

# **SUMMARY OF AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH ON HOME EDUCATION**

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## SUMMARY OF AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH ON HOME EDUCATION

Research on home education in Australia has a small but growing presence. Parent reasons for home educating have been extensively explored while student academic success has not attracted much Australian research. Socialisation has been examined in different ways by a number of studies. Demographic material on home educating families has been collected. A few projects have specifically focused on student perceptions of their home education experience. Students with specific needs have been conducted by a couple of researchers. Home educator interactions with networks, their use of community resources and their needs for appropriate information have also been analysed. Throughout the research problems with home education were identified. The most contentious issue identified was parent resistance to legislation and regulation. The developing theory of home education has distinguished home education as quite distinct from the education provided in formal schools and institutions. A few researchers have included Distance Education in their definition of home schooling and a few academics have addressed the possibilities of home education in the Australian context. This resource was developed as a direct result of Victorian Legislative changes and was originally presented to the Minister of Education and Training of Victoria when comments from officials within the department to home education representatives were made indicating their understanding that there was little Australian research on home education.

### **Australian Home Education Research**

There is a small but growing body of literature available in Australia on home education. Most of this is contained in unpublished theses but there is also some published work available. This literature includes professional journal articles, a book, and documents from Parliamentary Reviews and Departments of Education. The topics covered in this literature cover the reasons parents home educate, demographic information, studies of how parents manage the home educating process, student perceptions, special needs, academic success, the process of learning in home schooling, student competencies and social development, legislative and legal situations in all states of Australia, and home education as an alternative form of education in rural areas.

### **Reasons for Home Education in Australia**

Australian parents choose to home educate for many reasons. These can be grouped into two major categories: negative features of formal institutions and the positive attractions of home education. Many researchers have addressed this question.

Barratt-Peacock. (1997). *The Why and How of Australian Home Education*. Unpublished PhD, La Trobe, Melbourne. (Published by Learning Books, Yankalilla, SA)

Broadhurst, D. (1999). *Investigating young children's perceptions of home schooling*, from <http://www.aare.edu.au/99pap/bro99413.htm>

Chapman, A., & O'Donoghue, T. A. (2000). Home schooling: an emerging research agenda. *Education Research and Perspectives*, 27(1), 19-36.

- Education Queensland, (2003). *Home Schooling Review* (Research-Parliamentary report). Brisbane.  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/publication/production/reports/homeschooling.pdf>
- Habibullah, A. (2004). *"Mum, when's recess?" A glimpse into two contexts of home schooling*. Unpublished Honours of BEd, Monash, Melbourne.
- Harding, T. J. A. (1997). *Why Australian Christian Academy Families in Queensland Choose to Home School: Implications for Policy Development*. Unpublished MEd, Partial fulfillment, University of Technology, Brisbane.
- Harding, T. J. A. (2003a). *A submission for the Home Schooling Review*. Brisbane: Australian Christian Academy.
- Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.
- Honeybone, R. (2000). *A South Australian case study examining the home - schooling experiences of eight primary school aged children and their families*. Unpublished Thesis (B.Ed. (Hons.)), University of South Australia, Adelaide.
- Hunter, R. (1994). The home school phenomenon. *Unicorn*, 20(3), 28-37.
- Jackson, G. (2009). *'More than One Way to Learn': Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.
- Jacob, A., Barratt-Peacock, J., Carins, K., Holderness-Roddam, G., Home, A., & Shipway, K. (1991). *Home Education in Tasmania: Report of Ministerial Working Party October 1991*. Hobart: Government Printer.
- Jeffrey, D., Giskes, R., & Section, Queensland. Parliamentary Library. Research Publications and Resources Section (2004). *Home schooling*. Queensland Parliamentary Library, Research Publications and Resources Section.  
<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/publications/documents/research/ResearchBriefs/2004/200409.pdf>
- Maeder, G. (1995). *Parents' reasons in the Hunter area for choosing a Montessori school, Steiner school or home schooling for the early schooling of their children*. Unpublished MEd, University of Newcastle, Newcastle NSW.
- Patrick, K. (1999). *Enhancing community awareness of home - schooling as a viable educational option*. Unpublished In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours), Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW.
- Reilly, L. (2004). *How Western Australian Parents Manage the Home Schooling of Their Children with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the Australian Association for Research in Education (28 November - 2 December 2004), University of Melbourne.
- Reilly, L., Chapman, A., & O'Donoghue, T. (2002). Home schooling of children with disabilities. *Queensland Journal of Educational Research*, 18(1), 38-91.
- Simich, M. (1998). *How parents who home school their children manage the process*. Unpublished MEd, University-of-Western-Australia, Nedlands WA.

Stroobant, E. (2006). *Dancing to the Music of Your Heart: Home Schooling the School-Resistant Child*. Unpublished PhD, University of Auckland, Auckland.

Stroobant, E., & Jones, A. (2006). School refuser child identities. *Discourse*, 27(2), 209- 223.

Thomas, A. (1998). *Educating Children at Home*. London: Cassell.

### **Academic Success**

While there are no specific major studies on the academic success of home educated students, a couple of small studies and most other research indicate that Australian home educated children have achieved an equal or higher than average result to their formally educated peers.

Harding, T. (2003a). A Comparison of the Academic Results of Students Monitored by the State, with the Academic Results of Students Not Monitored by the State. In *A submission for the Home Schooling Review* (pp. 6). Brisbane: Australian Christian Academy.

Harding, T. (2006a). *A Study of Victorian Home Educator – Home School Law Reforms*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.

Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.

Jackson, G. (2009). *'More than One Way to Learn': Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.

Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.

McColl, A. (2005). *ACE Homeschooling: The Graduates Speak*. Unpublished Masters of Education, part fulfillment, Christian Heritage College, Brisbane.

Simich, M. (1998). *How parents who home school their children manage the process*. Unpublished MEd, University-of-Western-Australia, Nedlands WA.

Thomas, A. (1998). *Educating Children at Home*. London: Cassell.

### **Socialisation**

Studies which have looked at the social experiences of home educated students indicate that the students have broad, healthy social interactions although a few students would have appreciated more interaction with peers, particularly in home education network groups. Studies have also shown that some students who have been hurt socially at school have been able to recover when home educated.

Barratt-Peacock. (1997). *The Why and How of Australian Home Education*. Unpublished PhD, La Trobe, Melbourne. (Published by Learning Books, Yankalilla, SA)

- Barratt-Peacock, J. (2003). Australian home education: a model. *Evaluation and Research in Education*, 17 (2), 101-111.
- Broadhurst, D. (1999). *Investigating young children's perceptions of home schooling*, from <http://www.aare.edu.au/99pap/bro99413.htm>
- Brosnan, P. (1991). *Child competencies and family processes in homeschool families*. Unpublished MEd, University of Melbourne, Melbourne.
- Chapman, A., & O'Donoghue, T. A. (2000). Home schooling: an emerging research agenda. *Education Research and Perspectives*, 27(1), 19-36.
- Clery, E. (1998). Homeschooling: The meaning that the homeschooled child assigns to this experience. *Issues in Educational Research*, Vol. 8(No. 1), 1-13.
- Habibullah, A. (2004). "Mum, when's recess?" *A glimpse into two contexts of home schooling*. Unpublished Honours of BEd, Monash, Melbourne.
- Harding, T. J. A. (1997). *Why Australian Christian Academy Families in Queensland Choose to Home School: Implications for Policy Development*. Unpublished MEd, Partial fulfillment, University of Technology, Brisbane.
- Harding, T. (2006a). *A Study of Victorian Home Educator – Home School Law Reforms*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.
- Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.
- Honeybone, R. (2000). *A South Australian case study examining the home - schooling experiences of eight primary school aged children and their families*. Unpublished Thesis (B.Ed. (Hons.)), University of South Australia, Adelaide.
- Hunter, R. (1994). The home school phenomenon. *Unicorn*, 20(3), 28-37.
- Jackson, G. (2007). Home education transitions with formal schooling: Student perspectives. *Issues in Educational Research*, 17(1), 62-84. <http://www.iier.org.au/iier.html>
- Jackson, G. (2009). 'More than One Way to Learn': *Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.
- Jacob, A., Barratt-Peacock, J., Carins, K., Holderness-Roddam, G., Home, A., & Shipway, K. (1991). *Home Education in Tasmania: Report of Ministerial Working Party October 1991*. Hobart: Government Printer.
- Jeffrey, D., Giskes, R., & Section, Queensland. Parliamentary Library. Research Publications and Resources Section (2004). *Home schooling*. Queensland Parliamentary Library, Research Publications and Resources Section. <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/publications/documents/research/ResearchBriefs/2004/200409.pdf>
- McCull, A. (2005). *ACE Homeschooling: The Graduates Speak*. Unpublished Masters of Education, part fulfillment, Christian Heritage College, Brisbane.

- Krivanek, R. (1988). *Social development in home based education*. Unpublished MA, University-of-Melbourne, Parkville Vic.
- Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.
- Patrick, K. (1999). *Enhancing community awareness of home - schooling as a viable educational option*. Unpublished In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours), Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW.
- Simich, M. (1998). *How parents who home school their children manage the process*. Unpublished MEd, University-of-Western-Australia, Nedlands WA.
- Thomas, A. (1998). *Educating Children at Home*. London: Cassell.

### **People Who Home Educate Their Children**

Home educators come from all walks of life, from every corner of the country, from varying income brackets, and with various levels of education. None of these features appears to impact upon their success in educating their children.

- Collis, M., & Dickens, K. (2008). School at home. *Nurture*, 42(1), 8-9
- Education Queensland, (2003). *Home Schooling Review* (Research-Parliamentary report). Brisbane. <http://education.qld.gov.au/publication/production/reports/homeschooling.pdf>
- Habibullah, A. (2004). *"Mum, when's recess?" A glimpse into two contexts of home schooling*. Unpublished Honours of BEd, Monash, Melbourne.
- Harding, T. J. A. (1997). *Why Australian Christian Academy Families in Queensland Choose to Home School: Implications for Policy Development*. Unpublished MEd, Partial fulfillment, University of Technology, Brisbane.
- Harding, T. (2003c). The Study - Home School Law Reform - The Parents Speak. In *A submission for the Home Schooling Review* (pp. 18). Brisbane: Australian Christian Academy.
- Harding, T. (2006a). *A Study of Victorian Home Educator – Home School Law Reforms*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.
- Harding, T. (2006b). *Don't "Fix" What Isn't Broken*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.
- Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.
- Jackson, G. (2009). *'More than One Way to Learn': Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.
- Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.

- McHugh, W. (2007). *Meeting the Davis family: a case study examination of values education and home schooling*. Unpublished Honours, Avondale College, Cooranbong.
- New South Wales Board of Studies. (2004). *Home education study report of findings*. Sydney: Office of the Board of Studies NSW.
- Patrick, K. (1999). *Enhancing community awareness of home - schooling as a viable educational option*. Unpublished In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours), Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW.

### **Student Views of Home Education**

Students have generally reported positively about home education. Comments about missing peers at school were generally tempered by the benefits of being able to flexibly learn at their own pace. Self-esteem appeared to be healthy among these students with a number of them crediting their own self-image directly to their home education experiences.

- Broadhurst, D. (1999). *Investigating young children's perceptions of home schooling*, from <http://www.aare.edu.au/99pap/bro99413.htm>
- Carins, K. (2002). *Graduates' perceptions of the ACE program as preparation for life long learning*. Unpublished B Ed(Hons), University of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Clery, E. (1998). Homeschooling: The meaning that the homeschooled child assigns to this experience. *Issues in Educational Research, Vol. 8*(No. 1), 1-13.
- Jackson, G. (2007). Home education transitions with formal schooling: Student perspectives. *Issues in Educational Research, 17*(1), 62-84. <http://www.iier.org.au/iier.html>
- Jackson, G. (2009). *'More than One Way to Learn': Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.
- Honeybone, R. (2000). *A South Australian case study examining the home - schooling experiences of eight primary school aged children and their families*. Unpublished Thesis (B.Ed. (Hons.)), University of South Australia, Adelaide.
- Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.
- McColl, A. (2005). *ACE Homeschooling: The Graduates Speak*. Unpublished Masters of Education, part fulfillment, Christian Heritage College, Brisbane.
- Stroobant, E. (2006). *Dancing to the Music of Your Heart: Home Schooling the School-Resistant Child*. Unpublished PhD, University of Auckland, Auckland.
- Stroobant, E., & Jones, A. (2006). School refuser child identities. *Discourse, 27*(2), 209- 223.

### **Special Needs**

Special needs students (including school refusers) and their families especially appreciated the learning and social opportunities provided by home education. This

group in particular felt the need for interaction between formal institutions and home education.

Jackson, G. (2009). *'More than One Way to Learn': Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.

Reilly, L. (2001). *How Western Australian Parents Manage the Home Schooling of their Children with Disabilities*. Unpublished Honours Dissertation, University of Western Australia, Perth.

Reilly, L. (2004). *How Western Australian Parents Manage the Home Schooling of Their Children with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the Australian Association for Research in Education (28 November - 2 December 2004), University of Melbourne.

Reilly, L. (2007). *Progressive modification: how parents deal with home schooling their children with intellectual disabilities* Unpublished PhD, University of Western Australia, Perth.

Reilly, L., Chapman, A., & O'Donoghue, T. (2002). Home schooling of children with disabilities. *Queensland Journal of Educational Research*, 18(1), 38-91.

Stroobant, E. (2006). *Dancing to the Music of Your Heart: Home Schooling the School-Resistant Child*. Unpublished PhD, University of Auckland, Auckland.

Stroobant, E., & Jones, A. (2006). School refuser child identities. *Discourse*, 27(2), 209- 223.

Trevaskis, R. (2005). *Home Education - The Curriculum of Life*. Unpublished MEd, Monash, Melbourne.

### **Home Education Networks**

Many home educators valued their home education networks as they catered for social and education needs of both students and parents.

Education Queensland, (2003). *Home Schooling Review* (Research-Parliamentary report). Brisbane. <http://education.qld.gov.au/publication/production/reports/homeschooling.pdf>

Habibullah, A. (2004). *"Mum, when's recess?" A glimpse into two contexts of home schooling*. Unpublished Honours of BEd, Monash, Melbourne.

Harding, T. (2006a). *A Study of Victorian Home Educator – Home School Law Reforms*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.

Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.

New South Wales Board of Studies. (2004). *Home education study report of findings*. Sydney: Office of the Board of Studies NSW.

McColl, A. (2005). *ACE Homeschooling: The Graduates Speak*. Unpublished Masters of Education, part fulfillment, Christian Heritage College, Brisbane.

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Reilly, L. (2004). *How Western Australian Parents Manage the Home Schooling of Their Children with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the Australian Association for Research in Education (28 November - 2 December 2004), University of Melbourne.

Simich, M. (1998). *How parents who home school their children manage the process*. Unpublished MEd, University-of-Western-Australia, Nedlands WA.

Thomas, A. (1998). *Educating Children at Home*. London: Cassell.

### **Use of Community Resources**

Parents use a wide variety of community resources. These include the use of libraries, clubs, tutors and specialist classes as well as relevant excursions.

Barratt-Peacock. (1997). *The Why and How of Australian Home Education*. Unpublished PhD, La Trobe, Melbourne. (Published by Learning Books, Yankalilla, SA)

Harding, T. (2006a). *A Study of Victorian Home Educator – Home School Law Reforms*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.

Jacob, A., Barratt-Peacock, J., Carins, K., Holderness-Roddam, G., Home, A., & Shipway, K. (1991). *Home Education in Tasmania: Report of Ministerial Working Party October 1991*. Hobart: Government Printer.

Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.

New South Wales Board of Studies. (2004). *Home education study report of findings*. Sydney: Office of the Board of Studies NSW.

Patrick, K. (1999). *Enhancing community awareness of home - schooling as a viable educational option*. Unpublished In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours), Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW.

### **Parents Seeking Information and Public Understanding**

Many parents wanted access to information relevant to their home education programmes.

Carins, K. (1997, 29 September - 3 October 1997). *Home education in Tasmania*. Paper presented at the Open, flexible and distance learning: education and training in the 21st century: selected papers from the 13th Biennial Forum of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA), Launceston.

Education Queensland, (2003). *Home Schooling Review* (Research-Parliamentary report). Brisbane. <http://education.qld.gov.au/publication/production/reports/homeschooling.pdf>

New South Wales Board of Studies. (2004). *Home education study report of findings*. Sydney: Office of the Board of Studies NSW.

Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.

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Reilly, L. (2004). *How Western Australian Parents Manage the Home Schooling of Their Children with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the Australian Association for Research in Education (28 November - 2 December 2004), University of Melbourne.

Reilly, L., Chapman, A., & O'Donoghue, T. (2002). Home schooling of children with disabilities. *Queensland Journal of Educational Research*, 18(1), 38-91.

Trevaskis, R. (2005). *Home Education - The Curriculum of Life*. Unpublished MEd, Monash, Melbourne.

### **Greater Public Awareness**

Home educating parents frequently expressed the wish that the general public had a better understanding of home education and its benefits.

Carins, K. (1997, 29 September - 3 October 1997). *Home education in Tasmania*. Paper presented at the Open, flexible and distance learning: education and training in the 21st century: selected papers from the 13th Biennial Forum of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA), Launceston.

Jackson, G. (2009). *'More than One Way to Learn': Home Educated Students' Transitions Between Home and School*. Unpublished PhD, Monash University, Clayton.

Jeffrey, D., Giskes, R., & Section, Queensland. Parliamentary Library. Research Publications and Resources Section (2004). *Home schooling*. Queensland Parliamentary Library, Research Publications and Resources Section.  
<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/publications/documents/research/ResearchBriefs/2004/200409.pdf>

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New South Wales Board of Studies. (2004). *Home education study report of findings*. Sydney: Office of the Board of Studies NSW.

Patrick, K. (1999). *Enhancing community awareness of home - schooling as a viable educational option*. Unpublished In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours), Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW.

Simich, M. (1998). *How parents who home school their children manage the process*. Unpublished MEd, University-of-Western-Australia, Nedlands WA.

## Problems with Home Education

Problems associated with home education were clearly identified in the following literature. These were mainly associated with home educator burnout, programme organisation, and regulatory obligations.

- Broadhurst, D. (1999). *Investigating young children's perceptions of home schooling*, from <http://www.aare.edu.au/99pap/bro99413.htm>
- Follett, J. (2003). *When home and school become on: home schooling and the adolescent*. Paper presented at the 'Our adolescents: issues for teachers, schools and communities : Conference proceedings, Flaxton Qld.
- Habibullah, A. (2004). *"Mum, when's recess?" A glimpse into two contexts of home schooling*. Unpublished Honours of BEd, Monash, Melbourne.
- Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.
- Honeybone, R. (2000). *A South Australian case study examining the home - schooling experiences of eight primary school aged children and their families*. Unpublished Thesis (B.Ed. (Hons.)), University of South Australia, Adelaide.
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- Jeffrey, D., Giskes, R., & Section, Queensland. Parliamentary Library. Research Publications and Resources Section (2004). *Home schooling*. Queensland Parliamentary Library, Research Publications and Resources Section. <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/publications/documents/research/ResearchBriefs/2004/200409.pdf>
- Lampe, S. (1988). *Home Education: A Survey of Practices and Attitudes*. Unpublished MEdSt, Partial Fulfillment, Monash, Melbourne.
- New South Wales Board of Studies. (2004). *Home education study report of findings*. Sydney: Office of the Board of Studies NSW.
- McColl, A. (2005). *ACE Homeschooling: The Graduates Speak*. Unpublished Masters of Education, part fulfillment, Christian Heritage College, Brisbane.
- Patrick, K. (1999). *Enhancing community awareness of home - schooling as a viable educational option*. Unpublished In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Bachelor of Education (Primary)(Honours), Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW.
- Reilly, L., Chapman, A., & O'Donoghue, T. (2002). Home schooling of children with disabilities. *Queensland Journal of Educational Research*, 18(1), 38-91.
- Reilly, L. (2004). *How Western Australian Parents Manage the Home Schooling of Their Children with Disabilities*. Paper presented at the Australian Association for Research in Education (28 November - 2 December 2004), University of Melbourne.
- Trevaskis, R. (2005). *Home Education - The Curriculum of Life*. Unpublished MEd, Monash, Melbourne.

## **Professional Experiences with Home Educated Students/Student Transitions between Home and Mainstream Institutions**

Professional experiences with home educated students and student experiences through transitions into and out of mainstream educational institutions indicates that most home educated students move easily between the two systems. Movements are occurring in both directions to benefit student educational and social outcomes. When there are problems for students moving into mainstream institutions, these are usually the result of learning needs different to average student abilities, family dysfunction, prior negative experiences in mainstream institutions and mismatch with particular mainstream institutional structures and features rather than from the practice of home education.

Clery, E. (1998). Homeschooling: The meaning that the homeschooled child assigns to this experience. *Issues in Educational Research, Vol. 8*(No. 1), 1-13.

Jackson, G. (2007). Home education transitions with formal schooling: Student perspectives. *Issues in Educational Research, 17*(1), 62-84. <http://www.iier.org.au/iier.html>

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Stroobant, E. (2006). *Dancing to the Music of Your Heart: Home Schooling the School-Resistant Child*. Unpublished PhD, University of Auckland, Auckland.

Stroobant, E., & Jones, A. (2006). School refuser child identities. *Discourse, 27*(2), 209- 223.

## **Home Educators: Legislation and Regulation**

The greatest cause of tension and ill-will for home educators was centered on legislative and regulatory bodies and their requirements. Resistance to regulations was significant. In the *Home Schooling Review* it was noted that most home educators did not comply with the provisions of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 1989 Qld*.

Barr, A. (2008). *High standards in ACT school education: discussion paper for an ACT school standards authority*

Carins, K. (1997). *Home education in Tasmania*. Paper presented at the Open, flexible and distance learning: education and training in the 21st century: selected papers from the 13th Biennial Forum of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA), Launceston.

Carrick, J., & Committee of Review of N. S. W. Schools, (1989). *Report of the Committee of Review of New South Wales Schools* (Government-reports ; Research-reports). Sydney: Committee of Review of New South Wales Schools.

Education Queensland, (2003). *Home Schooling Review* (Research-Parliamentary report). Brisbane. <http://education.qld.gov.au/publication/production/reports/homeschooling.pdf>

Harding, T. J. A. (1997). *Why Australian Christian Academy Families in Queensland Choose to Home School: Implications for Policy Development*. Unpublished MEd, Partial fulfillment, University of Technology, Brisbane.

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- Harding, T. J. A. (2003b). *A submission for the Home Schooling Review*. Brisbane: Australian Christian Academy.
- Harding, T. (2003c). The Study - Home School Law Reform - The Parents Speak. In *A submission for the Home Schooling Review* (pp. 18). Brisbane: Australian Christian Academy.
- Harding, T. (2006a). *A Study of Victorian Home Educator – Home School Law Reforms*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.
- Harding, T. (2006b). *Don't "Fix" What Isn't Broken*. Paper presented at the Home Education Symposium and Parliamentary Presentation, Camberwell Civic Centre and Victorian Parliament, Melbourne.
- Harding, T., & Farrell, A. (2003). *Alternate models of schooling: legal and ethical considerations*. Paper presented at the Australia and New Zealand Education Law Association. Conference (11th : 2002 : Brisbane Qld), Brisbane Qld.
- Harding, T., & Whitrow, M. (2006). *Australia Has Its Own Homeschool Legal Defense Association*. Retrieved 8-8-2006, from <http://www.hslda.org/hs/international/Australia/default.asp>
- Harp, B. (1998). *Home Schooling: A Study of Reasons Why Some Central Queensland Parents Choose the Home Schooling Alternative for their children*. Unpublished Master of Education Studies, part fulfillment, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton.
- Hopkins, D. (1993). *Regulating home education: parents' rights children's rights and the role of the state*. Paper presented at the Second National Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Education Law Association, Adelaide.
- Hunter, R. (1990). Homeschooling. *Unicorn*, 16 (3), 194-196.
- Hunter, R. (1994). The home school phenomenon. *Unicorn*, 20 (3), 28-37.
- Jackson, G. M. (1999). *Home Education: Legal Issues In Australia*. Unpublished Partial Fulfillment of a Masters of Educational Studies Course, Monash, Melbourne.
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### **Developing Theory of Home Education**

The most serious studies on home education focused on the processes used by home educators to educate their children. Learning at home could not be equated with learning at school as it generally involved a holistic and 'real' world approach.

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## **Futuristic Possibilities for Home Education and Academic Comments on Australian Home Education**

There have been a few interested academics who have read home education literature and prepared literature on the Australian research possibilities.

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## **Researchers who have included Distance Education as part of 'Home Education'**

It has mainly been Queensland researchers who have included Distance Education students as a category of home education in their research. Most other researchers make a distinction between the two types of education.

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