

The benefits of homeschooling: children's well-being and development, and the family

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In an age where mainstream education is often fast-paced, impersonal, and increasingly influenced by external pressures, homeschooling presents an excellent alternative for many families, providing an academic setting that prioritises children's welfare and a more holistic development. Allowing children to be educated at home means avoiding public institutions' involvement in their rising and by default, the nurturing of strong family bonds. In traditional school settings, children tend to spend most of their day away from home, leaving little room for connecting with family members. Thus, homeschooling can not only facilitate academic growth but also foster emotional stability and the family's core values.

Debunking the myths of socialisation and the role of the family

One of the biggest misconceptions about homeschooling is that it does not allow the child to interact with other children and develop social skills. On the contrary, however, parents can choose a variety of social experiences that the child can engage in, such as community groups, sports, and homeschooling co-ops. In this way, parents can guide such interactions, avoid negative or non-value-aligned influences, and ensure the development of healthy relationships free of the peer pressure and bullying that are often characteristic of traditional school environments.

Furthermore, socialisation takes place every day within the family unit, and the bonds created throughout are incredibly beneficial for the mental and emotional well-being of the child. While in a traditional educational setting, children spend most of their time at school, leaving little time for deep and meaningful interaction with family members, home education allows the development of trust among family members through shared experiences, activities, and discussions. Ultimately, the presence of a supportive and present family is an invaluable asset in children's lives, especially during their developmental stages, ensuring the strengthening of bonds that are fundamental for children's well-being.

Tailored learning

A notable benefit of home education is that the program can be tailored to the children's learning style, pace, and interests, which is not possible in traditional over-crowded classrooms. Homeschooling's flexibility, furthermore, ensures a stress-free learning environment and allows enough free time so that extracurricular activities and personal interests can be partaken and pursued, granting, therefore an holistic development. Lessons on emotional intelligence and social responsibility, for example, can be added along with core subjects, as well as life skills such as financial literacy, household management, and practical problem-solving, ensuring that children grow up to being well-rounded individuals with skills and knowledge that their counterparts, who were educated in traditionally, lack.

Rise in homeschooling and reasons behind parents' choice

Australia witnessed a 111% increase in homeschooling in just 5 years between 2018 and 2023 (20,260 homeschool registrations in 2018, as compared to 43,892 in 2023) with the highest increase in QLD

(210%), followed by NSW (127%), VIC (96%), SA (85%), WA (81%), and TAS (47%) (Cassidy 2023; Couper & Harding, 2024).

This trend is a reflection of parents' distrust of educational institutions, driven by several social and political factors that leaves them increasingly feeling like traditional schooling is no longer the best environment for their children's academic, moral, and emotional development. Research on homeschooling shows that among the reasons for which parents take a step towards home education are the elements of dissatisfaction with the Government, with conventional schools, and with the Curriculum, all of which remained consistent pre- and post-Covid, as well as children's needs and family lifestyle (which includes religious reasons or family values) (Couper & Harding, 2024).

Educational institutions are perceived to be increasingly ideologically driven. Cross-cultural priorities of race and sustainability are integrated into the Curriculum along with other progressive narratives of gender and identity. Children are imposed "Welcome to Country" chants and to "pay respect" to the "custodians of the land". They are being taught about gender identity and pronouns, and in some cases, they are even being encouraged to consider what they would like to be identified as. On the other hand, the Australian academic landscape has been in steady decline, with [1 in 3 students unable to read proficiently](#) (Hunter, 2024), [50% of students failing science literacy tests](#) (Carroll & Grace, 2024), and the average in mathematics declining 26.7 points between 2003 and 2015 (Morsy et al., 2018, p.70).

The way forward

All these factors accounted for, it makes sense for parents to take back the lead over their children's education, and the sentiment was clear when Queensland's Education Minister put forth legislation to enforce the National Curriculum into home education, and the public pushed back with 900 submissions and a [petition with 21,977](#) signatures (d'Abrera, 2024; Queensland Government, 2024).

Parents have made their feelings about education clear: they are unhappy with public educational institutions and the National Curriculum, and more and more are re-evaluating educational choices for their children.

For the families considering it, home education offers an academic pathway that is more well-rounded and that allows for learning tailored to the child's or family's interests, values, and needs.

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