



National Council of Home Educators New Zealand

NCHENZ Quarterly Newsletter

March 2016

Dear NCHENZ Member,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

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Home Educators in the News

[Why I chose to homeschool our son who has Down syndrome](#) (article on Stuff.co.nz)

[Homeschooling Pacific Children](#) (video clip from Tagata Pasifika)

[Young baker gets his diploma at 16](#) (article from Rotorua Daily Post)

If you see home educators in the news please email NCHENZ the link or a scan of the article.

Update from Ministry of Education Meeting

by Meredith Connolly

We've had an update from MOE with regards to requests for home visits.

In summary the majority of cases, applicants who receive requests for more information will continue to have the OPTION of how they would like to give this information.

It may be by phone, email, at a neutral place, or in your home.

We (NCHENZ) would suggest that most requests could be easily handled by phone or email. (Email does leave a better 'paper' trail if anything comes up down the track).

If you would prefer to speak to the advisor in person then we suggest you do so in a neutral place to ensure that the conversation be about your application and "as regularly and as well".

There will be a small percentage of applications where a face to face meeting WILL be required (this does NOT have to be held in your home). These may be situations where families have received help from different agencies and where MOE need to get a clearer picture of how homeschooling will affect these families and, more importantly, the child and their education. In these cases NCHENZ strongly recommends that you have a support person with you. You could also ask to record the meeting to avoid possible misunderstandings.

We are currently working with MOE to gain more clarity around what may trigger a request for a face to face visit.

This is something they will be working on in an upcoming hui where regional advisors will be gathering and until then definite answers can't be given.

Any request you receive should be about "as regularly and as well". You should in no way feel pressured to send your children back to school, follow certain curricula, timetables or methods. Please feel free to contact us at NCHENZ, or someone in your regional or local support group for advice or support if you are unsure. This is important as if MOE feel they are unable to obtain the information they need to satisfy "as regularly and as well" then they reserve the right to decline the application.

Cynthia Hancox also kindly makes herself available for supporting families through their exemption process. Please remember that she is a volunteer, and also has her own family and business to take care of.

Each regional director and the advisors are currently being updated on this policy from head office.

We will definitely keep you up to date with any further information on these visits and the guidelines around them.

Special Offers and Discounts for Members

by Nadia Sole

At the moment this is what you can access as a member of NCHENZ:

- Student ID cards (\$10 each)
- Reading Eggs (\$25 for one year)
- Mathletics (\$45 for one year)
- Spellodrome (\$30 for one year)
- Education Perfect (range of discounted options available)
- Maths-Whizz (next group starts in September)
- LEARNZ Virtual Field Trips, 30% discount
- 10% off purchases from ESA Publications
- Six month extension added to your Studyladder subscription

- \$5 off Gratitude Journals from Me Inc
- Successful Homeschooling Made Easy courses, 15% discount
- Cycle Sunhats and Sundicators from Treadley Australia, 15% discount
- ISIC card

You can find out more about any of these offers under the Members Area of the [website](#). Updates are posted on Facebook and Yahoo.

If you have an idea for any additional offers or discounts that you'd like to see in the list above, please make the initial approach yourself to the supplier and ask if they'd be open to discussing things further with me - then email me at info@nchenz.org.nz.

Warehouse Stationery Offer

We are excited to be a part of the new version of Support Your School™ Programme with Warehouse Stationery. The new rebate scheme will help NCHENZ to raise funds to continue to support our membership and community. All parents and members of the public can nominate our "school" (National Council of Home Educators NZ) either in-store at one of 66 nationwide stores, or you can enter our unique code BYS06PF while shopping online.

Supervisory Allowance

The home education supervisory allowance is paid in about May/June so you can expect to see the form in your mailbox over the next few weeks. The allowance covers the preceding six months. The first payment for a child new to home education will cover the period since the date the exemption certificate was issued. Payment is subject to confirmation that you are continuing to home educate "at least as regularly and well as a registered school" - you will need to sign and return the declaration stating this even if you do not want to receive the allowance. For more information and to see the annual allowance rates, please go to our [website](#). You are responsible for managing the process if you are absent from your home address for any reason or if you have moved. For any issues, to get a new form, or to return the form see the MOE contact details on our [website](#).

ID Cards

Currently AT Hop and CANDO/METRO ID Cards **expire 31 March 2016**. You can now apply for your student ID card for 2016. Application form [here](#). Please note, there will be a small price increase for ID cards from May 2016 to cover increased processing costs.

Pinterest and other Useful links

- We are on Pinterest! [Find great resources and useful ideas](#)
- Check your group is on our [NZ map of groups](#) and that your information is correct

- New to homeschooling? [See our frequently asked questions](#)
- What does a typical day look like? [Read about what home educators get up to](#) - we have stories from a wide range of home educators in our Typical Day section on the website

About NCHENZ

Set up in 1998 for the purpose of [advancing the cause of home education](#) in NZ at a national level, NCHENZ is the only national homeschooling body in New Zealand. NCHENZ is a neutral organisation with no affiliation to any political or religious groups. NCHENZ is run by an elected [Executive Committee](#) who volunteer their time for the benefit of NZ home educators. If you are not yet a member of NCHENZ please join, it's free - [just go to our website](#).
