

Home Education Unit Review

Queensland government response





Minister's Statement

The Queensland Government is working to ensure all Queensland children and young people have access to quality school education, and the supports needed to develop a strong foundation for future education, training and employment.

As Education Minister, I oversee a diverse Queensland education portfolio covering a state school system across its eight regions, non-state schooling – both Catholic and Independent – and home education.

Home education has had a marked growth trajectory. Between 2019 and 2024, Queensland experienced the most significant growth in home education registrations of all Australian states and territories. Registrations are also dynamic, with a significant portion of families moving between home education and both schooling sectors each year.

I acknowledge the continuous work of the Home Education Unit within the Department of Education to support the growing number of home-educating families. The final report notes the impact of the growth in home education on the Home Education Unit and its capacity to oversee the regulation of, and support for, home educating families.

As in any school community, families who home educate want an educational environment to support the particular circumstances of their children.

The independent Home Education Unit Review has identified improvements that will better support parents and ensure children and young people continue to access high-quality education. The review was stakeholder-informed, and its recommendations provide a pathway toward a strong and positive future for home education in Queensland.

The Government Response to the review's findings outlines the work required to address each of the recommendations. The Government Response includes the commitment to establish a permanent parent consultation and engagement body to inform Queensland's high quality home education arrangements.

I thank Ms Deborah Dunstone for leading the review and ensuring it was informed by the views of the home education community. I thank all of the home education stakeholders who participated in the review, noting in particular the commitment of the Home Education Expert Group members.

The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education and the Arts

Introduction

The Queensland Government recognises the right of parents to choose school education that best meets the needs of their child. Home education is a legitimate schooling option that some parents decide is the most appropriate option for their children at a given time in their learning journey.

The Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (the Act) provides the legislative basis for home education regulatory processes and requirements, with the Department of Education's Home Education Unit overseeing home education registration processes and reporting requirements in line with the Act.

Home Education Unit Review

Between 2019 and August 2024, the number of children registered for home education rose from 3,411 to 11,314, an increase of 230 per cent. In 2025, approximately 11,400 Queensland children are registered for home education. After a period of home education, some children return to a state, or non-state, school, or move between modes and sectors of education more than once.

The independent Home Education Unit (HEU) Review sought to understand the diverse experiences and needs of home educating families. In line with the review's Terms of Reference, market research heard directly from home educating families about their experiences of home education regulation and the challenges in providing school education at home.

Of those who participated in the research, a significant proportion of respondents reported their home educated children have learning disabilities. Some parents became home educators due to their child's adverse experiences in a school environment. Some parents chose home education as it best suited their child's needs and circumstances. The Department of Education will continue to work with home educating families and the broader sector on how best to support children and young people in the delivery of education.

The HEU Review Final Report makes eight overarching recommendations focused on repositioning and enhancing home education governance in Queensland, modernising home education regulation, and support and advisory responses for families.

Reforms to Home Education support and communication

The Queensland Government supports recommendations of the HEU Review, and will take a progressive approach to implementation, starting with those that can be achieved via non-legislative measures. This includes the recommendations for enhancing communications and collaboration between the HEU and home education community members, and improving resources, and their accessibility, to support families fulfil regulatory obligations.

The HEU will be renamed as 'Queensland Home Education' to signal a new approach to better

supporting home education for children and young people in Queensland. Further, the Department of Education will prioritise establishing an ongoing Queensland Home Education Consultative Group to enable continued and regular communication with families in undertaking these reforms.

These actions will assist progress on the review recommendations, all of which require further consideration, including stakeholder input to inform the best response and an approach to implementation.

The Queensland Government response to all recommendations is provided in the recommendations table below.

Out of scope matters

The HEU Review Final Report raised several out-of-scope matters. The Queensland Government is taking action to address the concerns raised about age eligibility for home education registration, pending consideration of legislation through the Queensland Parliament.

Further consideration and consultation is required with relevant stakeholders on observations made about: home education reporting time frames; oversight of students' movement in and out of state/non-state schooling and home education; partial enrolment in a school; number of home-educated children with learning difficulties, diagnosed disabilities, or mental health concerns; and unregistered families who home educate their children.

Review recommendations – Phased Implementation

Recommendation		Government position	Implementation		
			Commenced	From August 2025	From 2026
Repositioning and enhancing home education governance in Queensland					
Recommendation 1: Reposition the Home Education Unit (HEU) for support and regulation.	1.1	Expand the role: to include both regulatory oversight and a support function to better assist home educators.	Support		
	1.2	Rename the Unit: to Queensland Home Education (QHE) to reflect this broader scope, marking a new era in home education support and governance in Queensland.	Support		
	1.3	Leadership and change management: Engage an educational leader to lead the transformation and implementation of recommendations to ensure effective communication with the home education community, enhanced supports for families and liaison within the Department of Education and other government agencies.	Support		
Recommendation 2: Enhance communication and collaboration.	2.1	Form the Queensland Home Education Consultative Group: This group will be a departmental consultative body comprising an external Chair and regional parent representatives (including First Nations representatives), with biennial appointments.	Support		
	2.2	Annual briefing for key stakeholders: QHE to provide annual briefings to key stakeholders, offering clarity on regulatory requirements and best practices, positioning itself as the authoritative source for information on home education in Queensland.	Support		

Recommendation		Government position	Implementation		
			Commenced	From August 2025	From 2026
Regulation of home education					
Recommendation 3: Enhance and expand resources that support parents to meet regulatory requirements.	3.1 Enhance education program templates:	Improve and expand existing templates and exemplars for education programs, reflecting various approaches to home education, age ranges, and learning needs.	Support		
	3.2 Develop exemplars for annual reports:	Create a range of exemplar annual reports that show educational progress in different contexts, providing guidance for parents.	Support		
	3.3 Publish compliance information:	provide clear and transparent information about how compliance with standard conditions of registration is determined for educational programs and written reports.	Support		
Recommendation 4: Consider trialling a new reporting option.	4.1 Consider a trial:	for a new reporting option where parents can submit a concise templated written report, supplemented by an online interview to demonstrate educational progress.	Support		
Recommendation 5: Leverage technology for better support and streamlined processes.	5.1 Enhance website accessibility:	to improve accessibility of information, links to supports and resources for ease of navigation for parents.	Support		
	5.2 Create a social media presence	to connect with the home education community and provide timely information.	Support		
	5.3 Develop an online portal:	Upgrade online services to include a portal for regulatory tasks like registration and reporting, making processes more efficient for parents.	Support		

Recommendation		Government position	Implementation		
			Commenced	From August 2025	From 2026
Recommendation 6: Review and revise all formal communications from the HEU to ensure they are clear, supportive, and family-centred.	6.1 Tone and language: Update the website, letters, emails, and other communications to be more encouraging and constructive to support families to meet regulatory requirements, with clear guidance and resources.	Support			
	6.2 Consistency: Ensure that all communications are consistent in their messaging, reflect the updated role of the QHE, and reinforce the goal of fostering a positive and supportive relationship between the regulatory body and home education families.	Support			
Support and advisory response for families					
Recommendation 7: Establish a home education support and advisory response for families.	7.1 Offer information at key junctures: 7.1.1 Onboarding support – provide a comprehensive guide, webinars and registration assistance for families new to home education. 7.1.2 Senior pathways advisory support – connect families with information about QCAA, TAFE, registered training organisations, and universities regarding senior pathways. 7.1.3 NAPLAN – communicate with schools, the QCAA, and families around how registered home educated students can choose and access state-wide testing. 7.1.4 State-wide services – link families to state-wide services, such as the Autism Hub, via websites offering information, webinars and support. 7.1.5 Student representative opportunities – promote and expand access to opportunities such as regional sport, Premier’s Reading Challenge, applying for The Premier’s Anzac Prize, student leadership forums or advisory councils.	Support			
	7.2 Explore opportunities for regional connections: including possible use of community liaison roles.	Support			

Recommendation		Government position	Implementation		
			Commenced	From August 2025	From 2026
Recommendation 8: Broker and expand access to educational resources.	8.1 Review student identification cards: to ensure they contain the information required to be recognised for discounts and services by government agencies, transport companies and community organisations, and communicate their availability to families.	Support			
	8.2 Access to curriculum resources: provide access for families to educational curriculum support materials as they are developed and updated.	Support			
	8.3 Liaise with commercial companies: provide information to education companies offering educational or teacher discounts to promote consideration of including home educators and children registered for home education in these offers.	Support			