



## What is Home Education? Introducing the H.E.A.

### WHAT IS HOME EDUCATION

Home education is a viable and legal alternative to sending your children to school. Hundreds of families successfully teach their children from home each year.

A practical and successful alternative to school-based education for children, home education embraces learning within the whole community. Home educated students regularly access libraries, educational and cultural institutions, parks, zoos, markets and shopping centres, sports and recreational clubs, religious facilities and much more. Home educating families do not restrict learning to home... The world is their classroom!

Home educating parents accept the responsibility for the planning, implementation and evaluation of their children's educational experiences. They are highly motivated individuals who believe that the education of children is primarily the right and responsibility of parents. They take this role very seriously and continuously educate themselves in order to maintain high educational standards for their children. Parents typically find that being involved in all aspects of their children's development is personally enriching and fulfilling. How families begin home educating often looks very different to what they are doing a year or two later: the books, materials and approaches used continually adapt to the emerging needs and styles of each individual child, as well as the changing conditions in family and community life. Adaptable, responsive and resourceful, home education is capable of delivering the best education possible.

### WHAT IS THE H.E.A.?

Formed in April 2001, the Home Education Association Inc. of Australia is a non-profit organisation that promotes, supports and encourages the practice of home education across Australia. It works to provide and offer services and benefits to families that are difficult for smaller networks and individuals to achieve. The HEA does not provide curriculum materials or teachers to supervise children's learning programs. It does, however, offer workshops and information to help parents develop their skills as home educators.

Elected from and accountable to the HEA membership, the Management Committee together with volunteering home educating families are committed to working with the members to make home education more accessible through the dissemination of information, encouragement of local support networks, and promotion of home education as the 'third option' in education in Australia. Membership is available to all home educating families in Australia.

Contact the Home Education Association for more information on home educating in South Australia.

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