

NCHENZ activities 2007-8

2008 marks a decade since the Council was formed. We want to thank the parents who have donated their time over the years to create this organisation for the benefit of the home educating community. The Council was first suggested at a TEACH conference in Feb 1998, in the days before broadband internet made networking easy. Over the next few months interested homeschooling parents travelled from all over the country at their own expense, to attend a series of weekend conferences where different models of working were discussed and a constitution proposed. Incorporation was completed in June 1998.

We have printed a certificate of appreciation (which could be put in a CV) and have sent them to a number of people who have actively supported this organisation over the years. Let us know if you would like to nominate someone for a certificate.

This year we have Skype hookups for our AGM and will conduct future meetings via webcam. Over the past year we have dropped FTF committee meetings to once a term and conduct most of our business by email, forwarding relevant business to the Council via a yahoo group.

Website

A huge thanks to Tarnya for website work. We have previously relied on our children to do our website for us. Having an adult on the committee to update the website regularly has meant we have been able to include a lot more information that reflects what we have been doing over the past few years.

Liaison

ERO

NCHENZ meets with ERO annually. In late 2007 NCHENZ/AHE members were pleased to meet Dr Graham Stoop, the new director of ERO.

NZ Vice Chancellors Committee, Tertiary Education Commission

Changes to admission policies of universities flagged in early 2008 led us to check our information with the NZVCC and the TEC (see qualifications page). Thanks to NZVCC staff for checking our information very thoroughly and making some adjustments.

We were hoping for a discretionary entrance pathway to become available to homeschooled students, via either an entrance exam or submission of a portfolio of work, but it seems that without NCEA our students will have to gain entry via foundation courses where open entry is no longer available. See [here](#)

Correspondence School

We also wrote to TCS to confirm our understanding of their new young adult category. Students age 16-19yrs taking TCS courses now have no fee required (apart from a school donation). Homeschooled students keep their exemptions as they are purchasing curriculum, not enrolling in the school. The removal of fees will be a help to those students taking NCEA through TCS.

Further details are on our website see the [government liaison](#) and the [Correspondence School](#) pages.

NZ Secondary Schools Sports Council, College Sport

Home educated students have for years been excluded from many high school sports due to clauses in some codes' constitutions that students have to be enrolled at the school longer than 6 months to be eligible to play.

We wrote to the NZSSSC and College Sport and asked them to advocate for us, with copies to SPARC, the MoE and ERO. We received a reply from the NZSSSC which we circulated to member groups. The Board of NZSSSC has discussed this issue before and has made a firm decision not to include home-schooled students. They suggest our students join community sports teams. Further information is on the [community](#) page.

National Library

The National Library has allowed access to 5 yo homeschooled children (previously the age limit was 6yrs). Our thanks to the Library, and thanks to CHE member Lennie who approached them with this issue. Further info on the [\(free\) resources page](#)

Networking

We were informed that there was outdated information about NZ on the US website Home Schooling is Legal. We have sent them an update which has been posted on [the site](#) (scroll down the page).

Publicity

We again made our poster available for homeschooling week in October. Rob from ERO took a copy to Australia where it was used in an education conference.

Future goals

Since we want to keep subscriptions minimal we will have to source funds to replace Telecom points. We will continue to assemble information for our website. One area of interest to us is the changes suggested for secondary school education.

Marianne Wilson

outgoing coordinator 2008