



National Council of Home Educators New Zealand

NCHENZ Quarterly Newsletter

January 2020

Membership #<<Membership Number>>

Dear NCHENZ Member,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

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Executive Committee Changes

The Committee is really happy to welcome Krystal Ward to our fold. Krystal will be taking over Membership Secretary from Tanya, and Tanya will be moving to the member offers team so that we can increase the number of discounts for members. Krystal lives in rural Hawkes Bay and has been home educating since 2016.

IMPORTANT: The Education and Training Bill

Currently before parliament is the [Education and Training Bill](#) which completely rewrites and replaces (almost) all existing legislation around education from ECE through to tertiary. You can read about the changes and how they affect home educators by clicking [here](#). Most importantly, there is a loss to home educators of the right to appeal a declined exemption application. **We only have three weeks to make submissions.** Please read [this summary of the Bill](#) and consider making a submission before the deadline of **14th February 2020**. It is far harder for us

to make changes to an Act once it has passed into law, our opportunity to impact the Bill is at the submissions stage. Maybe it won't directly affect you, but what about all those who come behind? Further information is below in our Government Liaison Update. Please share this information with friends and family, and on your home education social media groups. You can make a submission [here](#).

2020 NCHENZ Home Education Survey

Please give us ten minutes of your time to complete our survey: [Click here](#)

NCHENZ surveys members every couple of years in order to gather information about those currently home educating in NZ. The NCHENZ Executive Committee use this information to guide the goals and objectives of NCHENZ, and to inform our meetings with the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office. Your participation helps us a great deal, thank you.

Homeschoolers in the News

[Waikato 8 year old becomes self-taught bird rescuer](#)

[Whanganui musician selected for NZ Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra](#)

[Ice dancing pair aim for the top](#)

Have you seen any home educators in the news? If so, please email the link or article to info@nchenz.org.nz

Member Offers for Term 1

by Nadia Sole, Member Services Co-ordinator

I've managed to negotiate some better rates for a couple of programs so we have some discounts for 2020!

Maths-Whizz: Starts 11th Feb, 7.5mth subscription expires 23rd Sep, \$30/child, for ages 5-13yrs

Reading Eggs/Eggspress: Discounted to \$28/child, 12mth subscription starts 1st Mar, for ages 7-13yrs

Mathseeds: Discounted to \$31.50/child, 12mth subscription starts 1st Mar, for ages 3-9yrs

Mathletics: Discounted to \$31.50/child, 12mth subscription starts 1st Mar, for ages 5-18yrs

Spellodrome: Great price of \$19/child, 12mth subscription starts 1st Mar, for ages 5yrs+

Education Perfect Maths, English, Science, Languages: Start any time, expires 31st December, \$105/child for all subjects or \$20/child for Languages only

Music Ecademy: Music theory and aural training, grades 1-8, start any time, runs for 1yr, \$50 for the first child, \$45 for the second child, and \$40 for the third and subsequent children

Tanya has been lured across to the member offers team (previously she was NCHENZ membership secretary) and will be taking over **Mystery Science!** This program is always very popular. The start date is 1st July each year but please note that enrolment is conducted three months prior as required by the supplier. Enrolment opens 25th February 2020 and closes 24th March 2020. Payment of \$35 must be made at this point. The subscription runs from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. There are no extra intakes during the year. We must have a minimum of 100 subscribers to go ahead with this subscription. Either diarise 25th February or keep an eye on the NCHENZ Facebook page to apply when enrolment opens.

Also check out [LEARNZ Virtual Field Trips](#) (30% discount for NCHENZ members), [StudyLadder](#) (free six month extension), [Wai Ako](#) (online Te Reo Maori for primary aged children), [student ID cards](#), [ESA Publications discount](#), and [International Student Identity cards](#).

Note: If you email me or enrol for a program and don't hear back within three days, please check your Spam/Junk folder before you email me again.

Government Liaison Update

by Cynthia Hancox

The Government have introduced a huge piece of important legislation over the Christmas period which could easily pass unnoticed, but **MUST NOT!** It is the [Education and Training Bill](#), which re-writes all legislation for every level of education from ECE through to tertiary, including trades, polytech etc. **Submissions for this Bill close 14th February, and it's important that as many home educators as possible put in a submission.**

Here's why: While the current government have shown no interest in making changes around home education, the review and re-write of the legislation has created a serious issue affecting home educators, and that is the removal of the right to appeal a declined exemption application. Those of you who have been around a while might think this is no big deal, as the advice used to be never to appeal a decline decision, but rather just reapply, but that is no longer the case, and there are some very important reasons why we **MUST** retain the right of appeal. I've written a longer article outlining this fully, which you can read [here](#). As for the appeal process itself, that was worked on with the Ministry a couple of years ago, and a new, decent process put in place which works well. Even if a decline decision is upheld on appeal, a parent can still reapply after that. But the right to appeal is vitally important as it is the **ONLY** way we have of ensuring that in situations where regional offices are acting outside of their purview, or inappropriately, that we can cause senior national Ministry staff and ERO to review the situation. Without the right of appeal, there would families who would never be able to gain their exemptions, despite submitting applications which met the requirements.

Please protect this right for all families by making a submission! The key points of this, and how to make a submission is included in the link above, as well as an additional suggestion I think should be included in the new Act, enabling 15 year old home educated students to move on to employment or higher education without the current roadblocks. I have also written a more detailed article about the situation for 15 yrs [here](#). And one which outlines all the segments of the Bill of likely interest or relevance to home educators, so you can see what other parts you may wish to consider making a submission on, as well as learn about laws that are or may be in of importance to your family. You can find that article [here](#).

Thank you for standing with me and NCHENZ as we work to protect the rights of NZ families who choose to home educate their children.

Public Library Survey

Do you use public libraries for home education?

Kia ora koutou

Do you use public libraries to help you with your home education? If yes, what kinds of things to do you use the library for? If not, why not? What are your experiences of using the public library? I am a researcher at Victoria University of Wellington studying how public libraries support home education. I have just completed a survey of public libraries asking them about the services and facilitates they provide and now I would like your views as home educators. I'd be very grateful if you could fill in the questionnaire which should take around 15 minutes to complete. Even if you don't use the public library, I'd be interested in your views. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and all of your responses are anonymous. To thank you for taking part, you have the option of entering into a prize draw to win one of three \$100 vouchers of your choice. Your contact details for the prize draw will be collected separately from the questionnaire so they cannot be connected to your answers.

To participate, please click on the following link: <https://bit.ly/36tpsoy>

If you have any questions about this survey, or have difficulty in accessing the site or completing the survey, please contact: anne.goulding@vuw.ac.nz. Thank you in advance for providing this important feedback. I will write up a summary of the results for NCHENZ when the project has ended.

Ngā mihi,

Anne Goulding (Principal Investigator)

Book Depository

You can click on the link below or from our website for NCHENZ to automatically gain points when you purchase from Book Depository.



Useful Links

- We are on Pinterest! [Find great resources and useful ideas](#)
- Check your group is on our [NZ map of support 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 promoting 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](#).

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