

POLICY

HOME EDUCATION

Responsibility of: Education Policy and Programs
Effective Date: December 2016
Next Review Date: December 2019
Target Audience: Corporate and School Staff, Parents and Community

File: 2018/3859
EDOC: 2018/96684
Version Number: 2

This document should be read in conjunction with the:

- [Home Education - Application Guidelines for Parents](#)
- Internal Procedures – Home Education Applications (please contact Home Education Officer at homeeducation.doe@nt.gov.au).

1. POLICY

The department supports a parent's right to choose an educational environment that meets the needs of their child. To balance a parent's right to educate, and the department's responsibility under the *Education Act 2017* (NT) (the Act) to ensure that students receive an education of a quality that is capable of enabling them to reach their potential, a parent must apply for, and be granted approval to, home educate their child.

Home education requires parents to accept responsibility for planning, teaching, assessing, recording and evaluating a teaching and learning plan for each child who is of compulsory school age, or in the compulsory participation phase. Parents must submit applications annually for each child outlining the proposed home education that they seek to deliver.

The department may approve or decline the application. Approval of an application is subject to the following conditions:

- the usual place of residence of the child is in the Northern Territory (NT)
- the curriculum to be used must be one that is approved by the [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority \(ACARA\)](#), or an alternative curriculum as approved by the department
- the approval is for a maximum of one school year only
- any teacher (other than the parent) conducting the home education must be registered with the [NT Teacher Registration Board](#)
- the parent must allow a home visit to be carried out by the department
- any other conditions that are considered appropriate

2. BUSINESS NEED

The *Education Act 2015* (NT) sections 46-49 establishes the legislative framework for the provision of home education. This policy and associated guidelines and procedures provide parents, principals and the corporate business units of the department with clarity as to the requirements and processes relating to home education.

3. SCOPE

This policy and the associated guidelines and procedures provide information and processes regarding home education for children residing in the NT. The documents apply to all parents who wish to provide home education for their children, and all department staff and principals delegated responsibility within the application, approval and home visit processes.

There is no provision to approve the home education of children who are not permanent residents of the NT.

It should be noted that home education is distinctly different to distance education, where a distance education school is responsible for the planning, delivery and assessment of the child's learning program.

4. DEFINITIONS

[Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority \(ACARA\)](#) is an independent statutory authority responsible for the:

- development and implementation of a national curriculum
- management of the National Assessment program including NAPLAN
- collection and publication of information regarding the performance and resources of schools and campuses across Australia

ACARA approved curriculum currently includes:

- Australian Curriculum Framework
- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program and Middle Years Program
- Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework
- Montessori National Curriculum Framework.

Child of compulsory school age is a child that turns six years of age on or before 30 June of the school year until the child completes Year 10 or turns 17 years of age, whichever comes first.

Compulsory participation phase applies to students who have completed Year 10, but have not turned 17, where the student must participate in an eligible option on a full time basis until they turn 17.

Home visit refers to a visit to the residence, in which home education is being proposed or taking place, by a delegated departmental officer as part of the home education application process, or as a condition of approval.

Parent means a child's father, mother or any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, including a person who is regarded as a parent of the child under Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander customary law or tradition.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and responsibilities are outlined within the relevant [Home Education Application Guidelines for Parents](#).

6. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

Department of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrolment policy and associated guidelines• Mandatory Reporting of Harm and Exploitation of children guidelines
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Act• Care and Protection of Children Act• Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act• Working with Children Clearance