

 **COPY**



117 Clarence Street
Sydney 2000

GPO Box 5300
Sydney 2001
NSW Australia

Fax: (02) 9367 8484
Tel: (02) 9367 8111

Our reference:

CS13/642

Your reference:

Ms Tamara Kidd

Dear Ms Kidd

I refer to your letter dated 25 September 2013 to the Minister for Education, the Hon Adrian Piccoli regarding home schooling in NSW. I have been asked to respond.


I note that the Deputy Chief Executive of the Office of the Board of Studies, David Murphy has written to you previously in relation to your concerns. I believe that Mr Murphy's letter to you addressed your substantive concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office's Home Schooling Unit by telephone or by email <homeschooling@bos.nsw.edu.au>.

Yours sincerely

Anne Keenan

Assistant Director, Registration and Accreditation

 /10/2013



BOARD OF STUDIES
TEACHING &
EDUCATIONAL
STANDARDS NSW

117 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 5300
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Tel: +61 2 9367 8111
Fax: +61 2 9367 8484

Tamara Kidd

Dear Miss Kidd

Your application for home schooling registration has been approved for:

HS/7679

The certificate of registration is enclosed.

If you wish to continue home schooling beyond the end date specified in the attached certificate, you will need to apply to the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards ('the BOSTES') for renewal of registration three months before the registration expires.

Information about home schooling registration and application forms are located on the BOSTES' website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents/homeschooling.html>.

If you have any questions about home schooling registration, please contact the Home Schooling Unit on

Yours sincerely

Cal Parkinson
Senior Administration Officer

Tamara Kidd

Dear Miss Kidd

I acknowledge receipt of your applications for home schooling registration for:

HS/7679
HS/8711

Your applications will be allocated to an Authorised Person. The Authorised Person will contact you in the near future to arrange a time for assessing your applications by home visit.

For the assessment, the Authorised Person will consider the documentation you make available to demonstrate that the educational programs you have prepared comply with the requirements for home schooling registration. The requirements are detailed in the *Registration for Home Schooling in NSW – Information Package* which is available on the Board of Studies website
<<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents/#home-ed>>.

The educational programs must be based on and taught in accordance with the relevant Board of Studies syllabuses. The syllabuses are available on the Board's website <<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>>. Please note that commencing from 2014, new Board of Studies syllabuses for Kindergarten to Year 10 for English, Mathematics, Science and History will be introduced according to the implementation schedule on the Board's website. Details of the new syllabuses and the implementation schedule can be accessed at <<http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au/about/#implementation>>.

Following the assessment of your applications, you will be notified of the outcome in writing.

If you decide to withdraw your applications for home schooling registration, please notify the Home Schooling Unit in writing by mail to GPO Box 5300, Sydney, NSW, 2001 or by email <homeschooling@bos.nsw.edu.au>.

Please note that under the provisions of the *Education Act 1990*, children of compulsory school age are required to be enrolled in and attend a government or registered non-government school or be registered for home schooling. If your children are not registered with current certificates of registration, they should be enrolled in a school.

If you have any questions concerning your applications, please contact the Home Schooling Unit on telephone or by the email or postal address provided above.

Yours sincerely

Home Schooling Administrative Officer
24 April 2014

COPY



117 Clarence Street
Sydney 2000

GPO Box 5300
Sydney 2001
NSW Australia

Fax: (02) 9367 8484
Tel: (02) 9367 8111

Our reference

CS13/592

Your reference

Ms Tamara Kidd

Dear Ms Kidd

I write in response to your email of 20 September 2013 to the Minister for Education, the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, regarding home education in NSW. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Office of the Board of Studies ('the Office') is responsible for administering the provisions of the *Education Act 1990* for home schooling registration. The requirements and processes for registration are described in the Office's *Home Education in NSW Information Package* ('the Information Package') as published on the Board of Studies website.

The Office has recently updated the Information Package, primarily in relation to the new Board of Studies syllabuses to be introduced from 2014. Other changes provide increased clarity about the requirements and processes for home schooling registration.

The Office is aware that there are differing views about the updated Information Package within the home schooling community.

The Office has published additional information on the home schooling page of the Board's website, in the form of 'Questions and Answers', in response to issues raised in correspondence and on social media to explain areas that may be unclear and to clarify any misunderstandings. The link to the home schooling page follows:
<<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents/home-schooling.html>>

This additional information confirms that for home schooling families who were meeting the requirements for registration prior to the publication of the updated Information Package, the updated Information Package has not created a need to change the approach to home schooling nor has it created less flexibility or made it harder to be registered.

Recently, representatives from the Home Education Association ('HEA') met with staff from the Office to discuss the updated Information Package and other relevant issues. The Office continues to be open to consideration of matters raised by the HEA and other home schoolers. The Office has invited the HEA to participate in further meetings. Feedback from the HEA and other home schooling groups and families will inform future revisions of the Information Package.

If, following review of the revised Information Package and the Questions and Answers, you have any questions please contact the Office's Home Schooling Unit by telephone or by email <homeschooling@bos.nsw.edu.au>.

Yours sincerely

David Murphy
Deputy Chief Executive

24/9/2013



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Sydney NSW 2000

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Tamara Kidd

Dear Miss Kidd

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HS/8711

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If you have any questions about home schooling registration, please contact the Home Schooling Unit on

Yours sincerely

Cal Parkinson
Senior Administration Officer

D2013/18197

To:
cc:
From: BOS
Date: 19/09/2013 12:00:17 PM
Subject: Request for Scootle account

Dear home schooling parent,

The Home Schooling Unit of the Board of Studies has been notified by Scootle that you have requested a Scootle account, which is required to access the Board's Program Builder website.

The process to create a Scootle account is as follows.

The link below takes you to Scootle's registration page for home schooling parents, where parents can self-register for a Scootle account.

<http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/register.action?key=KsxiKSOz>
(if you can't click on this link, copy and paste it into the address bar of your web browser)

The details Scootle require for account registration are:

- Title, First name, Last name
- Email (this will be your Scootle username)
- Password (this will be your Scootle password)

You will need to:

- enter your details in Scootle's Registration Form
- accept the terms and conditions including that you ensure that the content is not publicly accessible
- click **Register**.

An email will be sent to the email address you provided asking for you to confirm your registration. Once you click on the link in this confirmation email, your Scootle account becomes active.

Your Scootle account details will allow you to sign in to both Scootle and the Board's Program Builder website.

The Program Builder website is located at <<https://pb.bos.nsw.edu.au/>> where you can choose the 'sign in with Scootle' option to gain access.

For technical assistance please use the relevant email address below:

- **Scootle** - help@scootle.edu.au
- **Program Builder** - program.builder@bos.nsw.edu.au

Kind regards,

Home Schooling Unit
Office of the Board of Studies

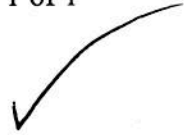
Fax 02 9367 8475
homeschooling@bos.nsw.edu.au



Scoutle account
Tamara Kidd
to:
Home Schooling
17/09/2013 12:22 PM
Hide Details
From: Tamara Kidd

To: Home Schooling/BOS@BOS

02013/18011



HS/ 7679

HS/ 8711

Hello,

Could you please provide me with a Scoutle account.
I would like to use this email address.

Thank you.

Tamara Kidd

02013/18175

13/506



FW: Scoutle account
Tamara Kidd
to:
Home Schooling
19/09/2013 10:37 AM
Hide Details
From: Tamara Kidd

To: Home Schooling/BOS@BOS

✓

To the BOS Home Education Scoutle person/s,

I'm forwarding on this message again. I'm a Home Educating parent in NSW and I would like access to Scoutle asap. I've been trying to get an account for over a month with lots of emails back and forth to Scoutle, including sending as requested scanned copies of registration SEVERAL times. The changes to the IP made without proper consultation, nor an understanding of Home Education, have been VERY distressing for the community. If you insist on Home Educators planning and assessing using the outcomes (a new requirement that SUBSTANTIALLY increases our paperwork and time away from actually Home Educating and is archaic without any consideration to the research on Outcomes based planning and the Quality Teaching Scheme which considers this practice to LOWER standards) then you need to allow us to use Scoutle IMMEDIATELY!!!

Also we are NOT people who School at home. As a trained Primary teacher and an experienced Home Educator I am keenly aware of the difference. Referring to what we are doing as 'homeschooling' without considering the nature of Home Education shows an ignorance of the process, or a desire to infuse legislative jargon, both being incredibly disrespectful considering we are well within our legal rights to Home Educate our children. I would never be expected to jump through these hoops and submit to the 'permission' test we undertake PERIODICALLY were I employed by the Department of Education. With a degree in Teaching why must I further submit to asking for permission to be registered while a degree to Home Educate isn't even a requirement? Once again, Home Education is a legal option for parents for their children's education. I'm deeply disappointed that the person/s who changed the IP have NOT consulted Home Educators, considered the 2004 report nor have any understanding about the SIGNIFICANT differences between 'Schools' and 'Home Education'.

We are also aware that you have no admin officers with Home Education experience nor do we

have representation on the oBoS. This amounts to a driver of a car being instructed on how to drive by people who have never driven, but have only been passengers. The recent changes to the IP now have there BOS riding shotgun and telling us how to drive but not actually noticing how well we are already driving. The lack of publication of these changes in your online Newsletter is disturbing, and telling, as well. The publication is for ALL of your changes so why omit the changes to Home Education? The Q/A is misleading and insulting. The fact that there has been 12 months of consulting about the National Curriculum does NOT answer the question, 'was there consultation with Home Educators regarding the Information Package?' Further the one Home Educator who attended a meeting to demonstrate in good faith the differences between Home Education and School was NOT consulted with about the changes and suggesting that this person was is a clear case of scapegoating. Unfair and disrespectful. There are thousands of people affected by someone's incompetence. The IP needs to be withdrawn IMMEDIATELY and the stakeholders properly consulted with.

If the IP is not withdrawn today then could you at least give me access to Scootle please. I would like to get on with my job, which is actually Home Educating my children and NOT changing what we do every time someone at the BOS decides to change something! Kindly remember that NO HOME EDUCATING CHILD receives the government funding that Schooled children receive. We are not paid to Home Educate, we do this for our children as it's the most responsible choice for these children.

Do NOT reply asking me to complain elsewhere and do NOT reply telling me to refer to the Q/A section of the BOS website. As someone who has never actually Home Educated their own children I can not see how anyone at the BOS have a moral leg to stand on atm. It is perfectly reasonable for me to be angered by this injustice.

Tamara Kidd

From:
To: homeschooling@bos.nsw.edu.au
Subject: Scootle account
Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 02:20:50 +0000

Hello,

Could you please provide me with a Scootle account.
I would like to use this email address.

Thank you.

Tamara Kidd

From: Tamara Kidd
Sent: Friday, 20 September 2013 1:56 PM
To: Public Piccoli's Office Email
Subject: Attn: Adrian Piccoli

Tamara Kidd

Dear Hon. Adrian PICCOLI, BEc, LLB MP,

I am a Home Educating parent in NSW and a former NSW State Primary Teacher. I've been working with families both in and out of schools for the past 20 years and continue to help children and parents across Australia. I volunteer 30+ hours each week in the home educating community. Helping my children learn amounts to an additional 40+ hours of assisted learning both at home and in the community. I would describe myself as a passionate Educator dedicated to Social Justice, especially in relation to the rights of the child.

Throughout my career I have acquired a Certificate in Office Procedures (Business Administration), an Associate Diploma in Fine Arts, a Bachelor Degree in Primary Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in History, in-service training in Gifted and Talented Education, Montessori Education and Brain Gym, amongst many others, and I also have a Certificate IV in Small Business Management.

My first child attended a Montessori Preschool and excelled in reading. When entering kindergarten, in her first week, she wrote a report in class that would be satisfactory for Stage 2 level and read it to the entire school and for this she received the weekly award for the best student in the school; she was not yet 5 years old, it was literally her first week of Public School. One of her teachers was completing her final year before retirement and asked me in Week 4 Term 1 to "not discourage her from reading but could [I] perhaps not encourage her to read at home so the other children can catch up". She expressed concerns that my daughter would not make any friends because she read too much. My daughter read very 'well', not 'too much' and had many friends both in and out of school. I witnessed her interactions each week as I helped during reading groups and volunteered in the canteen. With my own knowledge as a Primary teacher on the workings of schools I could see she was in the popular group in her class, was liked by all and was confident enough to help children without worrying about peer pressures etc, especially when there was any injustice or misunderstanding. She also conducted herself without any 'bossiness' which would have been easy enough to do in her position. She was a typically confident Montessorian child who was empathetic and caring about everyone. The teacher's ill placed advice, of essentially holding her back for misguided reasons, is forever locked in my memory both as a teacher and as a parent. Clearly she wished her to not exceed the limits of her program.

I asked for an appointment to discuss a suitable alternative. The school had simultaneous reading groups for all year levels and I have experienced children going to another reading or Maths group while casual teaching at several schools. It had been excellent solution especially in schools where a GATE class was not an option. At the very least my daughter's teacher could allow her to change home readers to something more appropriate. The second team teacher was given the role of conducting this meeting so my concerns with her main teacher were never satisfied. This second teacher was sympathetic and offered to 'sneak' harder readers on the 2 days she was in the class but asked me not to tell the main teacher. This was an acknowledgement of her needs but was not a sustainable solution. Education must be appropriate for the needs of the student. After discussing the idea of changing her reading groups with the Principal the answer was a flat 'no, we don't make exceptions, no one gets special treatment at the school'. Of course I understood the reasons behind this however they would not accept consultation with a teacher who had experience in this matter; namely myself. I was 'only a parent' in their minds.

After 15 weeks my daughter, knowing a preschool friend who was attending Montessori for her Kindergarten year (Extended Day) was going to be Home Educated the following year, decided that she wanted to be home educated too. This decision was the conclusion of over a month of trialing Home Education on weekends and discussing it with her and her father. It had to be her decision for it to work, but keep in mind that my approach to parenting has always been 'it's my choice to make these people therefore it's my responsibility to parent them however they require'. If they had been born with a disability I would have needed to be prepared for that and with an Aunt who was born profoundly deaf this attitude towards taking care of children is part of who I am. Helping new people learn is what I love to do more than anything. We informed the school and requested a certificate of un-enrollment, similar to the ones given when transferring students between schools, as I had investigated Home Education and had heard of schools making it hard for students to leave and even 'keep the funding coming in' after students were removed. As she was under 6 years I could not register her for home education but I did enquire at this time so the Home Education Unit was aware of us.

Since 2006 I have provided my daughter with an education, respecting when she has desired to attend schools and her respecting my experience with wonderful schools and then I've watched her return to Home Education two further times. The last time she attended school was for a full year in 2008. It was one of those wonderful schools which have a hearing unit integrated within its grounds and a respect for children who are learning at different stages within the class. As a family that uses Auslan for our profoundly deaf Aunt this was a perfect school that suited our family 'culture' much more than the first school my daughter was enrolled in, or the second which was a private school that was sadly only interested in our money. I was surprised that at the end of the year at the wonderful school she said "well I give the school 70% and home ed is still 100%". Some of her reasons for this were: Lack of hands on science experiments, lack of alternative musical instruments (only drums for a whole year), not having time to learn when engaged and instead stopped to do another subject which she described as "do this now stop and do this now stop and do this and uno... just because you have to, not because you're learning anything." She felt it was more about getting the teacher's work done than learning anything properly.

Remembering her home education experiences and her then three schools she had attended even at the age of 8 she knew the difference between the learning environments. To give extra context about this child by the age of 7 years she had completed the entire Harry Potter series reading some of those books 4+ times at that stage. Simply put although she excelled 'at school' she did not enjoy it completely and felt limited by the system. She has never returned to school but has instead excelled outside of the schooling system. Now aged 12 she is happy and learning well with friends locally, interstate and overseas. She would have entered High School this year had she stayed in the system. Her passion was science and chemistry and after attending University open days she has the desire to complete Tertiary studies. Currently, as

well as learning in each KLA, she is building a portfolio of art as her other passion is design. I'm not sure which way her path will go when the time comes but we will start looking at Open University classes in a few years so she will be well prepared regardless.

Briefly my second child, currently aged 9 years, attended the Montessori Preschool for only a year. Having a sibling 3 years above him he's been aware of his choices and has never wanted to attend school. He's a classic extrovert/kinesthetic learner who literally has to move while processing information. As a wiggler I've put him on an exercise ball instead of a chair, when required, and he has been learning according to his interests and abilities but certainly not in line with schooled peers in every KLA. He's never had a problem keeping up with his sister's Maths, on the contrary he rivals her. His drawing skills, designing and inventions have been a consistent passion and he continues now with designing complex machinery with the mod packs in Minecraft. With reading he was struggling until he was first introduced to Minecraft, which required him to read. Eventually we came across Andy Griffiths and now he's a confident reader who is at peer level. Using Skype my son has 4 Minecraft buddies, two who are on the spectrum for Autism, and he also has local friends we meet up with each week. His passion and desire is to attend University and become an Industrial Designer. He too has attended Uni open days to meet people who are already studying the courses he's interested in. Between them they have about 30 close friends which they mostly share aged 7-15 years. The relationship between them is close and apart from heated discussions they do not fight. The closeness is a direct result of learning and living together and of being part of a community of people who respect them. Respect begets respect after all.

Both of my children have been attending CSIRO Holiday Science camps for the past few years and have participated in excursions to Questacon, War Memorial, Australian Institute of Sports, Parliament House, Museums, Art Galleries, the Sydney Opera House and other theatres. We've travelled to the Great Barrier Reef, Katherine Gorge and Darwin's Crocodile farm. There are some 400 families in our local area who home educate and at our sports carnival just over a week ago my children competed and played with over 200 children, and both received ribbons. The recent changes to the Information Pack require that I not include any of these experiences in their learning program as they occur outside of the home.

My children miss out on none of the social side of 'school' lest the segregation experience and overt policing within the school grounds, which although necessary in a schooling environment is not replicated outside of that environment in our broad society. We've experienced plenty of chopping cues, local police officers, making way for an ambulance etc. for my children to respect all the social norms that a Teacher's conduct is meant to imply. Speaking as a teacher this would be my very best teaching 'gig' ever. How do I express how different this is to 'Schools'? Home Education has been simply the very best choice for both of my very different children. I'm forever grateful for the 5 year old girl who came to me with her logical argument of why she wanted to do this. It is dynamic, fluid and inspiring; it is authentic lifelong learning.

Now for my home educating journey I'll try to keep this more concise. I chose to have my children so it's my responsibility to look after them. As their parent I have a right to choose how they are to be educated. Legal options are Public or Private schooling, Distance Education and Home Education. My choice as their parent, with my considerable knowledge about the public education system, Independent schools, Home Education and the various other education models that exist around the world and most importantly my knowledge about who these two people are is to home educate them. I do this because it's the most appropriate and responsible choice. It is the only choice that allows me to provide them with real world experience in the community every day, to co-create with them an appropriate learning program that changes as their interests, abilities and energy levels change - that truly grows with them, to assess their learning as it happens every day through the wide spectrum of assessable moments which are not limited to the standardized testing models employed in the school environment.

Home Education is the only model that allows them to integrate their social learning, without overt policing, with their academic, sporting, etc. learning; the maturity of home educated children occurs naturally because of the experience of being socialized in the broad community, where their friends are not only their age and they don't have the artificial policing of their interactions which must occur in a classroom/playground for the safety of children in that particular environment. That is not the way people socialize outside of the schooling environment and the word 'socialized' does not mean the same thing in a school as it does outside of the school. I've been on both sides of the blackboard and know the behavior modification skills needed to make children comply when they are in a large group for a long period of time, day after day. Outside of the classroom my children's behavior responds appropriately to the social norms of the community they live in. The behavior in the classroom/playground environment that children do get away with they do not get away with when they leave school... my children are already learning appropriate social behavior because they are not removed from society for 200 days of the year. Apart from all the friends they have made over the years they've also kept their friends from Montessori Preschool, demonstrating the respect they have for both Home Educated and Schooled children.

Does this mean I'm against schools? Actually no I'm not. I'm for children, for Education and some children love going to school and do well there. But I'm not ignorant about its limitations. As a teacher it's my professional 'duty' to critic my own profession. Our school system could do with learning more about home education and to remember its own origins; as a solution for an industrialized era. We now live in the era of Google. The world is very different. Our school system is not faultless; much must be done if we want to prevent more negative issues arising. Thousands of people have left that system for many reasons. Some of those reasons were because of the limitations of the system for their children's academic, social and emotional learning. You, Honorable Minister, have a very broad and deep pool of collective 'wisdom' with the parents who have been home educating, many for a very long time. Each of those families represent different approaches to learning, each child requires a different approach. Many of the parents delivering the education to their children are professionals like me. Many have become 'professionals of home education' devoting considerable time and resources to helping others.

What you don't have is a board of officers at the Board of Studies which include anyone with experience as a Home Educator themselves. Neither have you anyone involved in the re-writing of the Information Package with any Home Education experience. This lack of understanding is alarmingly clear to those who Home Educate. I've never written to you before now as I have complied with the process of registration that the NSW BOS conducts albeit stressfully but with a genuine willingness to be lawful. Having a person come into my home to see for a brief moment some examples of what we have done and 'asking for permission to continue' is incredibly stressful because of the implication that we might not receive permission. Professionally speaking it's also rather redundant as I've successfully been 'teaching' lawfully since I was granted permission and approval in 1999 at the end of my Teaching Degree.

The Approval Person is instructed to read their manual and the Information Package and then use their own judgment and a checklist of requirements that we must meet. I've home educated for over 7 years now and have not met one AP who has ever home educated their own children. In fact I don't know of anyone involved in this registration process, except for the parents applying, who has any actual personal experience with home educating their own children. From 2006 until now there have been four different Information Packages for the process of Home Education. In 2006 there were two pages worth of contacts for parents so new Home Educators could talk with people experienced in the practice. The 2013 IP has only one contact, the HEA. Never before has a 'translation guide' or Questions and Answers for the IP needed to be written, although the Q/A is misleading and does not answer many questions. Nor is it officially required to be used by APs for the approval process. Common sense would say that if the IP needed a Q/A then the IP is not adequately written and should be removed. Are

you also aware that the NSW BOS did not publish or even mention the change of the IP in their online Newsletter? Every other change by the BOS is reported on but not this one, why not?

I understand your position of being able to defer the process of registration to the NSW BOS and even the signing of the Certificates is conducted by someone else. Ultimately this is your responsibility though and your input is very much needed at the moment, especially if the registration process does not comply with laws. Legally as a parent I have a right to home educate my children, to put them in school or enroll them in Distance Education. The NSW BOS are creating a separate set of rules that we must comply with before we are placed on your register and the people who are making these rules have never practiced Home Education.

This as blunt as I can make it Adrian, they are telling people how to drive a car but they have never driven a car themselves, they've only been passengers, and they are saying they can because the Education Act 1990 clearly states that the Minister of Education defers this task to them. I've never had to lower my standards as a Home Educator before but the new IP insists I program to outcomes, only teach in the home and be prepared for random visits, which really does give the impression of a backseat driver who isn't watching where I'm driving. I don't program to the NSW BOS outcomes! If I was teaching in schools and telling my Principal that I'm only teaching the outcomes and not taking my class outside they would question my experience with learner centered teaching and the Quality Teaching Program.

We all have our own philosophical differences with teaching, a staff room clearly illustrates that, but there is something that is missing here, something vital for understanding the real problem and the real solutions; these children are not in school and Home Education is not school at home. Teaching and Learning without the limitations of those walls, the direction of the Department of Education or the politics of the school has been an inspirational journey for me as a teacher over the last 7 years. I've learnt through practice, from my children and from the thousands of other Home Educating families just what Home Education really is. Until you've tried it it's hard to explain, at the very least you need to meet people who Home Educate. The new IP is causing considerable distress and is completely inappropriate to be applied to Home Education. Without consultation with Home Educators this situation will not be solved.

Thank you kindly for reading my words, I acknowledge that it is a lot of reading however this is a situation where every family has a story and every family really should be heard.

Yours Sincerely,

Tamara Kidd BTech (Primary)/BA (History), Assoc Dip FA, Cert IV Bus Mgt, Cert BA.



Application for renewal of Registration for Home Schooling

Tamara Kidd

to:

Home Schooling

24/04/2014 05:00 AM

Hide Details

From: Tamara Kidd

To: Home Schooling/BOS@BOS,

HS/7679
D2014/8515

4 Attachments



img001.jpg img002.jpg img003.jpg img004.jpg

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the applications for both _____ and _____ of _____, NSW.

Although only _____ is due for renewal of registration I wish to align my children's registration renewal dates from here on in. As such I have assessed _____ progress to date for her current registration period and have updated the assessment so that both children have a 2 year review for all of 2012 and 2013, including examples of work, reviews of the relevant NSW BOS Syllabuses and gradings. This assessment responses to the requirements of the 2011 Information Package which _____ last and _____ last and prior registrations were approved under. To change the assessment method to suit the current IP, especially prior to the corrections published in the Questions and Answers, would have been illogical and created inauthentic assessment, as ongoing assessment and evaluations had already taken place.

I have written a plan for each of my children which commenced in January of this year to align with the new NSW BoSTES Syllabuses for English, Mathematics, Science and History, while still covering the other KLA's that follow the old NSW Syllabuses, according to the 2013 Information Package using the Questions and Answers supplements as guides. In addition we are using the ACARA approved Montessori National Curriculum. As new Syllabuses are released by the BoSTES they will be incorporated into updated plans. These two curriculums will continue until the children are 17 years of age, although only a 2 year Home Education registration period is possible. The documents prepared however represent our ongoing plans until matriculation into TAFE, University or work, i.e. for the remaining Home Education years.

A preview of an assessment of the current plans already commenced will be possible during the home visit. If however the 2014 Information Package represents a return to a more 'Home Education focus' the assessment method may change as the current guidelines are more suitable for a School environment and have increased record keeping significantly, which takes time and energy away from learning. As a qualified Primary Teacher and a Home Educator for almost 8 years I have seen first hand how my old record keeping, minimal by today's standards, was once considered 'OCD' and 'over the top' by one experienced AP. Things have certainly been changing. The amount of contact support people in the 2006 IP compared with the 2013 IP is stark and telling. All people dealing with Home Educators would do well to picture themselves giving up work to educate their own children and 'jump through these hoops' to understand that no one undergoes this lightly, and a BoSTES that supports Home Educators and tries to understand how this choice meets learning needs not met by Schools, would open up communication which is very much

24/04/2014

needed. I'm devastated to be told recently by an AP that Home Educators were upset about the 2013 IP because we 'didn't want to teach the new NSW English syllabus'. This insults parents and personally as an educator, currently undertaking a Masters in Educational Studies, I feel very unsupported by this registration body and that is not what I felt when I first began Home Educating in 2006. I hope you are employing people who have actually Home Educated, and not people who have only worked in Schools. Home Education is not Schooling at Home.

Most sincerely, I hope the issues that the 2013 IP have generated are corrected entirely as soon as possible and the Board finds room for representation from the Home Education community, as every other stake holder is represented on the Board. Section 102 of the Education Act 1990, of the functions of the Board do not list Home Education at all, yet decisions made without broad consultation and have indeed affected Home Educators.

I have several thick folders for the AP you send! I hope you send someone who is open to learning and has a healthy sense of humour, as that is what they will find here! I still hope that the vast majority of the Home Education Unit are pro Home Education.

(Sorry I can't call it homeschooling, as that is not what we do.... who ever approved that name change needs to read the Queensland HEU registration document and their definition to understand the difference).

Thank you,

Tamara Kidd

BOSTES

BOARD OF STUDIES
TEACHING &
EDUCATIONAL
STANDARDS NSW

Office use only

HS/

FORM 2: Application for Renewal of Registration (or Exemption from Registration) for Home Schooling

This form is to be used to apply for renewal of registration (or exemption from registration) for a child with current registration (or exemption from registration).

A separate application is required for each child.

Please return this form to:

Home Schooling Unit, BOSTES,
GPO Box 5300 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: homeschooling@bos.nsw.edu.au

Telephone: (02) 9367 8149 Fax: (02) 9367 8475

Note: The educational program you have delivered, and plan to deliver, will be reviewed during an assessment of your application by home visit.

Office use only

Region:

AP:

D20

/

Applicant's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other Tamara Kidd
(Please circle) (Given name) (Family name)

Postal address: _____
Postcode: _____

Telephone no: Home: N/A Mobile: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: (where home schooling will occur) (If the same as postal address write 'as above')

as above

Child's name: _____
(Given name) (Family name)

Child's date of birth: _____/_____/_____2004 Gender: Male ☒ Female ☐

Indigenous status: Is the child of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? (Please tick)

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not disclosed ☐ Not known ☐

Applicant's relationship to child:

(If Legal Guardian, please attach copies of supporting documentation.
If Other, please provide details.)

Parent ☒
Legal Guardian ☐
Other ☐

Is the child the subject of a current Court Order?

(If yes, please attach a copy of the current order with this application.)

Yes ☐ No ☒

Is the child a State Ward?

(If yes, please attach a letter from the Department of Community Services stating consent for this home schooling application.)

Yes ☐ No ☒

Are you applying for exemption from registration for home schooling on religious grounds?

Yes ☐

No ☒

Please indicate the Years of schooling you intend to deliver in the next registration period:

Primary (Kindergarten to Year 6)

☒

Junior Secondary (Years 7 to 10)

☐

Senior Secondary (Years 11 and 12)

☐

Note: For Years 11–12 please contact the Home Schooling Unit to discuss your educational program before proceeding further with this application.

Optional section

Please briefly outline your reason(s) for choosing to apply to home school your child.

Philosophical ☐

Religious ☐

Special educational needs of the child ☐

Other ☒

Have been home educating for many years and it continues to be the best choice for this child.

An Authorised Person will contact you to make an appointment to assess the documentation you provide to demonstrate that requirements for registration have been and will be met.

Are you prepared for the assessment visit from an Authorised Person by having read and addressed the requirements for home schooling contained in the *Registration for Home Schooling in NSW – Information Package* and having:

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| - an educational program based on the relevant Board syllabuses? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - an overview of the curriculum planned for the next period of registration? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - records of learning activities? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - records of student achievement and progress? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - records of the time allocated to student learning? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - sufficient resources and a suitable learning environment? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

I hereby apply for registration/exemption from registration (delete as applicable) for home schooling of the above-named child under Part 7, Division 6/7 of the *Education Act 1990*.

Signature of applicant. _____ Date: 23 / 4 / 2014

Please note: The application must be signed by one parent. A second parent may also sign. Forms submitted by email must also contain a parent's signature.

FORM 2: Application for Renewal of Registration (or Exemption from Registration) for Home Schooling

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Office use only

Region:

AP:

D20

/

Applicant's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other
(Please circle) (Given name) (Family name)

Postal address:
..... Postcode:

Telephone no: Home: N/A Mobile:

Email address:

Home address: (where home schooling will occur) (If the same as postal address write 'as above')

as above

Child's name:
(Given name) (Family name)

Child's date of birth:/...../2001 **Gender:** Male ☐ Female ☒

Indigenous status: Is the child of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? (Please tick)

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not disclosed ☐ Not known ☐

Applicant's relationship to child:

(If Legal Guardian, please attach copies of supporting documentation.
If Other, please provide details.)

Parent ☒
Legal Guardian ☐
Other ☐

Is the child the subject of a current Court Order?

(If yes, please attach a copy of the current order with this application.)

Yes ☐ No ☒

Is the child a State Ward?

(If yes, please attach a letter from the Department of Community Services stating consent for this home schooling application.)

Yes ☐ No ☒

Are you applying for exemption from registration for home schooling on religious grounds?

Yes ☐

No ☒

Please indicate the Years of schooling you intend to deliver in the next registration period:

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Junior Secondary (Years 7 to 10) ☒

Senior Secondary (Years 11 and 12) ☐

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- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
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| - records of student achievement and progress? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - records of the time allocated to student learning? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - sufficient resources and a suitable learning environment? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

I hereby apply for registration/exemption from registration (delete as applicable) for home schooling of the above-named child under Part 7, Division 6/7 of the *Education Act 1990*.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: 23 / 4 / 2014

Please note: The application must be signed by one parent. A second parent may also sign. Forms submitted by email must also contain a parent's signature.

From: Tamara Kidd
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2013 7:50 PM
To: Public Piccoli's Office Email
Subject: Attn: Adrian Piccoli

Tamara Kidd

Dear Hon. Adrian PICCOLI, BEc, LLB MP,

I was very disappointed that my email outlining my concerns with the New South Wales Board of Studies, as a registered Home Educating parent in NSW and a former NSW State Primary Teacher, had been forwarded on to the NSW BOS for them to deal with on your behalf. I'm asking you again PLEASE look into these matters yourself. Do not refer this matter on to the body that I am actually bringing to your attention as the concerned party. That is totally inappropriate!

I understand your position of being able to defer the process of registration to the NSW BOS and even the signing of the Certificates is conducted by someone else. Ultimately this is your responsibility though and your input is very much needed at the moment, especially if the registration process does not comply with laws.

Legally as a parent I have a right to home educate my children, to put them in school or enroll them in Distance Education. The NSW BOS are creating a separate set of rules that we must comply with before we are placed on your register and the people who are making these rules have never practiced Home Education.

I've never had to lower my standards as a Home Educator before but the new IP insists I put the BOS outcomes before the work they are doing already, only teach in the home, not include any excursions as part of my program or external teachers such as Scout leaders, Sporting coaches or Music teachers. I don't program only to the NSW BOS outcomes. I *also* incorporate the National Montessori Curriculum, which has been approved for use across Australia by ACARA. In addition I have for the past 7 years taken advantage of my children's own desire to learn and incorporated that into our learning activities; unplanned spontaneous learning a classroom teacher could only dream of. If I was teaching in schools and telling my Principal that I was only teaching the outcomes and not taking my class outside they would question my experience with learner centered teaching and the Quality Teaching Program. The new IP is not appropriate for Home Education use.

I've learnt through practice, from my children and from the thousands of other Home Educating families just what Home Education really is. Until you have tried it hard to explain, I wish I could here. I believe as many of us do that you need to meet people who Home Educate. Please meet with the Home Education Association and discuss this matter first hand with the Home

Educating community.

The new IP is causing considerable distress and is completely inappropriate to be applied to Home Education. Without consultation with Home Educators this situation will not be solved.

Yours Sincerely,

Tamara Kidd BTech (Primary)/BA (History), Assoc Dip FA, Cert IV Bus Mgt, Cert BA.