





# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is based on social media monitoring related to home education.

Through NUVI, a social media monitor, two different monitors were set up:

- Keyword monitor: captured the use of common keywords relating to home education (e.g. "homeschool", "deschooling")
- **2.** Facebook pages monitor: monitor of publicly-accessible Facebook pages that are home education focussed.

Real-time monitoring of social media was conducted between 21 September and 9 November, 2022. Data was also accessed from the start of the 2022 school year (January 2022) for Twitter content.

It is important to note that content analysed is only from publicly-accessible data. Feedback from registered parents and stakeholders in recent research suggest that many parents use private or closed social media channels to communicate and talk about home education.

Among publicly-accessible content, Twitter typically generates the most content in this space. News sites are next, with other networks typically producing very little publicly-accessible content.

Here, keywords and trending hashtags tend to use the generic terms "homeschool" or "homeschooling". Other popular keywords – such as Steiner, faith-based, Waldorf and Montessori – are commonly used, but typically include content not specific to home education.

Most content generated around home education tends to be relatively neutral with many users opting to use social media to share resources, ideas, and inspiration – including sharing stories about how they home educate.

Organisations are typically the most active in this space, with the *Home Education*Association being the most active. Influencers also play a role with being the most active.

Content generated on publicly-accessible Facebook pages typically are not shared by many.

is mentioned the most with many choosing to retweet their content. Most of this activity is political in nature with many simply stating the content shared as a reason to home educate.

#### **Overall, there are 7 key themes evident:**

- Home education during COVID-19 lockdown
- Sharing resources, ideas and inspiration
- Blogging about home education activities
- Sharing reasons for home education (with many simply stating "this is why we homeschool" with a link to a news article or political message)
- Parents providing support and encouragement on home education
- Discussion on the merits and disadvantages of home education in regard to access to socialising children
- Organisations sharing content that supports their views around home education.

Note: personal information and images have been redacted from this report due to privacy reasons.



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#### The Research

This report is based on social media analysis related to home education.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The overarching objective of the social media analysis is to provide a snapshot of social media activity relating to home education, to identify the key themes and engagement topics posted.

#### **METHOD:**

Enhance Research partnered with NUVI, globally known in the social media space and specialising in real time monitoring and market research data across multiple social media networks.

Through NUVI, two different monitors were set up:

- **1. Keyword monitor:** captured the use of common keywords relating to home education (e.g. "homeschool", "deschooling")
- **2. Facebook pages monitor:** monitor of publicly-accessible Facebook pages that are home education focussed.

Real-time monitoring of social media was conducted between 21 September and 9 November, 2022. Data was also accessed from the start of the 2022 school year (January 2022) for Twitter content.

#### **REPORT INTERPRETATION:**

When interpreting the results, the following should be noted:

- While some web analytics are provided, the analysis into content is largely qualitative in nature.
- Results have been grouped into key themes and supported by example content. Due to the nature of qualitative research, no quantification of results is undertaken however the order of themes is designed to reflect the extent of mention for each theme.
- Posts captured via Facebook are from publiclyaccessible accounts, not closed groups which require approval to join.

Feedback from registered parents and stakeholders in recent research suggest that many parents use private or closed social media channels (e.g. Facebook groups or WhatsApp/Messenger group messaging) to communicate and talk about home education.

# KEYWORD MONITOR

#### **Overview of Monitor**

A monitor of social media activity was set up to capture the use of common keywords relating to home education.

#### **KEYWORDS**

In this monitor, a keyword capture was set up to analyse the use of the following:

- · homeschooling / #homeschooling
- homeschool / #homeschool
- deschool /#deschool
- deschooling / #deschooling
- outschool / #outschool
- outschooling / #outschooling
- Charlotte Mason
- Montessori
- Steiner
- Waldorf
- classical approach
- · faith-based
- natural learning
- unit studies

#### TIME PERIOD

Two different time periods were analysed:

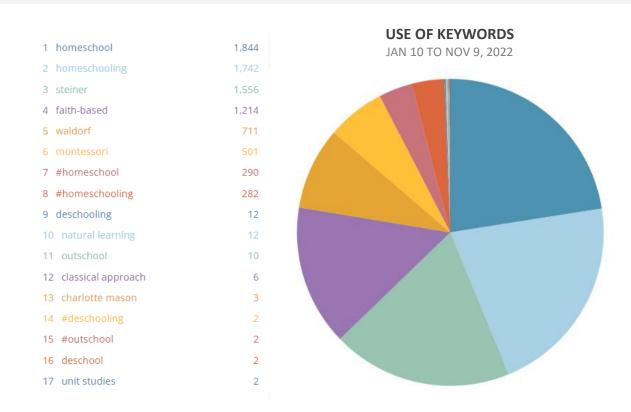
- A monitor of the school year to date (January 10 to November 9, 2022)
  - This "back-in-time" feature is only possible with Twitter-related content
- A monitor from project start to date (September 21 to November 9, 2022)
  - This in-real time monitor captures content in other networks beyond Twitter.

Regardless of the time period used, content found with the keywords applied was predominantly generated in Twitter.

# **Use of Keywords**

The below keywords were identified as popular phrases to base the social monitor around. The generic "homeschool" or "homeschooling" keywords tend to be the highest used phrases of these. Other popular keywords – such as Steiner, faith-based, Waldorf and Montessori – are commonly used, but typically include content not specific to home education. For example, it can include beliefs (and news around this), parenting approaches and names of people and organisations (including Steiner-based schools).

Other keywords monitored are not mentioned by many on social media.



# **Trending Hashtags**

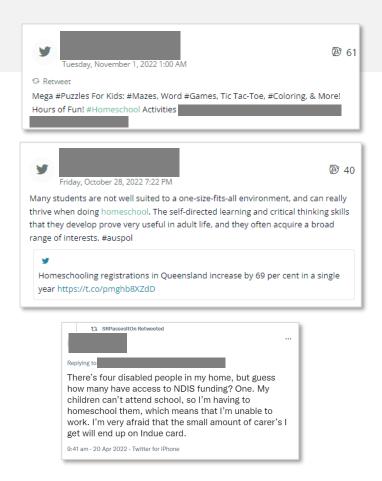
Following trends found when looking at keywords, the generic tags of #homeschool or #homeschooling tend to be the highest used.

The #auspol tag also features highly, which features content relating to Australian politics (and includes content relating to the figures released on home education registrations in Queensland).

#### TRENDING HASHTAGS

JAN 10 TO NOV 9, 2022

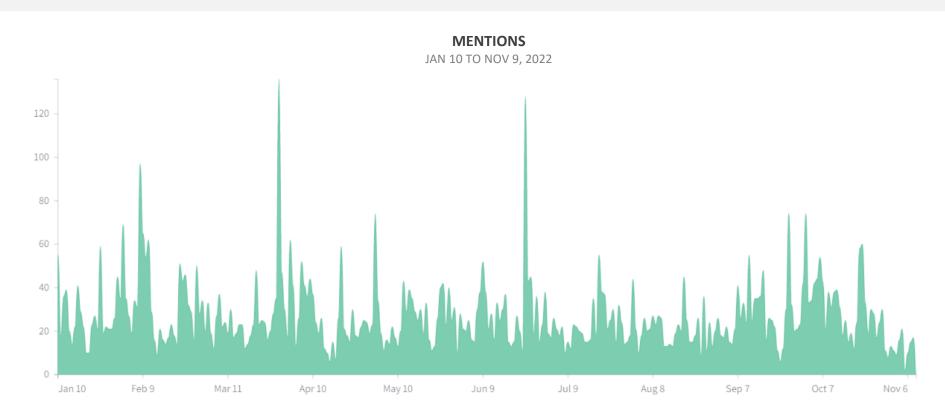
#homeschool	289
#homeschooling	282
#auspol	184
#hea	74
#kidlit	62
#danmustgo	61
#childrensbooks	60
#homeeducationaustralia	60
#education	59
#covid	58
#homeeducation	56



#### **Mentions of Home Education Over the School Year**

The different keywords used in this monitor provide relatively stable activity throughout the 2022 school year. There are some exceptions however, with peaks identified **in response to political activity.** Most of these peaks are related to faith-based news in response to the Religious Discrimination Bill 2022.

Activity around home education specifically is likely to be less volatile and more consistent throughout the year.

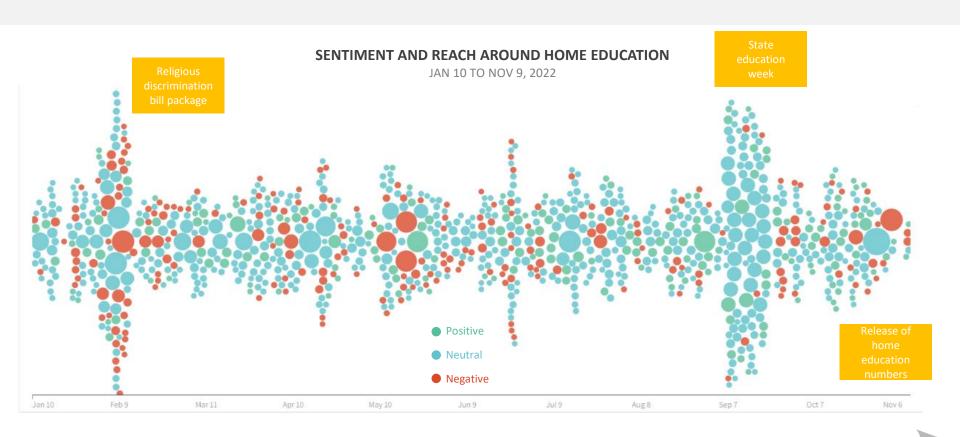


## **Sentiment Over the Year**

Below shows a bubble for each of the highest-reach mentions throughout the year. The size of each bubble represents the reach of that mention.

As mentioned, many of the peaks identified were in response to political activity related to faith-based news. This type of activity is typically negative.

In contrast, most content generated around home education tends to be relatively neutral.



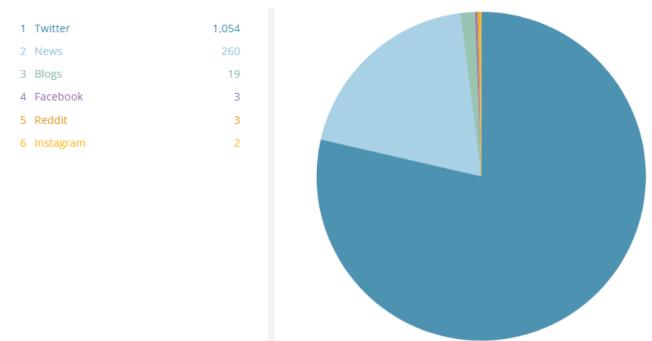
# **Trending Networks**

Among publicly-accessible content, Twitter typically generates the most content in this space. News sites are next, with other networks typically producing very little publicly-accessible content.

Note: The below findings are restricted to the core research period as NUVI is only able to access non-Twitter content from the date the monitor is set up.

#### TRENDING NETWORKS

SEP 21 TO NOV 9, 2022



#### **Most Active Accounts**

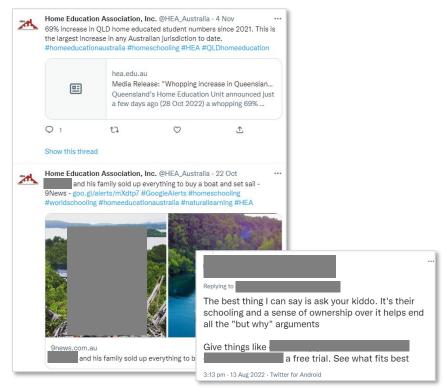
Organisations are typically the most active in this space, with the *Home Education Association* being the most active.

Home education influencers also play a role with being the most active. Here influencers typically share advice and recommendations on home education, or snippets from their day.

#### **MOST ACTIVE ACCOUNTS**

JAN 10 TO NOV 9, 2022

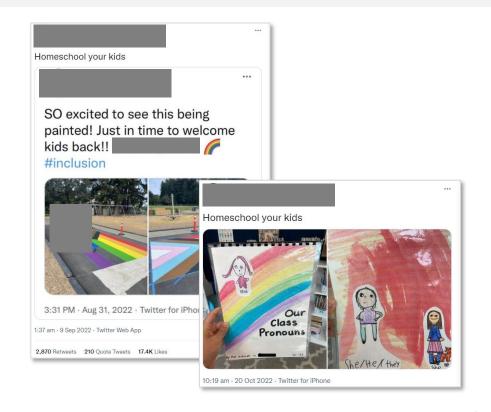




#### **Most Mentioned**

is mentioned the most with many choosing to retweet their content. Most of this activity is political in nature with many simply claiming the information shared as a reason to home educate. It is likely people here believe that home education provides an avenue to protect children from exposure to certain content.

#### **MOST MENTIONED** JAN 10 TO NOV 9, 2022 110 💟 Wednesday, September 14, 2022 2:19 PM No words except "HOMESCHOOL".. ₿ 38 bloody teachers!!! Someone help the children! Homeschooling kids seems pretty ok after all 37 Thursday, October 20, 2022 2:28 PM I'VE BEEN A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER FOR 17 YEARS AND FOR 17 YEARS I'VE TELLING PARENTS AT PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS TO HOMESCHOOL THEIR KIDS - MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN



#### **Most Shared**

Content generated on publicly-accessible Facebook pages are typically not shared by large numbers.

The Queensland Department of Education typically generates the most shares, however, most of this content is not specific to home education.

The is next in line with below showing their content with the highest shares.





# DEEP DIVE INTO KEYWORD MONITOR

#### The Need to Filter

#### **COMMON KEYWORDS**

Monitoring social media activity around home education is challenging given the amount of unrelated content that can be generated from keywords that are applicable in other areas.

As mentioned, other popular keywords – such as Steiner, faith-based, Waldorf and Montessori – do not always necessarily relate to home education.

#### LOCATION

Another issue is that networks do not typically share location information unless the user has opted into this feature. Many choose not to, or do not specify detailed information here. For example, a user may set themselves as from Australia rather than Brisbane or Queensland.

#### ADAPTIONS MADE

To help delve further into understanding the content generated by Queenslanders about home education, further analysis was conducted where:

- Location data is identified as Queensland (this excludes those who have only set themselves as no location or as Australia only)
- Filters were applied to remove unrelated content specific to Steiner, Waldof, Faith-based and Montessori (for example, reference to those with this name/surname and mentions of the salad or hotel)
- Retweets were also removed to avoid duplications, however, examples of these are shown to demonstrate key themes.

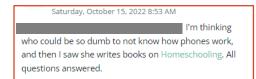
The following section provides a deep-dive into the content that is specific to home education in Queensland.

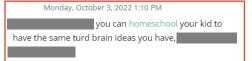
#### Sentiment

After filters were applied, the majority of mentions are neutral (59%) with the rest tending to be positive (27%).

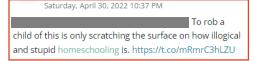
**Positive mentions** comment on how rewarding home education can be for the parent and the child, how home education is a viable alternative to traditional schooling, and how well their child is doing in home education.

**Negative comments** revolve around the perception that home educated people are less intelligent and that parents pursuing this approach will pass on their views to their children.















Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:35 PM

this is why homeschooling is such a rewarding and better option.

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 10:32 PM

Homeschooling is hands-down a richer life experience. It's a privilege and gives kids a huge advantage on all levels. Trust yourself and learn with your child. There's an amazing journey ahead.

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 8:25 AN

Wow And my family was worried about me homeschooling one of my kids (He advanced 3 grades in the first year btw).

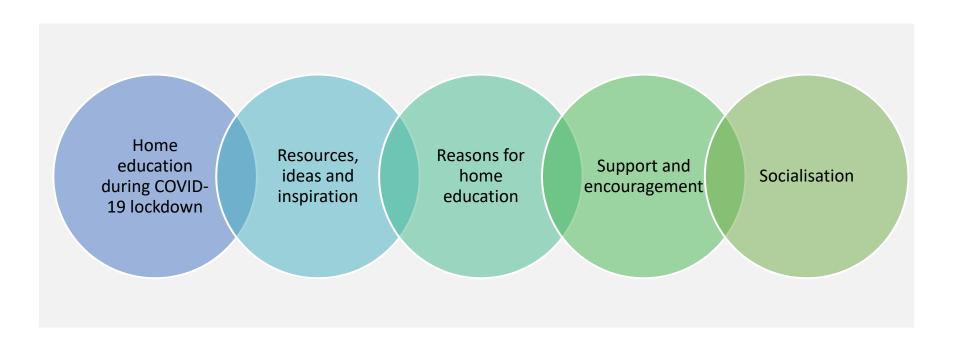
Friday, May 13, 2022 2:01 PM

School refusal turned out to be the best thing that happened to our family. We homeschool and our lives are wonderful. Find your silver liningmainstream school is not for everyone. Distance Ed & home education are always options

# **Key Overarching Themes**

Overall, there are five overarching themes that emerged in the keyword monitor.

Each of the below is explored in more detail in the following section of this report.

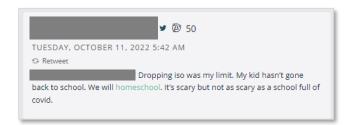


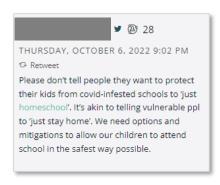
# Home Education During COVID-19 Lockdown

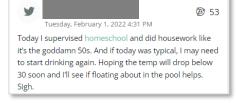
At the beginning of the year there were a number of mentions about "homeschooling" children during school lockdown. These comments included frustration at the government, experiences when educating their children and the desire to send kids back to school as soon as possible.

It is likely many mentioning home education in this space are not necessarily registered for home education, but are instead having to take on the education role while their children are unable to attend traditional school.



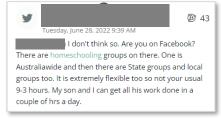


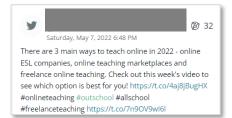




# Resources, Ideas and Inspiration

There are a number of focal points in this category of mentions, relating to broader ideas and guidance around home education options, as well as sharing information about access to activities, opportunities and materials that may be of use to home educating parents.





Friday, August 19, 2022 6:24 PM

This is part of my kids homeschooling curriculum. It's important for their generation to learn these applications #homeschooled #codinglife #web3kids





# **Reasons for Home Education: Disability**

Where mentions were made around reasons for home education, the health or disability of the child was a key topic. Here reference to specific conditions were discussed in relation to decisions to remove children from traditional schooling, and the better learning outcomes a home environment has offered.

There is also an emphasis here among mentions around the need to find solutions that work for individual circumstances, as each situation is unique.

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:19 AM

My child was years behind at school because of the school and being left behind. I pulled him out and caught him up 2 years in 9 months. He was also taking medication for severe anxiety and a year of homeschooling saw him medication free too. Do what is best for your family.

Friday, June 10, 2022 11:16 AM

I homeschooled 2 yrs bc my smart autistic son was not coping with the senior years of primary and the support was insufficient. No regrets, he is now doing good back in highschool. But the reasons people increasingly homeschool are not like mine, and I think it is a worry?

USA: https://t.co/YNFkOFs4X8 https://t.co/Ic7t7tgNOu

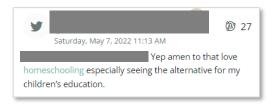
# Reasons for Home Education: Avoiding Negative Influence

Other key reasons to home educate mentioned related to the avoidance or removal of negative influences a child is experiencing in a traditional schooling environment. This was often expressed as bullying, with the negative outcomes noted focusing on anxiety or other mental health issues.

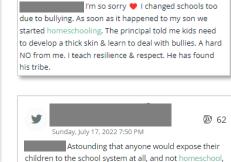
Further, there were many posts simply stating "this is why we homeschool" (or similar) with links to news articles or political messages.

On the flipside of this issue was also the beneficial aspects and positive influences and activities associated with home education.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022 10:36 PM
To say I'm angry is an understatement. I'm
having to pay for a psychologist for 1 because
she's been having depression symptoms &
both have significant sensory processing stuff
& we need help to help us all. I'm already
having to homeschool them because the
school system failed.







based on what we know of how it impacts children's

Sunday, June 26, 2022 11:11 AM





# Reasons for Home Education: Flexibility and Personalisation

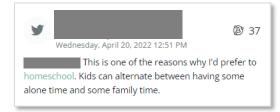
Greater flexibility and personalisation to provide more tailored learning experiences were also noted mentions relating to the reasons for home education. There is noted flexibility of content learned and other factors such as family time.

Friday, March 4, 2022 10:12 PM

No one knows their kids better than the parents. Parents know what gets their kids excited, interested and wanting to learn. Schools have failed our kids, and since we started homeschooling a few years ago they are not only happier, they are flourishing. Unis like homeschoolers.

Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:35 PM

I homeschool because kids should be kids and not have to deal with the stresses of so many things that shouldn't be part of the school experience. They are overwhelmed in school.



# **Support and Encouragement**

The broader community of home educating parents was also a key theme noted. Here there is encouragement provided generally around parenting and home education decision-making, as well as suggestions on where to access support or groups that can be joined.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 11:09 AM

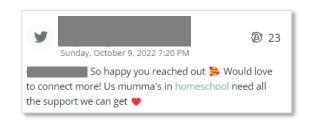
All children learn at different paces and maybe we need to support alternate learning/career paths than just a single model designed for 70% of the bell curve. I've learned to be more open. Dissing on homeschooling shouldn't be the standard response.

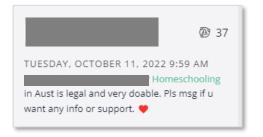
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 10:29 AM

There is a Facebook group Australian homeschool for littles or something like that you can join and ask

Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:03 AM

Enjoy it as much as you can. I just finished homeschooling my son for two years! Number one advice - trust yourself and don't put too much pressure on yourself. (I know you didn't ask but thought I would offer)





#### **Socialisation**

When it comes to socialisation, mentions were both positive and negative around whether socialisation is an issue among home educated children. For some, it is felt socialisation needs to be a deliberate and proactive choice to ensure home educated children can still build relationships outside the family unit and function in society as they get older.



capabilities which is extremely valuable! Public school:

mostly socialized with same age group. Unrealistic for

adulthood.



So no, homeschooling parents, siblings

Tuesday, August 30, 2022 1:05 PM

don't count. And you should be grateful people are

concerned about such a big part of your kid's social

wellbeing considering how much it will definitely impact

(A) 38

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 5:57 AM

I think socialisation can definitely can be solved within the homeschooling context, but it takes deliberateness, taking the problem seriously, and understanding it is an innate weakness in the HS system that needs to be deliberately countered as much as possible.

Friday, February 11, 2022 9:41 AM

I was a homeschool teacher for a while- I think it's great that you can be flexible with how your child learns the curriculum but I also think it can be very isolating for a child to not have that social aspect with anyone other than their parents.

Sunday, April 17, 2022 3:47 PM

They like don't understand there's sports clubs you can join and other shit you can do if you're a homeschool kid

Friday, April 29, 2022 8:47 AM

More general, the biggest advantage of public school is the socializing and experience with other children, good or bad. I'd probably recommend a private or charter school though, or find other kids in your neighborhood homeschooling to try and build a peer network there.

# **Other Mentions: Educational Approach**

Outside of the five key themes, there were also some limited mentions of different educational philosophies on Twitter. Those who tweeted about Waldorf, Steiner and Montessori mainly praised the approaches.

#### **Waldorf Mentions**

Thursday, September 8, 2022 7:55 AM

I dunno, from what I'm understanding, Surely the Waldorf model should be expanded out into the general public school system? Like, not the pay to learn bit, but the actual methods by which they teach. Let everyone have access to it, not just the wealthy.

#### Steiner Mentions

Saturday, January 8, 2022 3:17 PM

I think Steiner schools (or similar approaches) are a good example, some kids flourish with 'go and explore'. Other kids are lost. Also, if you spoonfeed kids from Year 1, you can't except them to be autodidacts in high school, except the ones that innately were anyway.

Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:28 PM

This is such a wonderful idea, working in the state school system and now Steiner I see a real difference in kids and the type of boredom that arises from it. #education

Friday, September 23, 2022 8:41 AM

There's a reason people tend to put people with ASD and ADHD on Steiner schools: they learn better when they can focus on interests.

#### Montessori Mentions

Friday, April 15, 2022 2:48 PM

Aww thats sweet. Hopefully we can witness the time in our country where we embrace Mental Health. Explore ways to personalized education such as montessori approach and more person-centred.

Monday, August 8, 2022 7:50 PM

I want the same for my 4yo granddaughter. I want to put her in a Rapunzel castle with heaps of art supplies, books, devices and musical instruments. Luckily she's starting at a Montessori school next month so hopefully that avoids some of the tragic mainstream education system.

Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:09 AM

I love the Montessori system, where they encourage finishing what the children start instead of pulling them away when the "bell" goes. They've managed to combine the academic with the sensory learning.

#### **Other Mentions of Home Education**

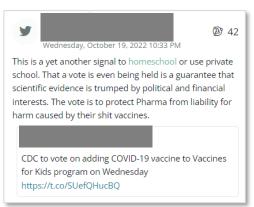


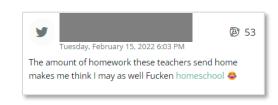
Friday, March 4, 2022 11:30 AM

He is a macaw and very loud and now randomly yells "what the fxxx"..."WHAT the fxxxx"..."what the FXXX"... apparently it's the boys' fault as they spent homeschooling during lockdown mainly playing fortnite and yelling at their friends also playing fortnite











Twitter is like a child with ADHD whose parents have finally decided to homeschool. Although the outcome is uncertain and power concentration always concerning, the possible renewed flourishing of this young mind enabled by an altered environment should be embraced with optimism.





# FACEBOOK PAGES MONITOR

## **Overview of Monitor**

A monitor of publicly-accessible Facebook pages that are home education focussed was set up to capture content produced.

#### **TIME PERIOD**

Pages were monitored between 21 September to 9 November, 2022.

#### **PAGES**

The following Facebook pages were monitored:

HEA Australia
HEA OPERATION IN THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

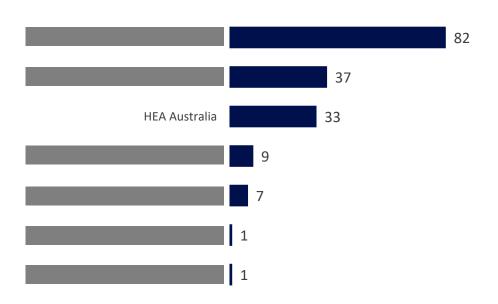
## **Number of Facebook Posts**

Since late September, 2022, 170 Facebook posts were made by the accounts monitored.

Over this time the was the most active, followed by and HEA Australia.

#### **NUMBER OF FACEBOOK POSTS**

SEP 21 TO NOV 9, 2022

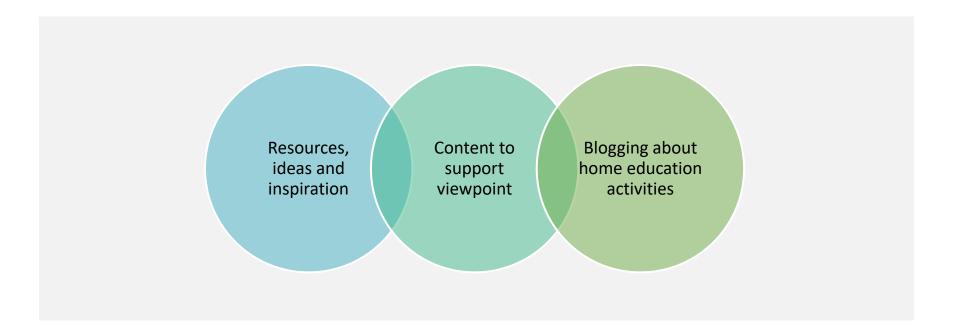


# **Key Overarching Themes**

Overall, there are three overarching themes that emerged in the Facebook monitor.

Unlike the Twitter mentions, the Facebook posts are more neutral and commercial in nature, which is understandable given many are generated by organisations.

Each of the below is explored in more detail in the following section of this report.

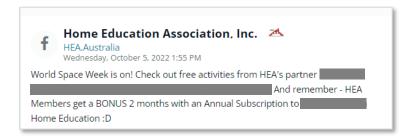


# Resources, Ideas and Inspiration

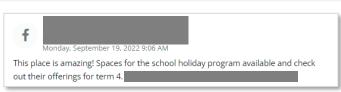
As with the keyword monitor, users posting content on the specific Facebook pages monitored share ideas and guidance around home education options. This includes where to access information, opportunities, events and materials that may be of use to parents and guardians home educating.



Every young person is entitled to discover a fulfilling life. MyCareers - www.hea.edu.au/tertiaryhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0rkGqYLtdg #homeeducationaustralia #homeschooling #tertiarypathways #HEA





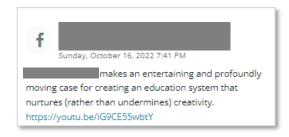


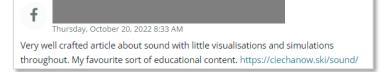
# **Content to Support Viewpoint**

Predominantly posted by the Home Education Association, content is shared that speak to and support their views around home education. This mostly included links to news articles and YouTube videos, as well as educational content.





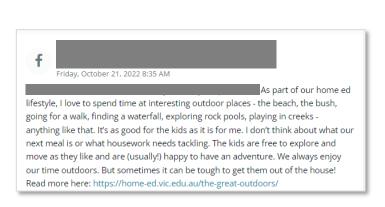




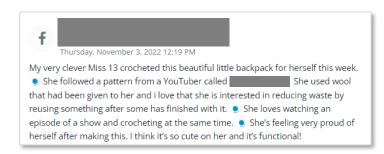
 $\square$ 

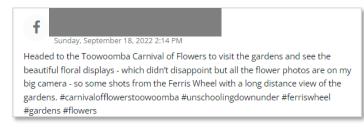
# **Blogging About Home Education Activities**

Another key theme found on the specific Facebook pages monitored is sharing of home education related activities. This includes sharing stories about how they spend their day home educating or upcoming future activities that are planned.













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