

## THEAC State-wide Forum Feedback Questions and Answers

#	Questions	Answers
1.	Can someone start a 'Resource library' for home education	LINC/Library has advised that any current home educator and library member can request an extra library card for borrowing extra books. There is also an online form that can be filled in requesting the library purchase books that are of interest.  Some high/secondary schools are happy to donate last year's text books.
2.	TAFE Course participation from earlier age i.e. 12 not 16 years?	Phoning the TAFE campus direct and asking to speak to the course Coordinator is the best approach, particularly for younger student enquiries.
3.	THEAC representative for liaising with Centrelink for home educators &/or a central home education Centrelink contact person for home educators	The website has a link to the social security act and the relevant section relating to Home Education. If future budget and time considerations allow, a THEAC representative to liaise may be provided.
4.	Is THEAC (OER) increasing the support staff to reflect the increase in home education numbers?	The level of staffing available to support families will be responsive to the number of programs that are registered to ensure that service standards are maintained.
5.	Can THEAC run courses for home-educated students?	Not within THEAC's scope and THEAC cannot promote or advocate for particular programs or content.
6.	Would love an 'Info Hub' a one-stop place for links, resources, what's happening etc.  Could also include free resources online and around the state, popular home educator used websites and programs.	THEAC are continuing to update the resources on the website to support program development and provision. With time and budget constraints this is a limited area but THEAC strongly encourage the Home Education community to share this information and/or set up info-hubs through social media or supporting bodies like HEA, HEN and local Home education groups.

7.	<p>THEAC forums as an annual event or annual funded conference and invite experienced home educators to cover various topics like –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying learning difficulties etc and how to access services etc.</li> <li>• How to work and home educate</li> </ul>	<p>THEAC understand from the feedback gained that there is value in the provision of forums and are planning similar events in the future. Annual conferences and other events are encouraged from the supporting bodies like HEA, HEN and local home education groups.</p>
8.	<p>Conversation/written paper discussing the different home education styles e.g. school at home as opposed to natural learning etc.</p>	<p>THEAC website can provide links to key websites to inform researching your home education program. If a home educator wants to express interest in writing an article about their education style, this can be communicated to Council via email to the office.</p>
9.	<p>Funding / lobbying for funding for home education – is anyone doing this? Is there any history of anyone doing this? Can home educators access the same ‘funded places’ that teachers and schools access? For example -professional development programs for teachers -speech therapists, gifted assessments and all of the programs and services that are VERY expensive when sought independently. Yet school children automatically get access. - Funded access to things like the Marine Discovery Centre and other places that schools access and are funded to attend.</p>	<p>THEAC and the OER are not in a position to lobby the government for funding. THEAC provides advice on request to the registrar and Minister but is not a lobby group. Through other home educators’ groups such as neighbourhood networks etc lobbying may occur. Schools fund their own activities and excursions from their budgets.</p>
10.	<p>Positive Strong Media. This may be in place already. However, I was thinking a media plan covering home education in our local papers to the community and directly targeting to the education department. Mainly to drive home that this is a valid legal highly supported option for families. The success of home educated children, the highly engaged students in our community and the</p>	<p>The recent article in the Mercury, regarding Home Education, is one example of the positive media relationship being fostered by THEAC and the OER. The associations regularly engage in positive media.</p>

	support and the encouragement from the government in this option.	
11.	<p>Lastly, perhaps some re-branding of the THEAC logo and head letters etc to look more modern?</p> <p>Not wanting to offend anyone here - however I do feel if we are to be taken seriously and seen as a modern way to educate our children we need to look the part too.</p>	<p>This is not something that can be done under the current model, but can be noted for future discussions with the Registrar.</p>