



Auckland Home Educators Incorporated

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Ministry of Education – Auckland Home Educators

Meeting May 2010

The following notes have been taken from the meeting minutes and are designed to highlight some of the topics that we discussed including MOE's responses and current position.

A more complete summary will be published in AHE's up-coming Bulletin.

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- MOE are hosting an **Exemption Forum** Monday 14th June 19:30 to 21:30 at their Auckland office.
 - Will cover Secondary aged exemptions
 - Includes special education as a topic
 - Open to all but with a small cover charge for non AHE members or you can become a member for \$20
 - More information about forum registration will be distributed by separate notice in a day or two

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- Of the applications MOE have received this year to date (224) 31% required additional information. The type of info missing was:
 - Missing birth certificate
 - Not separate applications per child
 - Missing data – section 21 not met
 - To MOE it is clear that many applicants are not reading the information pack guidelines (particularly items in italics)
 - We suggested that people may not understand the requirements / guidelines
 - They stated that they provide a lot of help to applicants to get people through successfully
 - They have anecdotal information that Auckland region doing ok compared to other regions
- Declined applications can always be restarted from scratch
 - There is no limit on the number of times you can apply
- MOE would wish regional and local support groups to be assisting applicants by:
 - Advising people to read the information pack, very carefully
 - Assisting people in understanding the requirements
- With the lesson plan, they wanted it made clear that it is one individual lesson e.g. 'the life cycle of the monarch butterfly' as opposed to a series of lessons or broad topic e.g. 'The Universe'
- Concerns were raised that there is a feeling in some quarters that if you put very little in the application, the MOE will tell you what to write. They have asked AHE to ensure people are aware this may make it MORE difficult to obtain an exemption, not less
- Applications should be made at least 1 month before child's 6th birthday.
- Legally a child cannot be withdrawn from school while an application is in progress.
- Note that Truancy Services does check with MOE to ensure applications are in process.
- MOE encourages the use of student ID cards for home educated children to protect them from accusations of truancy. These are available for AHE members



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- Issue is content and quality, not quantity. Quantity will not improve the probability of acceptance if the content and quality are deficient.
- A brief application submitted 10 years ago may have been accepted whereas today they need to be 10-12 pages. This does not reflect changes to the act but delivery in schools where there is now an emphasis on the individual child. This change within the education system is reflected back in the MOE assessment of applications in terms of “as often and as well”.
- Without regular ERO reviews, the MOE is now being more stringent at the application end of the process.
- Accordingly the MOE are looking for individualised applications. It is not acceptable to copy an old one or to use the same one a parent used for a sibling with a few minor changes.
- A parent may outline the same resources for their children but MOE expects to see them applied / used differently to reflect the different children’s individual requirements
- As noted above an identical application for children of same age / gender will not be accepted. If the children are extraordinarily similar then that should be articulated so the MOE understand the parent has considered the differences. Irrespective of this the MOE would expect some differences in the areas of:
 - Social contact
 - Resources (to some extent)
 - Programme – to reflect some differences in the children
- MOE are looking for the parent to demonstrate the right “intent” in their application even if they don’t get the language right. If the intent is not apparent then the application is at risk of being declined
- MOE have shown their commitment to continuing to dialogue with AHE on behalf of groups from the greater Auckland Region. It is our intention to continue to work on behalf of local groups and disseminate information and raise concerns with the MOE as the opportunity arises. If you have any concerns you wish us to raise, please get in contact with the AHE Secretary on secretary@ahe.org.nz
- Future meetings with MOE have been planned