

# Keeping kids in school

## NO SERVICE TO COMPULSORY AGE STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS INFORMATION FOR SHOP OWNERS

### **What is the 'Keeping Kids in School' program?**

The program is a community effort with commitment from the Department of Education, WA Police and local businesses. Through the program we hope to improve school attendance and reduce anti-social behaviour in the community.

### **What is the aim of the 'Keeping Kids in School' program?**

The program aims to send a common message to the community that students of compulsory school age need to be at school and not at the shops during school time. The program encourages shop owners to promote a clear message to compulsory age students that they are more than welcome outside of school hours but they will not be served during school hours.

### **What role does the school play in the 'Keeping Kids in School' program?**

The school is responsible for providing shop owners with an appropriate contact person in relation to the Keeping Kids in School program. Schools will also supply information on Department of Education Standardised Leave Passes, school terms and other important dates. They are encouraged to provide a school calendar to shop owners which features pupil free days, exam breaks and school holidays etc. Furthermore, the school is responsible for providing information to students and parents on the Keeping Kids in School program to ensure that all parties are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

### **What is the role of the shop owner in the 'Keeping Kids in School program'?**

All participating businesses will be provided with Keeping Kids in School signage and advertising. You will also be provided with the following information from schools;

- Examples of the leave pass system
- School contact numbers, and;
- A copy of the school calendar (where possible)



If an unsupervised child of school age enters your shop during school hours, staff should request to see a leave pass. Any young person without a legitimate leave pass can be refused service.

As shop owners and businesses supporting the program, you will be asked to display the 'Keeping Kids in School' poster in the shop front. In the event that you encounter compulsory aged students in your shop or the centre, please notify the relevant school as soon as possible. (Refer to the contact list you have been given.) Where a student's behaviour becomes aggressive or difficult, please contact Police on 131 444 for assistance.

*The Keeping Kids in School program is completely voluntary. Shopping centre management may choose to participate in the program and display signage throughout the centre. However, as a shop owner, it is your decision to display signage in your store and/or request to see leave passes from school aged children during school hours.*

### **What is a compulsory aged student?**

As of 2008, school (or participation in an approved option) is compulsory until the end of the year in which a student turns 17 years of age. Other than full time schooling, approved options include: full time enrolment at an educational institution (e.g. TAFEWA or other private training organisation); Community Based Program (e.g., CTEC - Caversham Training and Enterprise Centre); full time employment, or a combination of part-time education/training and part-time work.

How will you know if a student is compulsory aged? This is at your discretion: If in doubt, you may ask the student directly and serve them (or not) accordingly. You are also not obliged to serve students suspended from school.

### **Are there exceptions?**

There will be some situations where compulsory aged students may enter shopping centres for legitimate reasons. These may include:

- **Students on work experience** – these students may enter the shopping centres to buy lunch, for example. Work experience students will be issued with leave passes.
- **Pupil free days** – on these days, the school is not open for instruction. The school calendar will include the dates of pupil free days.
- **Students accompanied by an adult/guardian or valid school leave** pass – students who have been at school should obtain a leave pass from the school before leaving school grounds.

