

FACT SHEET

Education Amendment Bill 2017

The Bill seeks to amend the *Education Act 2016* to:

- give effect to the decision to
 - retain the current school starting age of 5 as at 1 January and remove the option for the earlier voluntary school starting age of 4 years and 6 months,
 - retain eligibility for enrolment in kindergarten at 4 years of age on or before 1 January and remove the option to enrol in kindergarten at 3 years and 6 months;
- make a number of minor refinements that have been identified during the detailed implementation planning that occurred in the lead-up to the commencement of the new Act on 10 July 2017; and
- correct a definitional issue in relation to overseas students studying at State schools in Tasmania.

The minor refinements include:

- replacing the term 'statement of year 10 completion' with 'transition statement';
- clarifying that the requirement for the principal of a non-government school to be fully registered under the *Teachers Registration Act 2000* applies only to those delivering compulsory education;
- providing for provisional approval for a proposed home education program while the formal approval process is undertaken;
- providing flexibility in the timeframe for applications for registration of new individual non-government schools; and
- minor editorial amendments.

In regard to overseas students, the definition of 'overseas student' has been broadened to ensure it covers all overseas students who seek to study in Tasmania, and a validation provision has been included for fees and charges that were paid by overseas students under the *Education Act 1994*.