same level as before the exclusion; and
- 4           (b) for the time reasonably required for the child to—
- 5                 (i) enrol in an education course; or
- 6                 (ii) apply for approval to participate in another training  
7                 alternative or an employment alternative.

8       **16A       Employment alternative—termination**

- 9           (1) This section applies if a child participating in an employment  
10           alternative stops working because the child's employment has been  
11           ended other than by the child.
- 12           (2) The child's participation in the employment alternative is taken for  
13           this Act to continue—
- 14           (a) at the same level as before the termination; and
- 15           (b) for the time reasonably required for the child to—
- 16                 (i) enrol in an education course; or
- 17                 (ii) apply for approval to participate in another employment  
18                 alternative or a training alternative.

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## 1 **Part 2.5** **Compliance notices**

### 2 **16B Giving compliance notice**

3 The chief executive may give a notice (a *compliance notice*) to a  
4 child's parents if the chief executive believes on reasonable grounds  
5 that the parents have contravened or are contravening—

6 (a) section 10 (Child of compulsory education age—enrolment  
7 and registration requirement); or

8 (b) section 10A (Child of compulsory education age—school  
9 attendance requirement); or

10 (c) section 10D (Child of compulsory education age—  
11 participation requirement); or

12 (d) section 14D (Approval statement—compliance requirement).

13 *Note* For how documents may be served, see the Legislation Act, pt 19.5.

### 14 **16C Contents of compliance notice**

15 (1) A compliance notice in relation to a child must—

16 (a) state that it is a compliance notice under this Act; and

17 (b) include a brief description of the contravention of this Act in  
18 relation to which the notice is given; and

19 (c) state what the child's parents need to do to comply with the  
20 notice; and

21 (d) state the period for complying with the notice; and

22 (e) contain a statement to the effect that failure to comply with the  
23 notice is an offence.

24 (2) The compliance notice may include any other information the chief  
25 executive considers appropriate.

1    **16D       Extension of time for compliance with compliance notice**

2       (1) This section applies if a child's parents have been given a  
3       compliance notice.

4       (2) The chief executive may, by written notice given to the child's  
5       parents, extend the compliance period for the compliance notice on  
6       the chief executive's own initiative or if asked by the parents.

7       (3) However, the chief executive may extend the compliance period  
8       only if the period has not ended.

9       (4) In this section:

10       *compliance period* means the period stated in the compliance notice  
11       under section 16C (1) (d), and includes the period as extended under  
12       this section.

13    **17       Revocation of compliance notice on compliance**

14       If the chief executive is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a  
15       compliance notice given to a child's parents has been complied  
16       with, the chief executive must revoke the notice by written notice  
17       given to the parents.

18    **Part 2.6                   Offences—parents**

19    **17A       Contravention of information and compliance notices**

20       (1) A child's parents commit an offence if—

21           (a) an information notice is given to the parents; and

22           (b) the parents fail to comply with the notice.

23       Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

24       (2) A child's parents commit an offence if—

25           (a) a compliance notice is given to the parents; and



- 1 (b) the parents fail to comply with the notice.
- 2 Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.
- 3 (3) An offence against this section is a strict liability offence.
- 4 (4) This section does not apply if the child's parents have a reasonable  
5 excuse for failing to comply with the notice.
- 6 (5) Without limiting subsection (4), it is a reasonable excuse for a  
7 parent of the child (the *stated parent*) that—
- 8 (a) the child lives with another parent and the stated parent  
9 believes on reasonable grounds that the other parent is  
10 complying with the notice; or
- 11 (b) the stated parent is not reasonably able to control the child's  
12 behaviour to the extent necessary to comply with the notice.

## 13 **6 New section 146A**

14 *insert*

### 15 **146A Student transfer register**

- 16 (1) The chief executive must establish procedures for recording the  
17 transfer of students between schools in the ACT.
- 18 (2) The principal of a school must comply with any procedures for  
19 recording the transfer of students to and from the school that the  
20 chief executive—
- 21 (a) establishes under subsection (1); and
- 22 (b) notifies to the principal.
- 23 (3) In this section:
- 24 *school* means a government school or non-government school.

1 **7 New section 153A**

2 *insert*

3 **153A Evidence—certificate signed by principal etc**

- 4 (1) This section applies in relation to a proceeding for an offence  
5 against this Act.

6 *Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments  
7 made or in force under the Act, including any regulation (see  
8 Legislation Act, s 104).

- 9 (2) A certificate that appears to be signed by the principal of a  
10 government school, the principal of a non-government school, the  
11 person giving an approved educational course (government) or the  
12 person giving an approved educational course (non-government)  
13 and that states any of the following matters, is evidence of the  
14 matters:

15 (a) that a stated child was or was not enrolled at the school or  
16 course;

17 (b) that a stated child did or did not attend the school or course.

- 18 (3) A certificate that appears to be signed by the registrar (however  
19 described) of an education provider or training alternative provider  
20 and that states any of the following matters, is evidence of the  
21 matters:

22 (a) that a stated child was or was not enrolled with the provider;

23 (b) that a stated child did or did not attend the provider.

- 24 (4) A certificate that appears to be signed by a child's employer or  
25 purported employer in relation to an employment alternative and  
26 that states any of the following matters, is evidence of the matters:

27 (a) that a stated child was or was not employed with the employer  
28 or purported employer;

29 (b) that a stated child worked for stated hours.

- 1 (5) A certificate mentioned in this section may state a matter by  
2 reference to a date or period.

3 **8 New chapter 9**

4 *insert*

5 **Chapter 9 Transitional—Education**  
6 **(Participation) Amendment**  
7 **Act 2009**

8 **300 Meaning of *amending Act*—ch 9**

9 In this chapter:

10 *amending Act* means the *Education (Participation) Amendment*  
11 *Act 2009*.

12 **301 Application of amending Act**

- 13 (1) The amendments made by the amending Act do not apply in relation  
14 to a child if on 1 January 2010—  
15 (a) the child is at least 15 years old; and  
16 (b) the child is not—  
17 (i) enrolled at a school; or  
18 (ii) registered for home education (however described) in the  
19 ACT or elsewhere.
- 20 (2) However, the amendments made by the amending Act apply in  
21 relation to the child if after 1 January 2010 the child is—  
22 (a) enrolled at a school; or  
23 (b) registered for home education (however described) in the ACT  
24 or elsewhere.

- 1           (3) In this section:  
2            *school* means—  
3            (a) a government school; or  
4            (b) a non-government school; or  
5            (c) a school (however described) under the law of a State, another  
6            Territory or a foreign country.

7   **302       Transitional regulations**

- 8           (1) A regulation may prescribe transitional matters necessary or  
9           convenient to be prescribed because of the enactment of the  
10           amending Act.  
11           (2) A regulation may modify this chapter (including in relation to  
12           another territory law) to make provision in relation to anything that,  
13           in the Executive's opinion, is not, or is not adequately or  
14           appropriately, dealt with in this chapter.  
15           (3) A regulation under subsection (2) has effect despite anything  
16           elsewhere in this Act or another territory law.

17   **303       Expiry—ch 9**

- 18           (1) This chapter expires 2 years after the day it commences.  
19           (2) This chapter (other than section 302) is a law to which the  
20           Legislation Act, section 88 (Repeal does not end effect of  
21           transitional laws etc) applies.

**9 Reviewable decisions  
Schedule 1, items 1 and 2**

1  
2  
3

*substitute*

1	12A	issue exemption certificate for shorter period than applied for	applicant	chief executive
1A	12A	issue exemption certificate exempting child from full-time participation requirement— participation stated in certificate	applicant	chief executive
1B	12A	refuse to issue exemption certificate	applicant	chief executive
1C	12C	issue exemption certificate subject to condition	applicant	chief executive
1D	13	revoke exemption certificate	child's parents	chief executive
1E	14A	issue approval statement for shorter period than applied for	applicant	chief executive

1F	14A	issue approval statement approving other than full-time participation— participation stated in statement	applicant	chief executive
1G	14A	refuse to issue approval statement	applicant	chief executive
1H	14C (4)	issue approval statement subject to condition	applicant	chief executive
2	15A	revoke approval statement	child's parents	chief executive

1 **10 Dictionary, note 2**

2 *insert*

- 3 • foreign country

4 **11 Dictionary, new definitions**

5 *insert*

6 ***approval statement***, for division 2.4.2 (Approval to participate in  
7 training and employment alternatives)—see section 13D.

8 ***completes year 10***—see section 9B.

9 ***completes year 12***—see section 9C.

10 ***compliance notice***, for chapter 2 (Compulsory education)—see  
11 section 16B.

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**12 Dictionary, definition of *compulsory school age***

*substitute*

*compulsory education age*, for chapter 2 (Compulsory education)—see section 9.

**13 Dictionary, new definitions**

*insert*

*education course*—see section 9A.

*education provider*—see section 9A.

*employment alternative*—see section 13B.

**14 Dictionary, definition of *exemption certificate***

*substitute*

*exemption certificate*, for chapter 2 (Compulsory education)—see section 11H (Exemption certificate—application).

**15 Dictionary, new definitions**

*insert*

*full-time participation*—

(a) in an education course, for division 2.2.2 (Participation requirement)—see section 10C; and

(b) in a training or employment alternative, for part 2.4 (After year 10—training and employment alternatives)—see section 13C.

*full-time participation requirement*, for part 2.3 (Exemption certificates)—see section 11G.

*information notice*, for chapter 2 (Compulsory education)—see section 11C.

1            *participates*, in an education course, for division 2.2.2 (Participation  
2            requirement)—see section 10B.

3            **16            Dictionary, definition of *school*, paragraph (b)**

4            *substitute*

5            (b) for chapter 2 (Compulsory education) and part 6.2 (Other  
6            provisions)—means a government school or non-government  
7            school; and

8            **17            Dictionary, definition of *school-leaving age***

9            *omit*

10          **18            Dictionary, new definitions**

11          *insert*

12          *training alternative*—see section 13A.

13          *training alternative provider*—see section 13A.



1 **Schedule 1**                      **Consequential amendments**

2 (see s 3)

3 **Part 1.1**                              **Children and Young People Act**  
4 **2008**

5 **[1.1] Section 86 (1) and note**

6 *substitute*

- 7 (1) This section applies if a family group conference agreement  
8 proposed under section 85 (2) is about a young person who is  
9 15 years old or older.

10 **[1.2] Section 397 (d) and note**

11 *substitute*

- 12 (d) for a voluntary care agreement in relation to a young person  
13 who is 15 years old or older, the chief executive—  
14 (i) obtains the young person’s agreement to the voluntary  
15 care agreement; or  
16 (ii) is satisfied that the young person does not have sufficient  
17 maturity or developmental capacity to understand and  
18 agree to the proposed voluntary care agreement.

19 **[1.3] Section 645 (1) (a) and note**

20 *substitute*

- 21 (a) for a young person who is 15 years old or older—the young  
22 person; and

23 **[1.4] Section 779**

24 *omit*

- 1 **[1.5] Section 780, definition of *work experience* and note**  
2 *substitute*  
3 *work experience* means the engagement of a child or young person  
4 who is under 15 years old by someone if the engagement is—  
5 (a) arranged by an educational institution where the child or young  
6 person is enrolled; and  
7 (b) part of a work experience program (however described)  
8 conducted by the educational institution.

- 9 **[1.6] Section 782 (a)**  
10 *substitute*  
11 (a) for a child or young person under 15 years old who is required  
12 to attend a school or participate in an education course under  
13 the *Education Act 2004*—it is likely to prejudice the ability of  
14 the child or young person to benefit from the education; or

- 15 **[1.7] Part 21.4 heading and notes**  
16 *substitute*

17 **Part 21.4 Employment of children and**  
18 **young people under 15 years old**

19 *Note* Work safety matters are dealt with in the *Work Safety Act 2008*.

- 20 **[1.8] Dictionary, definition of *school-leaving age* and note**  
21 *omit*

- 1 **[1.9] Further amendments, mentions of *school-leaving age***  
2 *omit*  
3 school-leaving age  
4 *substitute*  
5 15 years old  
6 *in*  
7 • section 76, definition of *family group conference agreement*  
8 • section 85  
9 • section 87  
10 • section 399  
11 • section 400  
12 • section 795  
13 • section 799  
14 • section 803  
15 • dictionary, definition of *high risk employment*  
16 • dictionary, definition of *light work*

17 **Part 1.2 Evidence (Miscellaneous**  
18 **Provisions) Act 1991**

- 19 **[1.10] Section 74 (2) (b) (iii)**  
20 *substitute*  
21 (iii) section 803 (Offence—employment of child or young  
22 person under 15 years old in high risk employment);

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## Endnotes

**1 Presentation speech**

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 2009.

**2 Notification**

Notified under the Legislation Act on 2009.

**3 Republications of amended laws**

For the latest republication of amended laws, see [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).

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