



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

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REVIEW OF NSW SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, said today the NSW Board of Studies would review the Year 10 School Certificate as part of changes to the NSW school leaving age.

“For decades, the NSW School Certificate has marked the end of mandatory education in this state, but now that the leaving age has been raised to 17 it means many more students will proceed to Year 11 and complete their senior years,” Ms Firth said.

“Contemporary schooling is also vastly different to what it was like when the School Certificate was introduced in 1965.

“Students are now engaged in community service, language studies, part-time employment and on-site work experience as part of their TAFE courses and I have asked the Board to consider the best way to represent that range of achievements with a view to modernising the School Certificate.”

Ms Firth said the development of a national curriculum and the introduction of NAPLAN tests at the start of Year 9 have also changed the way the School Certificate is viewed.

“Given the considerable changes in secondary education in recent years including the first change to the leaving age since 1943, it makes sense to take another look at the School Certificate.

“NSW is the only Australian state to maintain a mandatory end of Year 10 test and despite the raising of the leaving age, not all of those students will remain until the end of Year 12.

“We recognise that those students deserve some kind of credential for completing the mandatory part of their education and that’s what this review is about.”

The Board of Studies would also look at the appearance of the final credential and what information it gives to students, their families, future employers and trainers.

Currently the NSW School Certificate comprises a school assessment plus five mandatory tests in November each year.

No changes would be made to the 2010 School Certificate and the Board of Studies will deliver an initial report by the end of this year.

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