



Getting Started with Home Education in the Northern Territory

Congratulations on your decision to teach your children at home!

This page will give you some clues as to what to do next... There is a LOT of information available on the internet and hopefully this brief guide will get started.

My name is Beverley Paine and I began home educating in 1985, which means my three children are now all adults. They are all happy they had the opportunity to learn at home and in the community rather than at school.

First of all I'd like to reassure you that homeschooling is a legal alternative to school based education for children in the NT. Secondly, you aren't alone in your decision to home educate! Although it can feel like it is hard to find home educating families in the Northern Territory there are quite a few, especially in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Homeschooling support groups offer companionship and support for parents and children, as well as educational opportunities, excursions, activities and camps. Home educators seek the best education possible for their children and make use of the whole community, learning from many sources and in many different environments, as well as the home.

A good place to start homeschooling is by reading as much as you can about home education. It will be daunting at first because there is SO much information! There are hundreds of free articles on my [Homeschool Australia](#) and [Unschool Australia](#) sites to help you get started! Click on articles index to be taken to our sitemap and then select the category and you'll be taken to a list of articles on that topic.

I've also written quite a few books and booklets for Aussie homeschoolers which my daughter April Jermy sells through her online bookstore [Always Learning Books](#). I take a personalized approach to education and my book *Getting Started with Homeschooling* is a practical manual that describes how you can write your own learning programs and build your own curriculum to suit your family and your individual children rather than buying one off the shelf. A do-it-yourself curriculum isn't hard to create and doesn't take long to do. Visit other homeschooling families and join a support group so that you can see how easy it really is!

If you wish to share your experiences as a home educator or would like to make contact with other homeschooling families in your area please consider listing yourself as a contact person on our Northern Territory support group page by emailing me contact@beverleypaine.com.

The ABC ran an article about a [homeschooling family in the Northern Territory](#) , April 2007.

Registering as a Home Educating Family in the Northern Territory

There is a small but growing body of research available in home education in Australia: see [Summary of Australian Research on Home Education](#). There is also a list of links to [overseas research](#) on my website.



Please refer to the Education Act, section 21,

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nt/consol_act/ea104/: 21.1(1)(b) custodial parents 'may provide education for the child, which is efficient and suitable'. The Act requires parents to obtain consent in writing from the Secretary of Dept of Education after consideration of a prepared report by delegated officers. Application forms should be returned to Project Office, School Operations, process includes a home visit.

Families wishing to educate their children from home need to complete and return an [application form](#). Interim approval may be granted, provided the application is completed adequately, and will remain in place throughout the approval process. Children should not be removed from school until interim approval has been granted in writing. Reviewed and renewed annually; portfolio of student work samples must be submitted.

Refer to the Department of Education and Training Information Booklet for Home Education at www.det.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/2651/information_booklet_for_parents.pdf

See also this information page from the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training (DET):

<http://www.det.nt.gov.au/parents-community/schooling/home-education>.

An article on how to complete the application form can be found on the Home Education Association website: <http://www.hea.edu.au/get-started/state-by-state/nt/59-the-application-process.html>

Northern Territory Support Groups and Contacts

Support groups are an essential aspect of building a strong, vibrant homeschooling community. Some groups meet regularly with structured activities for the children, others simply allow time for the children to play together. Homeschooling families create support groups to meet their family's needs and invite others to join them for social and educational reasons. Please be considerate of family life when phoning a homeschooling contact: please avoid phoning during meal times or in the evening. During the day you may be interrupting home education lessons or activities: you may be asked to leave a message.

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Unschooling NT facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/unschooling.nt>