

Employment of children laws – information sheet

as part of a school program
in a family business that is carried out by a parent or relative of the child
in a not for profit organisation or situation
in a dramatic or musical performance, other form of entertainment, or in the production of an advertisement.

It is illegal to employ a child less than 15 years of age to do work other than that described above, or to work outside the allowed hours

At what age can a child leave school for employment?

Young people are required to be enrolled and attending school, until:

the end of the year in which they reach the age of 17 years and 6 months
they turn 18 years of age
they achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), whichever comes first.

There are alternatives to full time schooling, such as undertaking an apprenticeship or an approved VET course. However, these alternatives must meet specific legislative requirements.

For more information about the requirements, approved alternatives and the approval process, please see the Department of Education's website at www.education.wa.edu.au/alternatives-to-full-time-schooling.

It is illegal to employ a child of compulsory school age during the hours the child is required to either attend school, except where there is a Notice of Arrangements or School exemption.

What are the Penalties?

The person who employs a child, or a parent who permits their child to undertake work that is not allowed, or to work outside the allowed hours, could be fined up to \$24,000.

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It is an offence for a person to employ, or for a parent to permit a child of less than 18 years to be employed to perform in an indecent, obscene or pornographic way while

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What if I want to make a complaint?

Contact Wageline at the Department of Commerce on 1300 655 266. Talking with an officer (866 0 5(m)-6(-5(3[((866 0 5(m0t) e)-3(a)-5(t-3(6(a)-3i)10(s5(ta)-5(6pos4.96 842.056t stET