

What age can I start work?

The age you can start work depends on the state or territory that you work in.

The minimum age you can start work applies to all workers, including those starting an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Check what age you can start work with the relevant state or territory authority:

- ACT Government Community Services [🔗](https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/youth/young_workers) (https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/youth/young_workers) on 13 22 81
- NSW Office of Industrial Relations (http://www.youngpeopleatwork.nsw.gov.au/irypw/Looking_for_work/What_age_can_I_start_work.page) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 13 16 28
- NT Government (<https://nt.gov.au/employ>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on (08) 8944 9274
- QLD Government (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/employing/taking-on-staff/employing-children/restrictions>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 13 74 68
- Safe Work SA (https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=114140) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 1300 365 255
- Work Safe TAS (<http://worksafe.tas.gov.au/home>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 1300 366 322 (within Tasmania) or (03) 6166 4600 (outside Tasmania)
- Business Victoria (<http://www.business.vic.gov.au/hiring-and-managing-staff/employing-children/laws-and-act>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 13 22 15
- WA Wageline (<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/labour-relations/when-children-can-work-western-australia>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 1300 655 266 (within Western Australia) or (08) 6251 2100 (from interstate).

Working during school times

If you wish to work during school times, generally you must be of the minimum school leaving age or have completed the minimum year of schooling.

Each state and territory has their own rules about when you can leave school.

Check with the relevant state or territory education authority for more information:

- ACT Education Directorate (https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school/parent-guide) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on (02) 6207 5111
- NSW Department of Education (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/new-school-leaving-age>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 1300 679 332
- NT Department of Education (<https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/age-your-child-attends-school>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on (08) 8944 9274
- QLD Department of Education and Training (<http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/disability/parentguide/phases-of-learning/finishing.html>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 13 74 68
- SA Department of Education and Child Development (<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/your-childs-education/school>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on (08) 8226 1000
- TAS Department of Education (<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/parent-fact-sheets/attendance/>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on 1800 816 057
- VIC Department of Education and Training (<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/beyond/Pages/leaving.aspx>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on (03) 9637 2000
- WA Department of Education (<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/web/our-schools/enrolling-in-school>) [🔗](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) (http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/young_workers) on (08) 9264 4111.

Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

Need language help?

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

Hearing & speech assistance

Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

The Fair Work Ombudsman is committed to providing advice that you can rely on. The information contained on this website is general in nature. If you are unsure about how it applies to your situation you can call our Infoline on 13 13 94 or speak with a union, industry association or workplace relations professional. Visitors are warned that this site may inadvertently contain names or pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have recently died.