

Fact Sheet

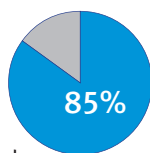
New holidays for Queenslanders

Whether it's taking a well-earned break, spending time with loved ones or simply enjoying some time off work, most of us love having a holiday — and we are introducing changes to make our work-life balance even better.

The Queensland Government's survey on changing holiday arrangements received overwhelming support from more than 23 000 Queenslanders. That is why we are moving an existing public holiday to the second half of the year, making the Easter holidays for state schools longer by moving student free days, and having an extra public holiday during the Christmas-New Year period.

There was overwhelming support:

- 85 per cent of survey respondents want to move the Queen's birthday
- 81 per cent favour extending Easter and
- About 91 per cent support an extra public holiday when Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day falls on a weekend.



What is changing?

The changes start from this Christmas season:

- There will be an extra public holiday when Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day falls on a weekend. This will be fairer for rostered workers.
- Student free days won't be spread across school terms. Instead, three will be shifted to create a two-week break at Easter – making it easier to plan a break, keeping the length of school terms more consistent and easing disruption for families.
- The Queen's birthday holiday will be moved from June to the first Monday in October.

To recognise the inconvenience of moving community and sporting events planned for the June long weekend in 2012, a one-off Queen's Diamond Jubilee holiday will be celebrated on the June long weekend.



Why are the school holidays changing?

Term One usually finishes at Easter, often making it the longest term which is tiring for many children. These changes will make each term closer to 10 weeks.

It can be inconvenient for many parents when student free days are scattered throughout the year.

Moving three of the yearly six student free days will make the Easter school holidays longer, cause less disruption for families and help parents plan for holidays or childcare needs.

This will bring Queensland in line with New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and many non-state schools.

Schools will be able to decide when their three flexible student free days will be held for teachers, as long as they are in holidays or out-of-school hours.

Why are public holidays changing?

Until now, Queensland has been the only state not to have any statewide public holidays between mid-June and late December.


Moving the Queen's birthday holiday from June to October will give Queenslanders a rest during the second half of the year and lessen disruptions to business and industry resulting from a number of public holidays or long weekends falling in quick succession.

Adding extra public holidays during the Christmas-New Year period will ensure workers are supported when these traditional public holidays fall on a weekend.

2012 school calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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 School holidays

 Public holidays (including new Queen's birthday holiday on 1 October and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 11 June for 2012 only)

 Student free days  Flexible student free days

What does it mean for me?

Changes to the school holidays start from 2012.

The school holiday changes won't directly apply to non-state schools because they set their own dates.

Schools will work with their staff about how student free days will be run, with options including flexible training and after-hours professional development.

For more information about the changes visit www.qld.gov.au/holidays.

For more information about school holidays visit www.education.qld.gov.au.

For more information about public holidays visit www.justice.qld.gov.au.