

Early school leavers and young people without Year 12 or equivalent qualifications are particularly vulnerable to the labour market effects of an economic downturn.

On 30 April 2009 the Australian, state and territory governments, through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), agreed to a Compact with Young Australians to increase young people's engagement with education and training pathways. This joint action will ensure that as the world recovers from the global recession, young Australians have the skills required to realise their potential.

The Compact with Young Australians focuses on the importance of education and training for young people by supporting young people to gain skills and knowledge through stronger engagement in education, training and employment. Under the Compact:

- all young people will be required to complete Year 10 through a National Youth Participation Requirement and then to be in full-time education, training or employment until the age of 17;
- 15- to 24-year-olds will have access to an education or training entitlement; and
- conditions for income support payments will be strengthened.

National Youth Participation Requirement

Under new state and territory legislation to commence on 1 January 2010, all young people must participate in schooling (meaning in school or an approved equivalent) until they complete Year 10. For young people who have completed Year 10, they must then participate full-time (defined as at least 25 hours per week) in education, training or employment, or a combination of these activities, until the age of 17.



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Education or training entitlement

As of 1 July 2009, state and territory governments will ensure that 15- to 19-year-olds have an entitlement to an education or training place for any government-subsidised qualification, subject to admission requirements and course availability. To support this entitlement, 15- to 19-year-old job seekers working up to 15 hours per week may be eligible for fully subsidised training places under the Productivity Places Program.

From 1 January 2010, young people aged 20 to 24 will be entitled to an education or training place for any government-subsidised qualification that would result in the individual attaining

a higher qualification, subject to admission requirements and course availability.

This education or training entitlement will be offered until 31 December 2011.

Strengthening conditions for income support payments

To support the National Youth Participation Requirement and the education or training entitlement, the Australian Government has introduced new eligibility conditions for Youth Allowance (Other) from 1 July 2009.

Young people without Year 12 or equivalent qualifications are now required to undertake full-time (25 hours or more per week) education or training in order to be eligible for Youth Allowance (Other). Those in part-time education or training are required to undertake additional activities to meet 25 hours per week participation (e.g. voluntary work, paid employment) and their participation requirement for receipt of Youth Allowance (Other).

Young people in receipt of Youth Allowance (Other) before 1 July 2009, and who do not have Year 12 or equivalent attainment, will progressively transition to the new requirements between 1 January and 30 June 2010. Similar participation requirements will be in place for Family Tax Benefit Part A recipients from 1 January 2010.

For more information on the Compact with Young Australians, please visit: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions>

To access the Youth Allowance (Other) Fact Sheet, please visit:

[http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/st058_0907/\\$file/st058_0907en.pdf](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/st058_0907/$file/st058_0907en.pdf)