Report of HEN 2016 survey results

This online survey ran from Sept- Nov 2016.

There were 317 Victorian respondents with children of registerable age (6-17), of these 294 were registered representing 11% of families registered with the VRQA.

**Registration**

Which of the following describes you:

- Registered home educator: 92.7%
- Unregistered home educator with no intention of registering: 4.7%
- Unregistered home educator willing to register under reasonable regulations: 2.5%

**Primary Reason for Home Education**

What was the primary reason for your initial decision to home educate?

- Problems in school: 27.1%
- Religious conviction: 19.6%
- Diverse learning needs: 14.5%
- Philosophical reasons: 11.0%
- Thought I could do a better job than school: 11.0%
- Wanted to be with my children: 11.0%
- Other (please specify): 5.7%
Respondents answering ‘other’ frequently said it was too difficult to name a single factor and indicated various combinations of the choices given. Of those indicating different reasons:

- Travelling or living overseas at some point
- Medical reasons
- Sexual assault
- ‘concerned by their lack of literacy and numeracy skills’
- 2 families indicated special needs funding for their child had been spent elsewhere in the school. 1. ‘The funding for integration aiding corrupt; school used it on students who were not funded and in another classroom, so my #1 child missed out on 2 years of aiding. #2 child’s funding went into general revenue at very small rural school to fund a pay rise in 2 senior teachers’ wages (was told this in a general meeting with school council when I asked where it was as it didn't show up on financial report). I had sent a great deal of $ on private medical and speech assessment, with reports, to submit for funding applications, and funding was apportioned to the particular needs of my children. Yet, it became public property when the schools got hold of the funds.’

**Withdrawal from School**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Did you...?</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home educate from the start</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw child/ren from school</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home educated initially and children entered school later</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A mixture for different children (please specify)</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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Of those indicating a mixture for different children, the common pattern was to withdraw the first child from school and for younger children to have never attended school at all.
Home Education as a Last Resort

Home Education is a last resort for at least 23.7% of families. Some of the ‘others’ indicated it was their first choice and some that it was neither first nor last.

The nature of School Problems

Responses under ‘other’ were complex with many indicating school problems were a factor but not the only factor that led to home education.
Diverse Learning Needs

Respondents indicated they were home educating 239 diverse learning needs children between them, with 68 respondents home educating more than one such child, and many indicating they were home educating additional children without special needs.

Distance education

When you began home education, if distance education had been available would you have used it?
HEN membership

Of the 317 Victorian respondents with children of registerable age, 216 were current HEN members.