Home education: know the facts

Sometimes there are reasons why parents choose to educate their children at home.

Education Queensland respects a parent’s right to educate their child at home. Like any right there are also responsibilities, in this instance, to ensure their child receives a high-quality education. One of these responsibilities involves registering their child with the Home Education Unit – this is a legal requirement.

Home education parents and caregivers develop or adapt a program for their child. The parent, or a teacher engaged or employed by the parent, is the educator of the child.

The parent or caregiver whose name appears on the application form is legally responsible for ensuring their child receives a high quality education.

Other responsibilities home education parents are required to do to include:

- detailing their child’s education program, including an annual report
- ensuring their child completes the education program appropriate for their year level
- meet all the requirements of the Home Education Unit which follows the relevant section of the Queensland Education Act 2006.

The 2006 Education Act is a law in place to ensure parents and caregivers are able give their children the best opportunity to receive an education. When a child of school age (mandatory age: at least 6.5 years and less than 16 years or completed Year 10) is not registered as receiving an education it’s breaking the law.

An alternative to ‘home education’ is ‘distance education’. Distance education is when a parent enrols their child in a school of distance education which provides a program for their child. Parents who choose distance education for their child do not have register their child with the Home Education Unit.

Distance education teachers are available to help with the children’s learning and produce reports (as in mainstream schools). The parent is the supervisor or home tutor to the child within their home. Far North distance education schools:

- Cairns School of Distance Education www.cairnssde.eq.edu.au or call: 4080 9111, email: admin@cairnssde.eq.edu.au
- Jubilee Christian College (Atherton) www.jubileecc.qld.edu.au or call: 4091 4627, email: distance.ed@jubileecc.qld.edu.au

To find out more about home education see www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/home-education or contact the Home Education Unit, call: 3405 3916, email: homeeducation@dete.qld.gov.au