



# Education Pathways for PDA Teens

State-by-state reference guide — Australia

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When mainstream secondary school is not working for your PDA teenager, each Australian state offers a range of flexible education alternatives. This guide summarises the key options by state.

**Always verify current details**

Education provision changes regularly. Use this guide as a starting point and verify current eligibility, enrolment, and access details directly with each provider or your state education authority.

## New South Wales

- Aurora College — state-run distance education (K–12)
- The Distance Education schools (Western, Rio, etc.)
- TAFE NSW — from Year 10 equivalent
- Home schooling — registered with NESAs
- Connect to Learning — alternative flexible pathway for disengaged students

## Victoria

- Virtual School Victoria — state-run distance education (K–12)
- Flexible Learning Options (FLO) — community-based alternative programmes
- TAFE — from 15+
- Home schooling — registered with VRQA
- Hospital Schools — for students with significant mental health needs

## Queensland

- Capricornia Distance Education Centre and others — state-run distance education
- Flexible Learning Options schools — community-based programmes
- TAFE Queensland — various entry pathways
- Home schooling — registered with DESE

## South Australia

- Distance Education SA
- Flexible Learning Options schools
- TAFE SA
- Home education — registered with the Department for Education



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- Schools of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)
- Flexible Learning options — DTWD
- TAFE WA
- Home schooling — registered with the Department of Education WA

## Tasmania

- Distance Education Tasmania
- Tasmanian Academy (flexible senior secondary)
- TasTAFE
- Home education — registered with ACARA framework

## ACT and NT

- Distance Education options available — contact ACT/NT Education Departments directly
- CIT (ACT) / Charles Darwin University (NT) — TAFE pathways
- Home schooling registration with respective territory education authorities

## Getting Advice

### Where to start

- Your child's paediatrician or psychologist — for recommendations and referrals
- Your school's wellbeing coordinator — for in-school flexible options
- Your state education authority — for all non-mainstream options
- The Home Education Association — for home education guidance ([homeducation.com.au](http://homeducation.com.au))