

Growth in Home Education Registrations for every State and Territory in Australia 2011-2019

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Year	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total Australia	National % increase
2011	136	2763	51	891	891	603	3300	1806	10441	
2012	167	2924	56	951	1000	660	3435	1889	11082	6.1
2013	166	3327	62	1108	1046	745	3718	2211	12383	11.7
2014	190	3250	90	1379	1119	830	3977	2477	13312	7.5
2015	220	3517	86	1770	1150	897	4461	2826	14927	12.1
2016	252	3887	82	2303	1225	893	4743	3303	16688	11.8
2017	271	4661	100	2580	1314	928	4785	3464	18103	8.5
2018	302	5249	110	3232	1315	976	5333	3563	20080	10.9
2019	305	5887	124	3411	1360	1068	5562	3720	21437	6.8
% Increase for each state 2018-2019	1.0	12.2	12.7	5.5	3.4	9.4	4.3	4.4	6.8	
% Increase for each state 2011-2019	124	113	143	283	53	77	69	106	105	
Students in school in 000's	72	1232	41	835	273	82	991	424	3950	
Pro-rata % of students home educated	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.5	

Analysis:

- 1) A total of 21437 students were registered for home education in 2019 in Australia, which represents a growth of 105% over the last 8 years with an annual growth rate of 9.4%. This represents 0.5% or a ratio of 1:200 of the total school population.
- 2) The average length of time that children are home educated has been decreasing as home schooling becomes more popular and more reflective of the general population. Many parents now choose to home educate their children for the first time in upper school for a year or two to help with confidence or bullying.

This contrasts to the typical home educator of 20 years ago who began home education when their child was in the early primary years and kept going through to middle or upper secondary school. Consequently the number of home-educated students either going back to school, or going onto tertiary study has increased to around 25% per year. This author estimates that the average length of home education is about four years.

- 3) Assuming that the compounding growth rate of 9.4% continues and that 25% of home educated students return to school each year, it would mean that over the next 12 years, around 150,000 new students will be home educated at some time. (At a more conservative growth rate of 6%, 105,000 new students would be home educated over the same period.)

This would mean that 3.2% of the total school population over the next 12 years will have been home educated for an average of 4 years at some stage. (This assumes the [school population increases by 1.3% per year](#) during this time)

- 4) These figures do not include those who are doing home education but are unregistered. It is impossible to know how many students or families are unregistered. Estimates vary considerably but it is generally agreed that the percentage of unregistered students has been gradually reducing over the last 20 years. This author estimates that there maybe an extra 50% of students who are unregistered.
- 5) Reasons for the growth are given in the article [Why Is Home Schooling Growing in Australia?](#)
- 6) Covid-19 Update. All home education registration authorities are reporting a significant increase in enquiries and registrations in 2020. It is yet to be seen whether this will have a significant impact on the long-term

growth in home education numbers. Annual reports are not generally released until March or April of the following year.

State and Territory Roundup

ACT: In the last eight years, home education grew by 124% in the Australian Capital Territory.

NSW: The NSW growth rate of 113% over the last eight years is close to the national average of 105% despite suffering a slight dip in 2013-2014. This may have been a result of the some unpopular regulations, which were introduced at that time. Since then, although NSW continues to have rules, which are considered onerous by some, department officials seem to be exhibiting some flexibility and only a small percentage (less than 1%) of formal applications are failing to meet the assessment guidelines.

NT: The Northern Territory numbers have increased by an impressive 143% over the survey period, which is well above the national average.

QLD: Queensland experienced spectacular growth in the number of home-educated students (283%) over the survey period.

SA: South Australia had the slowest rate of growth (53%) in home education in the survey period. Home education is not officially recognised in SA. The SA government describes students who learn at home as those who have been granted exemption from school attendance.

7. Tasmania has the highest per capita rate of home schooling being the only state to have over 1% of students home educated. However, in comparison to other states, this figure should be reduced by 20% as it gives the total number of students registered over a 12-month period, while every other state gives numbers at the end of the reporting period.

8. Victoria has the second largest number of students registered for home education in Australia. Numbers grew by 69% over the survey period. Victoria also allows for partial enrolment of a home-educated student in a local government school.

9. Western Australia has the highest per capita rate of all mainland states. At the current rate of increase, the number of students registered for home education will exceed 1% of the student population within three years.

References:

ACT https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/publications_a-z/census ; [Screenshot](#)

NSW <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/annual-report> ; [Screenshot](#)

NT Unpublished, supplied by direct contact with NT Education Department

QLD <https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/statistics/schooling/students> ; [Screenshot](#)

SA Unpublished, supplied by direct contact with SA Education Department

TAS <https://publicdocumentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/DoE-Annual-Report-2018-19.pdf> ; [Screenshot](#)

VIC <https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/Documents/VRQAAnnualReport2018-19.pdf> ; [Screenshot](#)

WA <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/web/annual-report/download> ; [Screenshot](#)

School registrations

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4221.0Main%20Features22019?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4221.0&issue=2019&num=&view=> [Screenshot](#)

Chapman Why Is Home Schooling Growing in Australia? 2020

Stuart Chapman is an international speaker who has spoken at home schooling conferences on five different continents. He has been a board member of the Global Home Education Conference and the International Certificate of Christian Education and is a current member of the International Home Educators Leaders Group. He was the founder and director of the largest home school academic support group in Western Australia. He was elected as a committee member of the Home Education Association in 2019. He and his wife Dianne home educated their five children for 18 years.

