

HOME EDUCATION EXPERT GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

About the group

A Home Education Expert Group is being established to contribute to a stakeholder-informed review of Queensland's approach to regulating home education through the Department's Home Education Unit (the Review).

The group will:

- provide a forum to share and learn from the home educating parent community and better understand their experiences of home education in Queensland;
- consider topical issues highlighted through consultation on the Bill such as delivery of a high-quality education and provision in the best interests of the child;
- broadly consider home education regulation;
- provide perspectives about supports for home education parents; and
- consider possible approaches for consultation with the home education sector following the Review.

The independent reviewer will Chair the group and draw views to inform Review findings and recommendations.

Composition and Representation

Home educators in Queensland choose this educational pathway for their children for many different reasons. It is intended the membership of the group will reflect this, and will be comprised as widely, and equitably as possible.

A majority of the group members (12) will be parents who currently have a child or young person registered for home education in Queensland. Parent members will be selected via an Expression of Interest process.

Up to three members will be nominees from established home education sector representative organisations with experience in engaging with the sector and government.

The group will also comprise up to three relevant departmental or government stakeholders, as observers, to assist promoting broad understanding and greater collective clarity about high-quality home education.

The group will be chaired by an independent reviewer of the Review, and will meet at regular intervals throughout the Review.

The group will be established on a time-limited basis for six months, including for the duration of the Review, and convene generally monthly until December 2024, noting the Review may consider ongoing stakeholder engagement mechanisms to liaise with government on home education matters.

The Department will provide secretariat services.

Parent members (12 members)

The group will be widely representative and where possible should include members of diverse experience and reasons for choosing home education, and parents of children and young people of different ages, undertaking different levels of education, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, other cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and who provide home education in rural and remote areas. For example:

- parents living in different areas of the state;
- a parent whose registered child is undertaking the equivalent of primary studies;

- a parent whose registered child or young person is undertaking the equivalent of senior studies and/or extension programs;
- a parent of a registered child or young person with a disability;
- a parent of registered child or young person who is neuro-divergent; and
- a parent who is home educating a child or young person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Expression of Interest process

Parent members will be identified through an online Expression of Interest, conducted by the Department.

Criteria will include broad knowledge of the sector, ability to represent a range of views of home educators in Queensland. Interested persons will be asked to demonstrate:

- commitment to the advancement of home education;
- knowledge of the interests, concerns, views and lived experience of home educators in the Queensland community;
- representing a range of views of home educators in Queensland; and
- commitment to participate fully and contribute to the engagement on the group.

Nominee members: Home Education Sector Representatives (up to three nominees)

Up to three nominee members will be invited from established home education sector representative organisations with experience in engaging with the sector and government, noting there is no home education peak body.

Representative associations or groups known to the Department will be asked to nominate a participant for consultative group input.

Observer members: Curriculum and disability and flexible learning expertise (three observers)

Up to three observer members who have expertise in curriculum, in disability and inclusion and flexible learning/student engagement, will be nominated by the Department, or invited from a relevant government agency (for example, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)).

Other attendees

The independent reviewer Chair and the secretariat from the Department will attend.

The Chair may invite a person to attend where they have particular relevant expertise.