

Legislative Council—No 117

As introduced and read a first time, 12 May 2021

South Australia

**Education and Children's Services (Mobile Phones
in Schools) Amendment Bill 2021**

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend the *Education and Children's Services Act 2019*.

Contents

Part 1—Preliminary

- 1 Short title
- 2 Commencement
- 3 Amendment provisions

Part 2—Amendment of *Education and Children's Services Act 2019*

- 4 Insertion of Part 13A
 - Part 13A—Trial of secure mobile phone storage devices in Government schools
 - 132A Trial of secure mobile phone storage devices in Government schools
 - 132B Report on outcome of trial
-

The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

5 This Act may be cited as the *Education and Children's Services (Mobile Phones in Schools) Amendment Act 2021*.

2—Commencement

This Act comes into operation on 1 January 2022.

3—Amendment provisions

10 In this Act, a provision under a heading referring to the amendment of a specified Act amends the Act so specified.

Part 2—Amendment of *Education and Children's Services Act 2019*

4—Insertion of Part 13A

After Part 13 insert:

15 Part 13A—Trial of secure mobile phone storage devices in Government schools

132A—Trial of secure mobile phone storage devices in Government schools

20 (1) The Chief Executive must cause a trial of the use of secure mobile phone storage devices to be conducted in Government secondary schools in accordance with this section.

- (2) The purpose of the trial is to determine how effective such devices are in reducing the disruption in Government secondary schools caused by mobile phones.
- (3) The trial—
- 5 (a) must be conducted in not less than 20 Government secondary schools throughout the State; and
- (b) must run for at least 12 months in each school; and
- (c) may make use of a specified secure mobile phone storage device, or a secure mobile phone storage device of a
- 10 specified kind; and
- (d) may involve students, when on school premises during school hours, being required to secure their mobile phone in a secure mobile phone storage device; and
- (e) may provide for the principal of a school to grant
- 15 exemptions to enable students to access or use their mobile phones during school hours; and
- (f) must comply with any other requirements set out in the regulations.
- (4) Subject to this section, the trial is to be conducted in a manner
- 20 determined by the Chief Executive.
- (5) The principal of a Government secondary school taking part in the trial may, on an application by a parent of a student or on the principal's own motion, exempt a student from participation in the trial (and must grant an exemption to a student who reasonably needs
- 25 access to a mobile phone during school hours).
- (6) In this section—
- secure mobile phone storage device* means a lockable pouch or other device in which a mobile phone can be secured and that limits access to the mobile phone until the mobile phone is removed from the
- 30 device;

school hours means any time during a school day in which instruction is provided to students.

132B—Report on outcome of trial

- (1) The Minister must, at the conclusion of the trial under section 132A, cause an evaluation of the trial to be conducted, and a report to be prepared, by a university determined by the Minister on the outcome of the trial.
- 35 (2) A report under subsection (1) must be prepared within 12 months after the conclusion of the trial.
- 40 (3) The Minister must, within 6 sitting days of receiving a report under subsection (1), cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.