

Did you know ...

From 1 January 2005 education in the ACT is governed by new legislation known as the *Education Act 2004*. The Act recognises that all children have a right to receive a high quality education that provides a foundation for our democratic society. Home education is also an option for parents in the ACT.

This pamphlet outlines parents' responsibilities in relation to home education under the Act.

When must a child living in the ACT receive an education?

Home education is available to children of school age who live in the ACT, however all children in the ACT between the ages of 6 and 15 years must be registered for home education or enrolled at a school of their choice. Parents and carers must apply for provisional registration within 14 days following their child turning 6 years of age.

In accordance with the new Act, if your child starts home education and ceases enrolment at a government or non government school, you must apply for provisional registration within 14 days.

Equally, if your child of compulsory school years ceases home education, you must enrol the child in a school of your choice within 14 days.

Is the new Act retrospective?

In the past, some children have been home educated but have not been registered. The new Act provides an opportunity for these children to be registered irrespective of their status under the previous legislation. The conditions of the Act are not retrospective.

What is Home Education?

Home education means education conducted by one or both of the child's parents or carers from a home base.

Home Education is committed to:

- offering a broad range of opportunities that foster in each child the development of the child's unique spiritual, emotional, physical, social and intellectual being;
- valuing the individual needs, interests and aptitudes of each child;
- preparing each child to become an independent and effective local and global citizen.



How do you commence home education?

Should you decide to home educate your children you must apply for a provisional registration for each child.

Provisional registration lasts for six months and provides parents with the opportunity to commence a home education program. It is the precursor to registration.

There are no conditions for provisional registration.

How do I apply for provisional registration?

An application form to request commencement of provisional registration is available from the Manager, Non Government Education. (see reverse for contact details)

On return of the application form, a certificate for home education that exempts the child from school attendance will be forwarded to the parents.

A register of children receiving a home based education and those transferring to and from schools will be maintained.

What comes next?

No earlier than three months into the provisional registration period, parents may apply in writing to register their child for home education for a period of up to two years.

An application form to request registration is available from the Manager, Non Government Education. (see reverse for contact details)

A copy of the application form will need to be accompanied by the documents required under the conditions for registration.



What are the conditions for registration?

The registration of a child for home education is subject to the following conditions on parents:

- provision of a high quality education
- documentation of the educational opportunities offered by the parents and their strategies to encourage learning
- availability for inspection on request of any education programs, materials or other records used.

How are these conditions demonstrated?

An appointment will be made to meet the parents with the children and to discuss the high quality education that has been planned. This meeting may occur at a venue of the parents' choosing and does not have to be the child's home.

This provides the opportunity for parents to demonstrate how they will provide a broad education that will meet the needs of each child. The documentation will show how the planned educational opportunities will assist each child to develop their potential and how the educational strategies will promote an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

At this time, parents are to make available the education programs, materials or other records used for the home education.

How often do you provide a progress report?

Once every year, the parents must give a report about each child's educational progress to the Manager, Non Government Education.

Did you know ...

Chapter 5 of the *Education Act 2004* covers home education.

You can access a full copy of the Act at www.legislation.act.gov.au

For more information:

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Education and Training

Home Education in the ACT

A Guide for Parents & Carers