Home Education

Home education is a rewarding and challenging endeavour enjoyed by thousands of Australian families. It is a practical and successful alternative to school. Home educating families select from a variety of approaches and curricula, and draw on a huge array of materials and resources to suit their children’s individual learning styles and needs. Parents find that being involved in all aspects of their children’s development is enriching and fulfilling.

Why Home Educate?

- Lifestyle choice - some people choose to home educate so that they can travel and spend quality time with their kids
- Academic individuality - some children learn differently to the general crowd and can get bored or can struggle at school, where the teachers are unable to cater for the individuality of each child
- Bullying - some children get bullied at school and home education is a way of getting the child out of harm’s way, yet still providing a good education
- Peer pressure - some parents choose to remove their kids away from peer pressure that can often be very harmful to children
- Religious and philosophical views - some parents choose to educate their children based on their religious view or beliefs
- Isolation - some people live in remote areas
- Responsibility - some people want to take full responsibility for the raising of their children
- Dissatisfaction with the school system

The Home Education Benefits...

A child educated at home has a parent available at any time. This individual attention allows for:

- Increased engagement during learning
- Structuring programs tailored to the child’s individual learning style and academic level
- Learning on topics of interest to the child and also during periods that suit the child, leading to the development of self-motivation, increased self-esteem and life-long learning skills
- Better access to real world experiences and activities, in and outside of the home
- Early identification and resolution of learning problems and misconceptions
- Increased time to learn beyond the minimum curriculum standards
- Provision of, and access to a huge range of resources not generally available within the school classroom
- Access to an increased number and variety of social opportunities and activities leading to the early development of a wide range of social skills, mature attitudes, cooperative behaviours and a balanced understanding of our society

The world is our classroom
What is the HEA?

Formed in April 2001, the Home Education Association Inc. (HEA) promotes and supports home education in Australia and provides members with benefits which are difficult to obtain by individuals or smaller groups.

The HEA has no affiliation with state education authorities and privacy is an Association priority.

The broader objectives of the HEA are:

✓ to uphold the principle that parents are primarily responsible for the education of their children
✓ to promote a broader awareness of Home Education and its benefits throughout Australia
✓ to promote and encourage the development of Home Education Networks
✓ to provide services and resources to home education networks and individual home educators
✓ to procure rights, privileges, concessions or benefits relating to home education for home educators and their families
✓ to maintain a respect for the diversity of philosophies and methods used by home educators

HEA Services / Benefits

HEA membership give you free access to:

✓ a number of discounts on educational purchases and subscriptions
✓ quarterly Australian home education magazines
✓ insurance that gives you protection when organising activities and events and enables you to hire halls that require you to hold insurance
✓ discounts to HEA organised events, home education workshops, courses and seminars
✓ providing insurance cover for event organisers and work experience students
✓ assisting media and researchers
✓ informing bureaucrats and politicians about the nature and benefits of home education
✓ producing promotional material to help increase awareness of home education as an option in the public arena
✓ maintaining an Australia-wide directory of individual contacts and support groups
✓ hosting internet discussion forums
✓ negotiating discounts and special offers from educational businesses and suppliers
✓ providing aid to local support groups
✓ developing home education literature and products
✓ communicating with other home education organisations in Australia and overseas

Your membership helps to promote and support the home education community by:

✓ maintaining a web presence
✓ sharing and distributing home education information
✓ producing regular newsletters
✓ producing quarterly PDF magazines for members
✓ offering and maintaining phone support
✓ offering and maintaining email support

Membership

Membership is available to all families. Becoming a member of the association is a way in which you can support this Australia-wide practice of home education. You can also gain access to the membership benefits. If you would like to find out more about the HEA please visit the web site.

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