



GROWTH 2011-2017

REGISTERED HOME EDUCATED STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

by Stuart Chapman

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
2011	136	2763	51	891	891	603	3300	1806	10 441
2012	167	2924	56	951	1000	660	3435	1889	11 082
% INC	23%	6%	10%	7%	12%	9%	4%	5%	6%
2013	166	3327	62	1108	1046	745	3718	2211	12 383
% INC	0%	14%	10%	17%	5%	13%	8%	17%	13%
2014	190	3250	90	1379	1119	830	3977	2477	13 312
% INC	14%	-2%	45%	24%	7%	8%	7%	12%	7%
2015	220	3650	86	1770	1150	897	4461	2826	15 060
% INC	16%	12%	-4%	28%	3%	11%	12%	14%	13%
2016	252	4100	82	2303	1225	893	4743	3303	16 901
% INC	15%	12%	-5%	30%	7%	0%	6%	17%	12%
2017	271	4700	100	2580	1314	928	5647	3464	19004
% INC	7.5%	14.6%	22%	12%	7.3%	3.9%	19.1%	4.9%	12%
2017 STATE STUDENT POP	69000	1209000	42, 000	813,000	267,000	81,000	954,000	414,000	3,849000
2017 % HOME EDUCATED	0.39%	0.39%	0.24%	0.32%	0.49%	1.15%	0.59%	0.84%	0.45%

Notes:

1. Nationally, home education numbers have grown by 82% over the six-year period 2011-2017 which makes homeschooling the fastest growing education demographic in Australia. Nearly one in 200 students are now registered for home education. An equivalent number are estimated to be unregistered.

2 In the ACT, home education has grown by 99% over the six-year period 2011-2017. In the ACT, provisional registration is straightforward, but a home visit is required if home education is continued for longer than six months.

3. New South Wales has experienced solid growth (45%) in the years 2014-2017 after a slight dip in 2013-2014. The dip may have been a result of unpopular regulations, which were introduced at that time. Since then, although NSW continues to have laws, which are considered onerous by the homeschooling community, department officials seem to be exhibiting some flexibility and only a small percentage (0.84%) of formal applications failed to meet the assessment guidelines in 2017.

4. The Northern Territory numbers have doubled in the six year period despite having only two intakes for home education each year. Everywhere else, one can commence home education at any time throughout the year.

5. Queensland has experienced spectacular growth in the number of students registered for home education with a total growth of 290% over the six-year period 2011-2017. Queensland has more students doing distance education than any other state and the concept of education at home is well established.

6 South Australia continues to show the most consistent growth rate in home education over the survey period. It is also the state where numbers most closely mirror the national rate of homeschooling.

7. Tasmania has the highest per capita rate of home schooling being the only state to have over 1% of students home educated. Tasmania has home educators represented on a government administrative body overseeing home education.

8. Victoria has the largest number of students registered for home education in Australia. Numbers have grown by an impressive 42% over the three-year period 2014-2017. Introduction of the Safe Schools program by the Victorian government which teaches gender fluidity has been a factor in a many families choosing to home school for the first time. Victoria also allows for partial enrolment of a home-educated student in a local government school.

9. Western Australia continues to have a strong growth rate in the number of students registered for home education with a 92% increase in numbers from 2011-2017 and 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:

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