



Embracing HOME SCHOOLING

Libertarian Party - Victorian Home School
Policy

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We cannot continue to send our kids to Caesar and be surprised when they come home as Romans

Voddie Baucham

Preamble

Families are best placed to decide their own interests without unnecessary restriction by the state.

Parents know their children; governments do not.

Families understand the values, priorities, and type of education that best meet their child's needs. They should be free to choose from a wide range of educational options, including **mainstream schools, home education, micro-schools, learning collectives, or other forms** that suit their family circumstances.

Home Education is a collection of learning activities designed and created by parents, which may include the use of programs, tutors, courses, and other educational resources chosen by the family. This approach ensures that parents remain responsible for directing and overseeing their child's education, centred around the home. It provides students with meaningful, in-depth learning opportunities in a nurturing environment something not always possible in rigid, mainstream institutions. It also allows for mixed-age socialisation, deeper family connection, and progress for students who might otherwise fall behind in traditional schooling.

For many students who refuse and cannot attend mainstream schools, **home education** is not a choice - it is the *only viable educational pathway*.

Home-educating families deserve the freedom to personalise and customise learning to meet the needs, pace, and values of their child. Diverse educational approaches enrich democracy, foster innovation, and contribute to Victoria's social and intellectual progress.

Home Education therefore provides an essential educational service to Victorians and should be recognised and supported by government on equal footing with mainstream education.



Policy

The Libertarian Party of Victoria advocates the following measures:

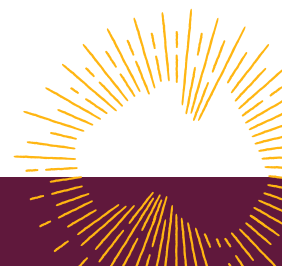
1 Financial Support for Home Education Families.

Home-educating families currently receive no educational funding from the state, despite paying the same taxes as every other family. This inequity must be addressed.

The Libertarian Party proposes:

- **Home Education Allowance:** A dedicated allowance to financially support one parent to stay home and educate their child without economic hardship.
- **Resource and Textbook Allowance:** As implemented in Queensland and South Australia, a base level of funding for learning materials and educational costs.
- **Education Vouchers:** Part of the \$15,000 saved by the state per student should be returned to families through education vouchers that can be used for tutors, gym memberships, online courses, or extracurricular programs.
- **Access to Existing Funds:** Home-educating families should have equal access to:
 - **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)**
 - **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

These measures would ensure fairness without adding new administrative burdens. Families would not be required to provide additional financial data or alter existing registration processes.



2 Greater Curriculum Freedom.

Victorian home-educating families are currently required to cover 19 subjects grouped into 8 learning areas an unrealistic standard even for schools.

We propose:

- Reducing requirements to align with **NSW standards**. Victoria should adopt the NSW minimum learning areas.
- Creating a **simpler, more flexible curriculum framework** that allows families to design programs that reflect their values and the individual needs of their children.

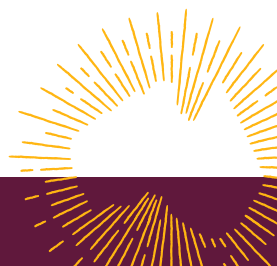
This change ensures educational expectations remain achievable and relevant.

3 Respect for Parental Values

Parents must be able to adapt curriculum content that conflicts with their **moral, philosophical, or religious beliefs**.

We propose:

- Allowing parents to negotiate with the **Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA)** to modify content as needed.
- Maintaining the existing right to apply for exemptions under **ETRR 2022 Part 6 Division 2 (76 1a)**.
- Implementing an independent appeals process (see Section 4) for unresolved disputes.



4 Independent Appeals Process

Although the VRQA has made progress in recent years, families still require an **independent educational ombudsman** to mediate disputes.

Currently, complaints are handled internally within the VRQA or through lengthy and costly appeals to VCAT.

We propose a clear four-step resolution process:

- 1 Initial negotiation with the VRQA
- 2 Internal review by the VRQA
- 3 Referral to an **independent ombudsman** (outside the education bureaucracy)
- 4 Final appeal to VCAT, if necessary

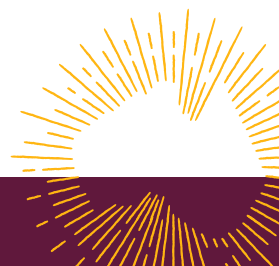
This ensures fairness, transparency, and timely resolution.

5 Encourage Innovation

Home-educating families are often the most innovative in the education landscape — forming **learning co-operatives, micro-schools, and hybrid learning groups**.

We propose:

- Recognising and supporting these community-based innovations rather than restricting them under outdated school registration rules.
- Updating legislation to allow for **flexible educational collectives** that reflect modern learning models.



6 Advance Notice for Home Education Reviews

Home education reviews ensure children are being educated — but they can be stressful and inconsistent.

We propose:

- A minimum of **two months' notice** before any review.
- Clear communication outlining the process and expectations.
- Transparent, randomised selection criteria to ensure fairness and remove the perception of bias.

7 Student ID Cards for Home-Educated Students

All registered home-educated students should have access to **official student ID cards** for identification and eligibility for student discounts — as already occurs in Queensland and South Australia.

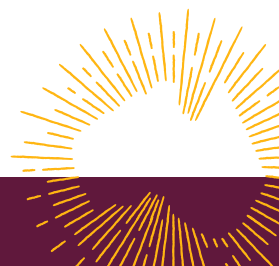
8 Fair Rights of Appeal

Where a family's home education registration is cancelled, they must have access to the full dispute resolution mechanisms outlined in Section 4 and under existing regulation (ETRR 2022 Part 6 Division 4 85).

9 Fair and Evidence-Based Complaints Process

Complaints against home-educating families must be based on **evidence** and managed according to the principles of **procedural fairness**.

Families must have access to the independent conflict resolution process in Section 4.



10 A Representative Home Education Advisory Committee (HEAC)

The HEAC should be **transparent, democratic, and representative** of the full home education community.

We propose:

- Direct notification of vacancies to all registered families via email.
- Public publication of selection criteria.
- Representation from all home education organisations.
- Independent assessment of applications by an external panel (with only one existing HEAC member).
- Elections where feasible to increase legitimacy and participation.

11 Flexible School Starting and Finishing Ages

Children should be able to **defer starting formal education until age 8** and **complete their schooling upon finishing Year 10**, in line with K-12 Libertarian policy.

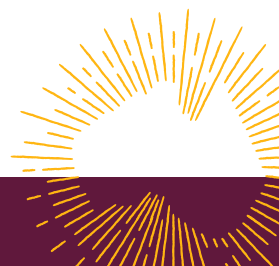
12 Equal Access to Subsidised TAFE Courses

Home-educated students currently face barriers to subsidised TAFE enrolments.

We propose:

- Equal eligibility for subsidised TAFE courses and VET pathways.
- A streamlined application process that recognises **prior learning and portfolio-based achievement**.

Families pay taxes like everyone else — they deserve equal opportunity.



13 Improved Data and Statistics

The VRQA should collect and publish **transparent, anonymised** data on:

- Age and regional distribution of home-educated students
- Where students come from when starting and where they go when finishing

This supports planning, networking, and accurate demographic reporting.

Conclusion

The Libertarian Party of Victoria recognises **Home Education** as a legitimate, vital, and growing educational pathway.

Home-educating families contribute to society by fostering independent thinkers, self-directed learners, and strong family bonds.

They deserve **equal treatment, funding support, freedom from excessive regulation, and respect for their parental rights.**

You pay the taxes. You do the work. You deserve the support.

Equal treatment, Home Education Allowance, and real freedom for all Victorian families.



Current as of November 2025



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Our Policies




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