Part 1 – Registration for home schooling: an overview

- “Allows a parent to integrate the NSW curriculum with the learning processes that occur naturally in the home throughout a child’s develop” got changed to “requires a parent to deliver the NSW Board of Studies curriculum”.
- “(from six months to two years)” has been removed
- Clarifies that only children of compulsory school age (6-17) are eligible for and have to be registered for homeschooling.
- The paragraph “For some children, in order to address specific learning needs, the curriculum to be taught in the home may be advanced or delayed in comparison to children of a similar age who attend school.” has been removed. There is reference to advanced children later in Part 3.
- The Authorised Person no longer “reviews” application – they “assess” them.
- There is more information in the Completion of Year 10 section to do with options for completion of TAFE certificates, apprenticeships or traineeships.
- The objection to registration on religious grounds has been moved to Part 3.

Part 2 – Requirements for Registration

- “Must be complied with at all times during a period of registration” is added.
- “Note: The minimum curriculum is the curriculum provided by the relevant Board of Studies syllabuses” is added.
- “the educational program identifies the intended learning outcomes based on the relevant Board of Studies syllabuses and relevant content” is new.
- in addition to recording learning experiences, we now have to “supervise and record” the “teaching and learning” experiences.
- There is a significant paragraph added at the end: “To be eligible for initial registration, an applicant must demonstrate a capacity to plan and provide for the educational needs of the child. This is demonstrated by providing evidence that the requirements for registration, as stated above, would be met if registration was granted. To be eligible for renewal of registration, an applicant must demonstrate a capacity to plan and provide for the educational needs of the child. This is demonstrated by providing evidence that the requirements for registration, as stated above, have been met during the current period of registration and that the requirements for registration would be met if any further period of registration was granted.”

Part 3: The registration process

Overview:

- Some minor wording changes (eg: “exemption from registration” is changed to “conscientiously object on religious grounds”).

Initial Registration:

- Requirements for registration now explicitly state “as stated in Part 2”.
• The term “and assess” are now added in several dot points – in Part 6, there is reference to maintaining records of achievement, including “analysing work samples”, but not much support is given to this requirement.

• It is now made explicit that meeting the requirements of registration (Part 2) must be “documented” and the Authorised Person will be “assessing the written plan for the proposed educational program”, rather than just “discussing your application” (which has been removed)

• Instead of the time intended to be allocated to student learning and whether this is sufficient to allow coverage of the curriculum and “is equivalent to a full-time load for the minimum curriculum, or for beyond Year 10, the required hours of study” they have used “is comparable to the time allocated in schools”.

The application:

• They have added that “It is expected that the child for whom registration is being sought, will be present during the assessment”.

Assessment by an Authorised Person:

• With regard to the home visit by the Authorised Person, they have moved from “discussing your application” to “assessing how the documented evidence will comply with the requirements”. They have also added: “In relation to the identified learning needs of the child, the Authorised Person will also consider information related to the previous educational attainment of the child, including a history of the child’s education, educational reports and participation in testing programs such as NAPLAN, as relevant.”

• They have added the Authorised Person will assess “the proposed method for maintaining records of all aspects of delivery of the educational program during a period of registration”.

• They have removed the reference to the AP providing a “written recommendation” (which has now been abolished).

Recommendation of the Authorised Person:

• With regard to length of approvals, they have added: “If an applicant for initial registration currently has another child registered for home schooling and that child has been registered for at least two successive periods of the maximum two years for each period, consideration may be given to an initial period of registration of more than one year for another child.”

• “Any areas for improvement in relation to compliance with the requirements for registration will also be identified at this time.” has changed from “any matters requiring attention will be explained at this time”.

• This is new: “From time to time the Office may monitor compliance with the requirements for registration. When this occurs, an Authorised Person contacts the parent to organise a home visit to review evidence relating to compliance with the requirements for registration.”
Renewal notice:

- This has also been added to Renewal section: “If, following repeated attempts to arrange an assessment by home visit, you are not available, the Office may commence a process to refuse your application.”
- They have added this paragraph under Renewal Process: “In some cases, for experienced and successful home schoolers and following a recommendation from the previous Authorised Person, the Office may consider assessing an application by documentation. Assessment by documentation will not be recommended where a home visit has not occurred in the past two years.”
- The entire Renewal By Documentation section has been removed.

Changes to Registration Details

- This is an entirely new section, basically covering:
  - decision to discontinue homeschooling
  - changes to the home address (this is not new – it was included in the FAQ section – the AP will arrange a time to come and assess the new premises for suitability for homeschooling)
  - if you wish to deliver a program in advance of the years of registration specified on the Certificate (this is definitely new and when combined with the loss of the paragraph stating children can work above or below year level, is of some concern): “If, based on your child’s identified learning needs and achievement, you wish to deliver an educational program in advance of the Years of schooling specified on the child’s certificate of registration, you must notify in writing the Home Schooling Unit providing details of the proposed change. On receipt of such notice, an Authorised Person will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time to assess the proposed new educational program. If the proposed educational program satisfies the Authorised Person that the requirements for registration will be met, a certificate of registration specifying the new Years of schooling will be issued
  - changes to other contact details (phone, email)

Flow charts:

- removes the following in the “assessment” box:
  - clarifies/resolves any matters
  - gives parent(s) a statement of recommendations and conditions (if applicable)
- changed the wording of “certificate of registration (or exemption from registration) for Home Schooling sent to home schooler” to “certificate issued”
- added “applicant advised of reasons for refusal” under Registration is not recommended.
- In Flow Chart 2 (renewal) reference to Form 3 (renewal by documentation) has been removed and in addition to the first dot point, also removes “or considers documentation supplied (if eligible for registration by documentation)”

Part 4: Curriculum Requirements
The main change here has been the removal of the lengthy “Curriculum Guidelines” for both K-6 and 7-10. Instead they have added at the end of each of those sections: “The stage statements contained in the primary syllabuses also provide an overview of the learning for each stage for each key learning area. The stage statements are summaries of the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes developed by students as a result of achieving the outcomes for the relevant stage of learning. More information about the Board’s curriculum resources is provided in Part 7 of this package” and refer to Part 7 for links to Syllabuses.

There are new sections in Part 4 – the New BOS Syllabuses (implementation timetable) and also the ability for homeschoolers to access Program Builder through a Scootle login (previously only available to teachers).

Part 5: Frequently asked questions:

- These have been rearranged in order with some minor wording changes to reflect compulsory school-age requirements.
- There is additional clarification about when a child needs to be registered for homeschooling (when they are turning 6).
- They have removed the question about maintenance of privacy. This may be of some concern.

Part 6: Sample approaches to record keeping

- This remains largely unchanged, however they have updated some of the activities in Sample 2: Student Diary in Sample approaches to maintaining records of learning experiences.

Part 7: Resources for homeschooling

- Largely unchanged, except they have removed SHEN and the Muslim Home Education Network as Home Education organisations and networks, leaving only HEA.
- They have added links to the New Syllabuses for 2014 for both Primary and Secondary.