



Tasmanian Home Education Advisory Council

Frequently Asked Questions

Can anyone home educate?

If you are a parent or guardian of a school-aged child you can apply to home educate. You need not have any qualifications in education.

At what age are children required to be registered?

In Tasmania, a child who is at least 5 years of age on 1st January in any year must be enrolled at school or provided with home education by a registered home educator for that year and subsequent years until the child is 17 or completes a Certificate III. Once a child completes the equivalent of Year 10 that child may decide whether to continue with home education or undertake an approved learning program.

In 2020 a child must be enrolled at school or be provided with home education by a registered home educator for that year and subsequent years until the child is 18.

Do I have to register to home educate?

Yes. Tasmania has an established process, which has been designed in consultation with experienced home educators. The aim is to make registration uncomplicated and efficient for families moving into home education. The link below provides all the necessary registration forms and information to apply for registration.

Web: www.oer.tas.gov.au

Email: registrar@oer.tas.gov.au

Does it cost anything to home educate?

There is no cost to register a child for home education. However, there may be costs associated with resources, equipment and curriculum materials.

Parents need to cover these expenses. Home educators are generally very creative about funding such costs; some good advice is to go slowly before outlaying large amounts purchasing resources until you and your child have settled into your program.



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I do not have the internet. How do I apply?

You can request an information pack from the Office of the Education Registrar. This pack contains an explanation as to how to apply and details the documentation that is to be provided.

The completed application form should be posted to the Office of the Education Registrar:

- GPO Box 169, Hobart, Tasmania 7001

or taken in person to one of the OER regional offices:

- 18 Wentworth Street, Bellerive, Tasmania 7018 - Phone 6165 6135 (South) or
- 49-51 Elizabeth Street, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia 7250 - Phone 6777 2545 (North)

How soon after I lodge an application can I take my child out of school?

As soon as you receive Provisional Registration from the Registrar, you can legally remove your child from school.

I have applied for home education and my child is currently not attending school. What do I do?

There are situations (exceptional or extenuating circumstances, illness) where it is in the best interest of the child to remove him/her from school immediately. If you find yourself in this situation, submit your application form and HESP with your supporting documents in the normal manner and contact the Office of the Education Registrar for further advice.

Email: registrar@oer.tas.gov.au

I am unable to get the signature of my child's legal father/mother for the application form – what do I do?

Where possible, both parents are required to consent to the home education of their child. However, when a signature or consent cannot be obtained, the parent who is registering for home education should provide an explanation to the Registrar. This explanation may be provided on the application form in the space provided.



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I cannot find my birth certificate – will this prevent me from registering?

Your application for approval of a proposed home education program for each child needs to include identification that confirms the name of the child, date of birth and parents' names, such as:

- A **certified** copy of a birth certificate; or
- An extract of birth/passport with a Medicare card on which each child is listed.

However, if a birth certificate is not available at the time of processing, it will not prevent the registration process commencing. At the time of application, the OER will advise you to send the birth certificate into the Office as soon as it is available. Alternately, the Registration Officer can sight it at your first registration visit.

How long does it take to process an application? How long does it take to get provisional registration status?

Provisional Registration can generally take between 7 – 10 days and a Full Registration up to 2-3 months (i.e. up to 2 months after the application is received, depending upon when the registration visit is scheduled to take place.)

What is a HESP?

HESP stands for Home Education Summary and Program.

It is a document which you create in which you provide information as to the extent of your research into home education, the program you are delivering and the way in which it is being/will be delivered.

There are 10 Standards (points) to be addressed:

- Diverse Learning Needs
- Research
- Pedagogy
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Range of Learning Areas
- Wellbeing
- Interpersonal Skills



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- Future Directions
- Evaluation

If you have already been home educating for some time, a HESP will include details about the program you have been delivering in the previous year as well as information about the program to be delivered in the year to come.

Your first HESP will contain information about your research and beliefs about education, as well as the intentions of your program based on your understanding of how your child learns.

How do I write a HESP?

A HESP is about putting your thinking and intentions into a document. The aim of a HESP is to capture the reasons why you have designed your program the way you have and what your program looks like. To make this as easy as possible the OER website (www.oer.tas.gov.au) has provided a document: "Home Education - HESP Template" in both Microsoft Word format and PDF. You are not required to use these templates; they are provided as a guide.

It is a requirement that a separate HESP is written for each child, and that each of the Standards are addressed (with the exception of Diverse Learning Needs and Future Directions (13+) as these may not be relevant to your child.)

Can I get an extension on submitting my HESP?

The Office of the Education Registrar must receive a HESP in order to process an application, therefore no extension can be given on initial application.

On renewal of registration an extension will depend on when your registration is due and when the HESP is required by. All home education registrations are now issued with an expiry date. HESPs must be provided to the Office of the Education Registrar no earlier than 15 weeks prior to the expiry date, and no later than 12 weeks prior to this expiry date. The Registrar has some discretion to receive a HESP after the 12-week period, however is not able to extend the registration past the expiry date. The 12-week period prior to the expiry date is used by the Registrar's Office to review the HESP, schedule a visit, write a report and provide it to the Registrar for consideration.

Can my children go to school part-time and still be home educated?

Yes. Students who are home educated can access a part-time enrolment within a school for a maximum of two days per week. The main part of your program can be delivered outside these school hours. The principal of the school must approve this and you must write this into your HESP.



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What is the process for part-time enrolment?

You will need to submit a HESP for home education registration, which includes the details of the part-time school enrolment. In conjunction with the HESP, the Education Registrar requires a letter from the Principal of your chosen school giving support in principle for the part-time enrolment.

Further information regarding part-time enrolment for home educated students on the OER website can be found at <https://oer.tas.gov.au/home-education/>

Can I travel with my children whilst home educating?

Yes. You must be a resident of Tasmania and be available in Tasmania for your registration visit. If you are travelling when your visit is due, you may be able to change the date of the visit or arrange to conduct it using for example, Skype or FaceTime. However, your registration visit must occur prior to the expiry date of your current registration

Note - the next registration visit must be conducted within the child's residence in Tasmania, unless prior approval is sought from the Registrar.

<https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Home-Education-Ministerial-Instruction-No-13.pdf>

Do you provide me with a curriculum and resources to home educate?

No. It is your responsibility to determine what program, material, resources and curriculum you intend using. You have the freedom of choice and are responsible for obtaining the materials and putting a program in place, adapting the program to suit your child/ren's changing needs and evaluating progress.

Where do I find a curriculum?

It is your responsibility to research and find the most appropriate education program to meet your child/ren(s) needs. This research could be via the Internet, library or speaking with other home educators etc. It is important to note that your curriculum may change as you evaluate what works for you and your child, as they age and as they develop strengths, areas of interests and identify areas for growth. Being a home educator is a process of being actively involved in lifelong learning.

Do I have to use the Australian Curriculum?

No. You do not have to use the Australian Curriculum or any particular books. There is a wealth of material available through bookshops, home education websites, the Internet, the library, and other home educators. Often, home educators use some formal materials (workbooks, textbooks) for literacy and numeracy, with other areas being covered through natural learning (learning through real-life experiences) or practical activities.



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How is my program assessed?

Your program is initially assessed by two members of THEAC and a Registration Officer. Following that, you will have a visit by the Registration Officer who will be looking to see evidence of your program. This is usually a time to celebrate the achievements you and your children have enjoyed in their program.

After the visit the Registration Officer will prepare a report for the Registrar. This report may also be viewed by THEAC.

You will receive a copy of the Registration report.

Where does my registration visit take place?

A visit can take place at your home or in the OER office or any other place that is suitable, such as library. You can discuss your specific needs with the OER staff. A registration visit may also take place over the phone or over Skype (see FAQ Can I travel with my children while home educating).

Note - your child will need to be present at the visit, wherever or however it is conducted.

My child is returning to school. Do I need to let you know in writing or is a phone call sufficient?

The Registrar requests that you inform the OER in writing either via email to registrar@oer.tas.gov.au or letter to GPO Box 169, Hobart TAS 7001.

Can my child participate in work experience or workplace training as part of their home education program?

Yes. Work Experience is a valued educational and training tool and may be included as part of your child's HESP. If you wish for your child to participate in work placements, then you need to contact the Registrar's Office who will provide you with relevant forms for completion and returning to the Office. Under the Government's insurances policy, home educated students are covered in respect of workers compensation, general liability, general property and personal accident. However, parents need to understand that there is an excess of \$1000 on all claims.

Can my child undertake a VET Program such as a traineeship or apprenticeship?

Yes. A very good option for the home educated is an Australian School-based Apprenticeship. Please talk to the OER staff or your Registration Officer to discuss the options that may be available for your child. [Australian School Based Apprenticeships - ASBA](#)



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Do home educated children receive a certificate when they complete a year 10 or 12 certificate?

If the Registrar is satisfied that a young person who is being home educated has completed a year of home education that is the equivalent of Year 10, the Registrar will issue the young person with a certificate stating that they have completed Year 10. *Education Act 2016* section 91

The same applies for a young person who has completed a year of home education that is the equivalent of Year 12. *Education Act 2016* section 93

How can I prepare my child for further education?

If your child is looking towards further study and/or University, start researching requirements and gathering evidence from the beginning of year 10 at the latest. In some circumstances, you may need to do so even earlier. Visit and thoroughly explore university admissions sites. For example:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/admissions/undergraduate>

For moving into the college system for Years 11 and 12, families are advised to contact the college during the year prior to discuss possible subject choices and how to attend taster days. For younger than normal students a letter outlining the reasons you seek early entry to Year 11 and expressing interest in having an interview can be helpful. Enrolment dates for each college are advertised in local newspapers towards the end of the school year. It is a good idea to take samples of your child's work or test results to interviews with course counsellors, which gives an idea of the course level they will be capable of.

Universities have alternative entry tests that your child can sit. Search various university websites for information on alternative entry. Contact the appropriate faculty at the university to ascertain prerequisites for their courses. Families may present samples of their child's work in their discussions with faculty staff.

There are also international tests that your child can sit e.g. Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).