

ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING

By Andrew McColl

The concept of families homeschooling their children has been an exciting development within the Christian community over the last thirty years or so. It is exciting because it means families are reclaiming a responsibility which God originally entrusted to them, way back when He gave the law to Moses (see Deut.6:1-7). This will be a major step, with implications for future generations of believers.

Parents who were homeschooled themselves have now begun educating their children at home. Furthermore, the availability of good curriculum (whether by hard-copy or via the internet), has made it both easily available and cheap for families.

Sue and I began homeschooling our three sons in 1990. They have all appreciated the experience. Homeschooling doesn't guarantee godly children, but it does have the capacity to accomplish a number of things.

Firstly, it means that children do not have to be subjected to the subtle notions of political correctness and social conformity endemic in public education, which are supposed to be taught now in all schools. These are frequently various forms of humanism, and include (but are not limited to) atheism, Darwinism, socialism, feminism and environmentalism. The scripture instructs us to "see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men..." (Col.2:8).

It is significant in relation to education, that Satan came to Eve with an intellectual proposition, and she was deceived. Godly education means that parents engage in spiritual warfare, so that they are "destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor.10:5).

Secondly, it means that children are removed from an age-segregated peer-group. Age segregation is convenient for teachers when they are dealing with large groups of children, but education which utilises age segregation removes a child from their parents, and from the presence of older, wiser siblings. There is nothing wrong with peers as such, but if a person's peers are applying immature, unwise or downright evil pressure, that person's attitudes and behaviour will certainly deteriorate.

How do we know that? The Bible teaches us that "...the companion of fools will suffer harm" (Prov.13:20), and "bad company corrupts good morals" (I Cor.15:33).

When Solomon's son Rehoboam rejected the counsel of "the elders who had served his father, and took counsel from the young men who grew up with him," he quickly forfeited most of his kingdom (I Kings 12:1-15). Rehoboam's peers proved to be a disastrous influence on him. The influence on Lot's daughters from the surrounding culture of Sodom (see Gen.19), was no better.

Thirdly, it gives parents the opportunity to teach and utilise a godly curriculum, which encourages the Biblical values and standards they are comfortable with. Fathers are encouraged in scripture to "...bring up [your children] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph.6:4).

Fourth, it gives parents the opportunity to provide a broad range of formal curriculum, mixed with the informal but essential educational experiences that they consider to be important for their children, in terms of their God-given callings, abilities and giftings. The Bible says, "train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov.22:6).

Homeschooling is not a panacea; every person needs to face the fact that they are sinners before God, every human heart needs the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and every young person needs to learn faithfulness to God, themselves. But homeschooling a child does provide a glorious opportunity for the parent-directed and balanced education of a young person, as they prepare for life in the service of Jesus Christ.

Is that what you want to prepare your children for?

ABOUT HEBRON HOMESCHOOLERS

Many families are looking for better options in their choice of education for their children.

Andrew McColl is a trained teacher (B.A., Dip. Ed., M.Ed.), and along with his wife Sue, they homeschooled their 3 sons for 14 years, from 1990-2003. After working for 7 years in Christian Schools, and assisting homeschooling families for 8 years at Australian Christian Academy, Andrew has started his own consultancy business, *Hebron Homeschoolers*, to assist homeschooling families.

Students with Hebron Homeschoolers can access the ACE curriculum (including Year 10/12 Certificates), through Southern Cross Educational Enterprises, and the SCEE Student Convention.

We can provide the academic support that many find helpful in running their homeschooling program.

We can also help with advice on pursuing tertiary studies, including university entrance. Our goal is to provide academic support, along with the help and encouragement families often need to successfully educate their children.

STUDENT CONSIDERATIONS

Hebron Homeschoolers is committed to assisting families in the homeschooling of their children. Families may choose different curriculum to further their educational opportunities. Registration with State Education Departments is a matter of family choice.

Parents may have a variety of reasons for deciding to educate their children in the home. These may include the special needs of the child, dissatisfaction with a previous school, the conviction that a Biblical education is of paramount importance, or the special circumstances of the family.

Consequently, different students may have different needs. We are prepared to work with families in order to achieve the best educational outcomes for each student.

“EVERYTHING WE DO BELOVED, IS FOR YOUR STRENGTHENING” (II COR.12:19).

FEES AND CHARGES EXPLANATION

Education Tax Refund: The Commonwealth government has introduced The *Education Tax Refund*. The *Education Tax Refund* (ETR)* aims to help families, with children undertaking primary or secondary school studies to meet the costs of school education through assistance with certain education expenses. Under the Government's ETR, eligible families will be able to claim:

- a 50 per cent refundable tax offset every year for up to \$750 for each child undertaking primary school, (that is, a refund of up to \$375 per child, per year);
- a 50 per cent refundable tax offset every year for up to \$1,500 for each child undertaking secondary school (that is, a refund of up to \$750 per child, per year).

More details at: [www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1394/PDF/Education Tax Refund Factsheet.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1394/PDF/Education_Tax_Refund_Factsheet.pdf)

*Homeschooling families are only able to claim the ETR if they are registered with their Education Department.

ACADEMIC FEES

Our charges begin at \$375 annually for a one student, increasing by \$50 for each student. Diagnostic test: prescription cost \$25 per student.

Families may choose to pay their fees in 2 part payments: 15th January and 1st July. Families joining after 1st February will pay fees on a pro-rata basis.

Payment Methods

Cash: In person.

Cheque: Please make cheques payable to: Hebron Homeschoolers.

Electronic Funds Transfer:

BSB: 014-201,

A/C No: 268 903 614,

A/C Name: Hebron Homeschoolers,

Ref. No: Family Surname.

PROCEDURES (for families wishing to use ACE curriculum).

Hebron Homeschoolers (HH) has a contract with Southern Cross Educational Enterprises (SCEE), whereby SCEE will provide curriculum, materials. If families that are joining HH indicate that they wish to use ACE curriculum, HH will notify the SCEE office, who will then issue a Customer Code to that family, and send them Order Forms, so they may order their material. If one parent has not completed an ACE Parent Training Course, this will be an essential first step.

Each child new to the ACE curriculum then needs to complete diagnostic testing, in preparation for their first set of material from SCEE. Then, diagnostic tests must be assessed by HH staff, so that a prescription can be completed for the family, and a family order sent off to SCEE for dispatch to the family.

Monies for all orders with SCEE, need to be paid to SCEE before orders will be dispatched. All orders are subject to GST.

ACE PACEs contain several levels of instruction. The first level contains the academic work to be completed: Math, English, reading, etc. The second level of instruction contains the integrated Bible teaching, and character studies. The third level of instruction is the procedures used in completing the work that aim to produce students of responsibility, integrity and who are goal oriented. Remove a part of the overall process and it is like a puzzle with a missing piece, incomplete and frustrating. Therefore, the way a PACE is completed is an important training tool for students. Completing the work is not the 'be all and end all'. How the work is completed is also important. All our students should be learners of the PACE content, not just PACE 'blank' fillers. The goal is not just to complete PACEs; the goal is to learn from the PACEs.

Parents and students working together produce the best results. The Home Educators Kit explains many of the procedures in completing a PACE. Please take the opportunity to review these points with the student.

- Look through a new PACE with the student to familiarise yourselves with the PACE and its content.
- Have the student read aloud the first page to the parent. The parent can assist the students to review the phonic sounds located at the bottom of many of the PACEs.
- Encourage the student to read everything on a page.

- Review the vocabulary words, pronunciations and word meanings with the student. The student will not be able to understand the words when used in a story if the word cannot be pronounced or its meaning is not known.
- A PACE is normally about 3 week's worth of work. The average student (depending on their grade level) needs to do 3-5 pages per day in each subject. Working through the PACE in 'bite-sized' chunks each day is the best way to learn.
- Do all working in a PACE in pencil. This makes it easier to correct mistakes. Parents should ensure work is completed neatly and students have used a ruler. It makes it much easier to read, score and review.
- Students must score their work with a Score Key when indicated in the PACE. If the PACE does not have scoring boxes at the bottom of the page (e.g. some high school subjects) students should score at the end of the day's goals, and indicate scoring done by circling the page number in red pen.
- Parents should keep Score Keys secure, and they should be used only under parental supervision. Do not put temptation in the student's way.
- Students must mark incorrect answers with a red cross, and go back to their desks and correct any mistakes. At this point, the parent can assist the student to turn back and locate the correct answers. Use this as an important life-training experience. We should always correct our mistakes in life. To leave them unresolved only causes problems later on.
- Rescore the work and move on.
- Checkups are to be completed without looking back. They are a mini-test, and will give the parent valuable feedback on how the student is going. Students should get a minimum 80% pass in a Checkup. If not, have them review and re-do work up to that Checkup.
- The Self Test should be done on the next working day after the student has finished the last page of work, and has had time to review the concepts. No looking back through the PACE while taking the Self Test is allowed. Guarantee the student of success; do not let them proceed until they are ready. Allow a maximum of one extra day for review.
- If the student receives a minimum score of 80% on the Self Test (90% on PACEs 1001- 1036) then they are ready to proceed. Have the student review any concepts they were not sure of, then hand the PACE into the parent. The PACE test is taken on the next working day. Have the student complete the PACE Test under test conditions. The PACE or written notes cannot be used unless specifically stated on the test. Encourage the student to read each question carefully before answering.

- The student hands in the completed test to the parent, who will mark the test using the Test Key inside the Score Key. If the parent is confident that the student has achieved the minimum pass mark of 80% (90% on PACEs 1001-1036), the parent can issue the next PACE to the student.

CHECKLIST

- Fill in all required information on the *Student Form*.
- Provide photocopies of any requested or relevant documentation, for example:
 - ◆ Last Primary or Secondary School Report Card.
 - ◆ *Home Educator's Training Course* certification, (for those families using ACE curriculum).
- Payment to Hebron Homeschoolers.

State government legislation requires home-schooling families to register with their state's Education Department. Many families choose not to register, as Education Departments require that families then submit their education plans for the department's approval. This is a matter for each family to prayerfully consider. Further information is available from the HH office.

DISCLAIMER

Information in this Hebron Homeschoolers information pack is correct at the time of printing (18/06/2019), but may be updated.

FAMILY FORM USE BLOCK LETTERS

PARENT / GUARDIAN 1 or ADULT STUDENT

Title		Work Phone	
Surname		Mobile Phone	
Given Names		Country of Birth	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Occupation	
Email		Relationship to Student	
Home Address			
Postal Address			
Home Phone		Home Fax	
Signature		Date	

PARENT / GUARDIAN 2

Title		Work Phone	
Surname		Mobile Phone	
Given Names		Country of Birth	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Occupation	
Email		Relationship to Student	
Home Address			
Postal Address			
Home Phone		Home Fax	
Signature		Date	

STUDENT FORM USE BLOCK LETTERS
STUDENT DETAILS

First Name		Date of Birth	
Middle Name		Age as of Jan.1, 2019	
Surname		Year Level for 2019	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Country of Birth	
Date of entry into Australia if not born here			
Email Address			
Relationship to Parent / Guardian 1		Relationship to Parent / Guardian	
Last school enrolled in?			
Progress at last school?			
Reason for leaving last school? (optional)			
Does the student enjoy schoolwork?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Has the student made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Does the student regularly attend church?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
If Yes, please state the Church name and the Pastor's name.			
Has a parent completed the Home Educator's Training Course? <i>If YES, please provide documentary evidence.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	

NONCUSTODIAL PARENT INFORMATION REQUEST

Name		Phone	
Address			