

POLICY

HOME EDUCATION

Responsibility of: School Support Services
Effective Date: September 2016
Next Review Date: September 2018
Target Audience: Corporate and School Staff, Parents and Community

DET File: FILE2014/131
EDOC2016/xxxxxx
Version Number: 4.0

This document should be read in conjunction with the:

- [New Home Education Application guidelines](#)
- [Continuing Home Education Application guidelines](#)
- [Home Inspection for Approved Home Education guidelines](#)
- [Declined or Cancelled Home Education guidelines.](#)

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 obligation to ensure that all children access quality education that supports and develops their ability to think creatively, innovate, solve problems and engage with new disciplines, 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 a yearly application for each child outlining the proposed home education that they seek to deliver, along with supporting documentation and other information as prescribed within the [Home Education Application Form](#).

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

- the child must be a permanent resident of the Northern Territory
- 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 [Northern Territory Teacher Registration Board](#)
- the parent must allow home inspection to be carried out by the department
- any other conditions that are considered appropriate.

This policy is supported by a series of guidelines, templates and information sheets that aim to support parents and department staff through the application process, the conduct of annual home inspections, ensuring procedural fairness is afforded throughout the home education assessment process.

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. For further information on enrolment with a distant education school, refer to the [Enrolment in Distance Education Schools guidelines](#).

2. BUSINESS NEED

Home education is a lawful alternative when considering the education of children of compulsory school age, or in the compulsory participation phase in the Northern Territory. Part 4 Division 3 of the [Education Act](#) (the Act) establishes the legislative framework for the provision of home education to which both parents and the department must adhere.

3. SCOPE

This policy and the associated guidelines provide information and processes regarding home education for children residing in the Northern Territory. 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 inspection processes.

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

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.

[Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority 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 children who have completed Year 10, but have not turned 17, where the child must participate in an eligible option on a full time basis until they turn 17.

Daily care and control of a child (in regards to the definition of parent) refers to a person who is entitled to exercise all the powers and rights, and has all the responsibilities, in relation to the day-to-day care and control of the child.

Decision notice for the purpose of this policy is the formal notice approving or declining an application for home education, or cancelling approved home education.

Eligible option is participation on a full time basis in one of the following:

- approved education or training
- if 15 years or over, paid employment (minimum average of 25 hours per week) or
- a combination of approved education/training and paid employment.

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

Parent signifies 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.

Parental responsibility (in regards to the definition of parent) refers to a person who has:

- a) daily care and control of the child, or
 - b) is entitled to exercise all the powers and rights, and has all the responsibilities, in relation to the long-term care and development of the child, or
 - c) has daily care and control of the child and the entitlement and responsibilities at (b)
- and includes a person who has been given the above responsibilities under another state or territory law.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and responsibilities are outlined within the relevant Home Education guidelines.

6. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

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| Department of Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrolment policy• Enrolment Enforcement guidelines• Enrolment in Distance Education Schools guidelines (under development)• New Home Education Application guidelines• Continuing Home Education Application guidelines• Home Inspection for Approved Home Education guidelines• Declined or Cancelled Home Education guidelines.• Mandatory Reporting of Harm and Exploitation of children guidelines |
| Northern Territory | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Act• Education Regulations• Care and Protection of Children Act• Curriculum Assessment and Reporting policy and guidelines for T-9 and 10-12• Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act• Northern Territory Teacher Registration Board• Working with Children Clearance |

DoE Policy: *Home Education*

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| National | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority• Australian Curriculum Version 8.0 |
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