



Queensland Home Education Community Survey 2026

Preliminary Findings Report

Prepared by Home Education Queensland Inc. (HEQ Inc.)

Preliminary Analysis based on the first 344 responses, as of 1st July 2026.

Survey opened 1st June 2026, and remains open until 31 July 2026.

Executive Summary

The 2026 Home Education Queensland (HEQ Inc.) Community Survey is the first statewide survey designed by home education families for home education families, to examine the experiences, challenges, support needs and wellbeing of our community.

Analysis of the first 344 responses demonstrates that Queensland home educators represent a diverse statewide community spanning metropolitan, regional and remote areas. Respondents include both newly registered and highly experienced home educating families, with many educating multiple children.

The findings reveal several consistent themes:

- Significant financial pressure
- Parent burnout and mental load
- Social isolation and difficulty accessing local connections
- High demand for practical information and support
- Strong support for government advocacy
- A substantial proportion of families previously experienced negative schooling outcomes, particularly school refusal and bullying
- Parents' perceptions of home education become overwhelmingly more positive after commencing the journey.

Collectively, these findings provide evidence supporting investment in information, connection and wellbeing initiatives for Queensland home education families. .



Survey Overview

Item	Result
Organisation	Home Education Queensland Inc.
Survey Status	Opened 1st June 2026
Responses analysed	344
Survey closes	31st July 2026
Population	Queensland Home Educating Families
Survey type	Statewide voluntary anonymous community survey

Geographic Representation

The survey has achieved broad geographic coverage across Queensland. Respondents represent metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities, including:

Table 1: Postcode Regions Represented by Respondents.

Region	Representative Postcodes	Region	Representative Postcodes
Brisbane	4000–4208	Fraser Coast	4650–4659
Logan/Ipswich	4114–4133/4300–4306	Bundaberg	4670
Gold Coast	4210–4227	Gladstone	4680
Lockyer Valley	4340–4345	Rockhampton	4700–4704
Toowoomba	4350–4356	Mackay	4740
Darling Downs	4370–4406	Whitsundays	4800–4805
Sunshine Coast	4551–4565	Townsville	4810–4818
Gympie	4570–4571	Far North Queensland	4865–4888

The diversity of postcodes indicates participation from families across much of Queensland.

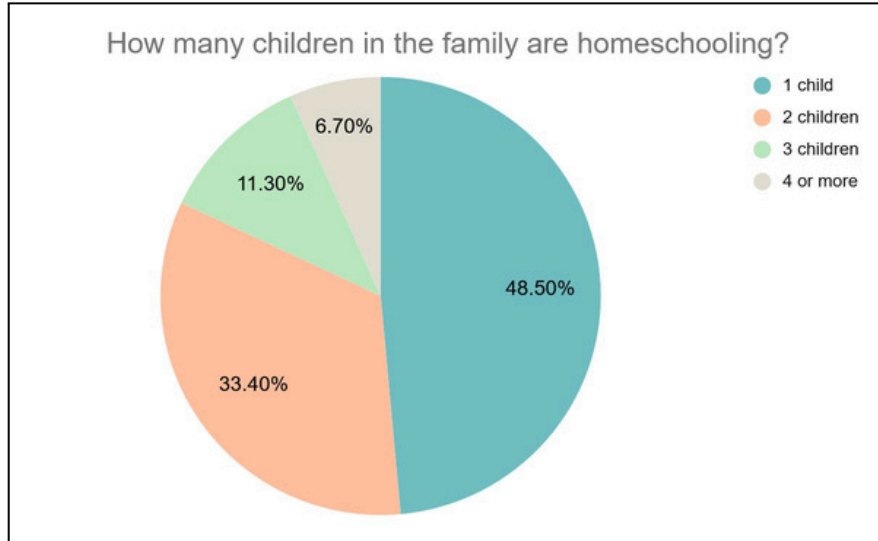




Respondent Demographics

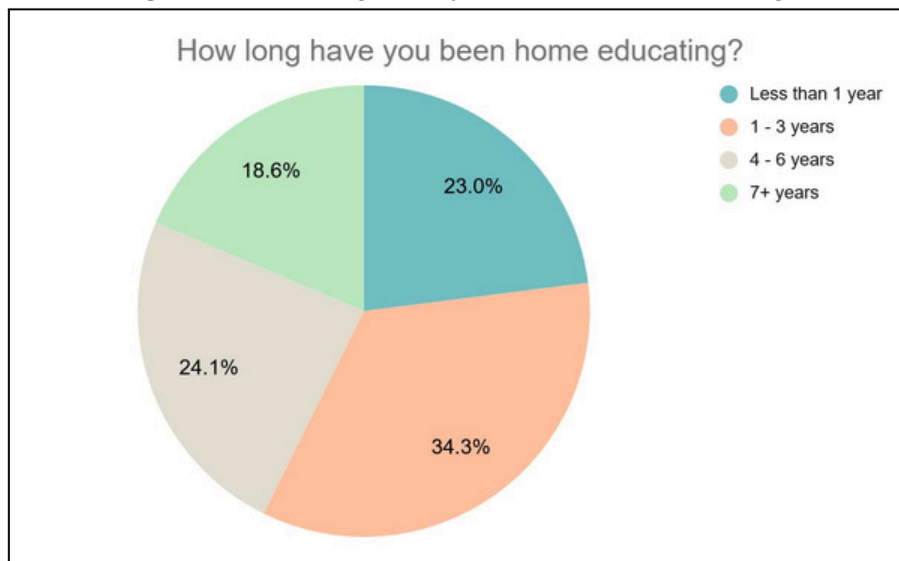
The survey includes families educating between one and four or more children. The majority of respondents are educating one or two children. A substantial proportion are educating three or more children, reflecting considerable experience managing multiple learners within one household.

Figure 1: How many children in the family are homeschooling?



Families represent all stages of the home education journey. The survey reflects both new and long-established home educators based on their responses to how many years they had been home educating, with over one third home educating for 1-3 years.

Figure 2: How long have you been home educating?



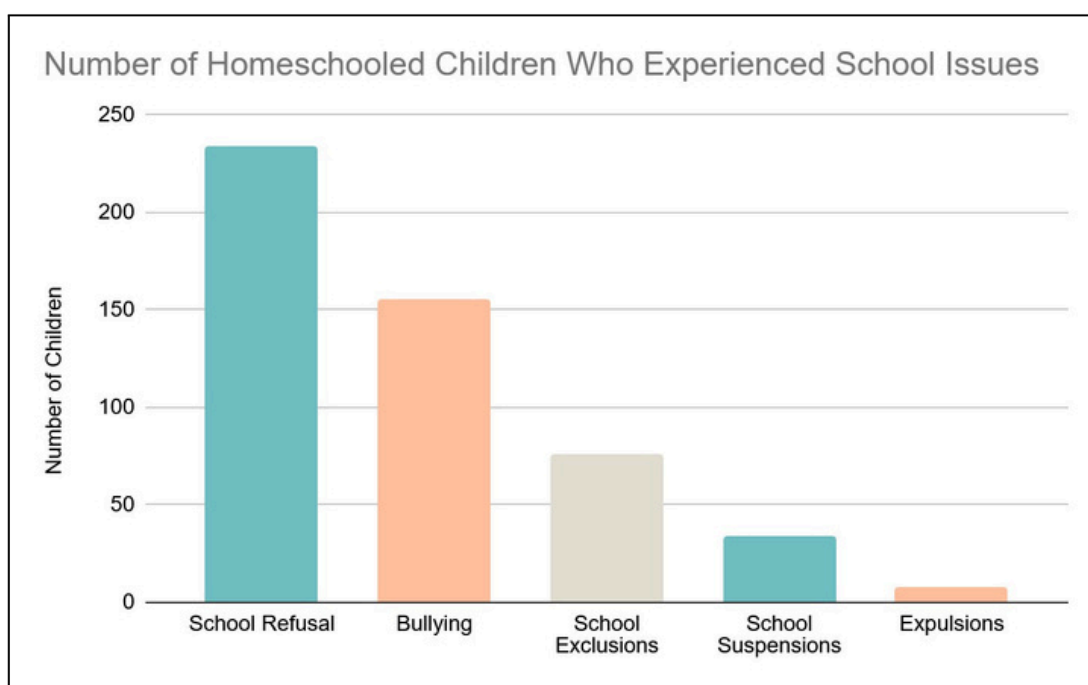


Previous School Attendance and Experiences Prior to Home Education

Many children had previously attended mainstream schooling before commencing home education, and they identified a range of adverse experiences.

Many respondents reported multiple experiences occurring simultaneously, particularly combinations of school refusal/school can't, bullying, and exclusion. Over 240 children experienced school refusal from the 344 families who responded, and over 150 were bullied.

Figure 3: Number of Homeschool Children Who Experienced School Issues



These findings suggest that the decision to commence home education frequently followed complex educational or wellbeing challenges rather than being a lifestyle preference alone. The findings also signal a move from school to home education after adverse events, which suggest that parents did not consider homeschooling as their first choice, and it was chosen in response to school issues.

The data highlights the need for significant support services, to help families with the impact of bullying and school refusal on their whole family.



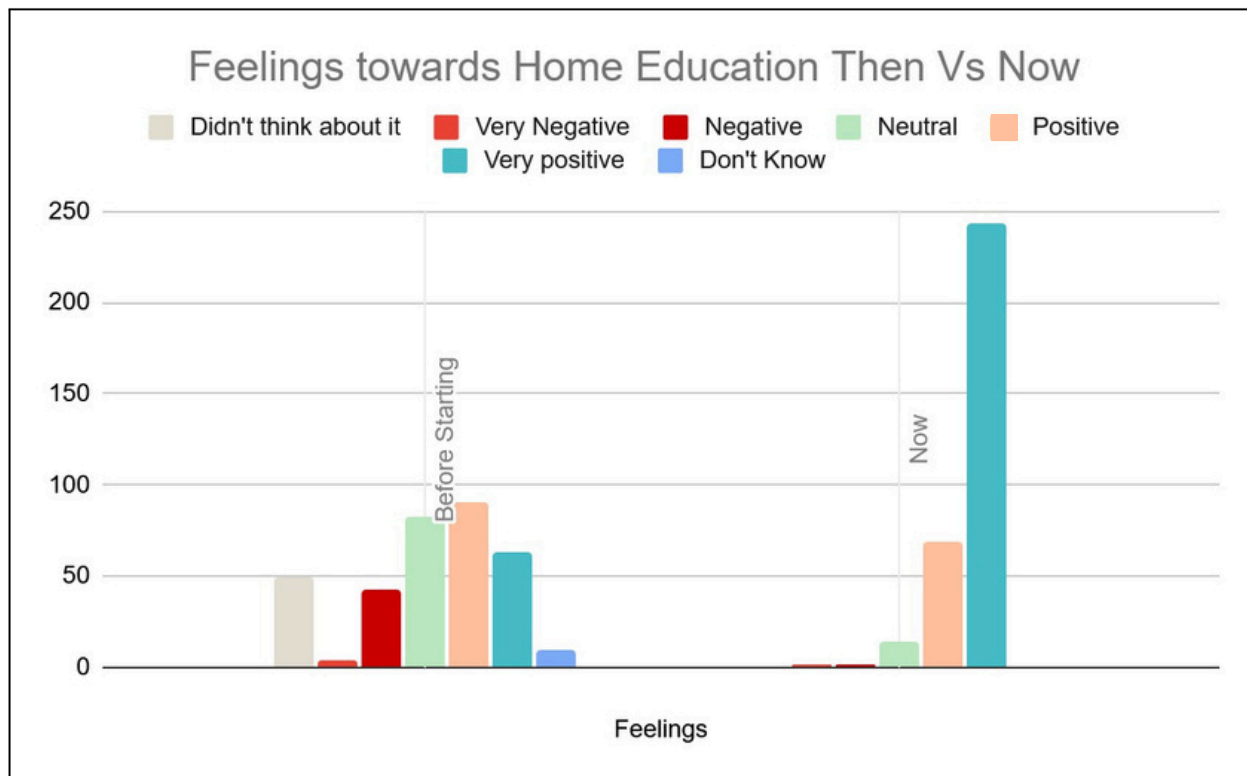


Parent Perceptions of Home Education

Parents were asked how they felt about home education before commencing compared with how they feel now.

A clear shift in attitude was evident. Following experience with home education, the overwhelming majority reported feeling **Very Positive**.

Figure 4: Before vs After attitudes toward home education.



This represents one of the strongest findings in the survey and suggests that many initial concerns or any negative feelings/stereotypes diminish with experience.

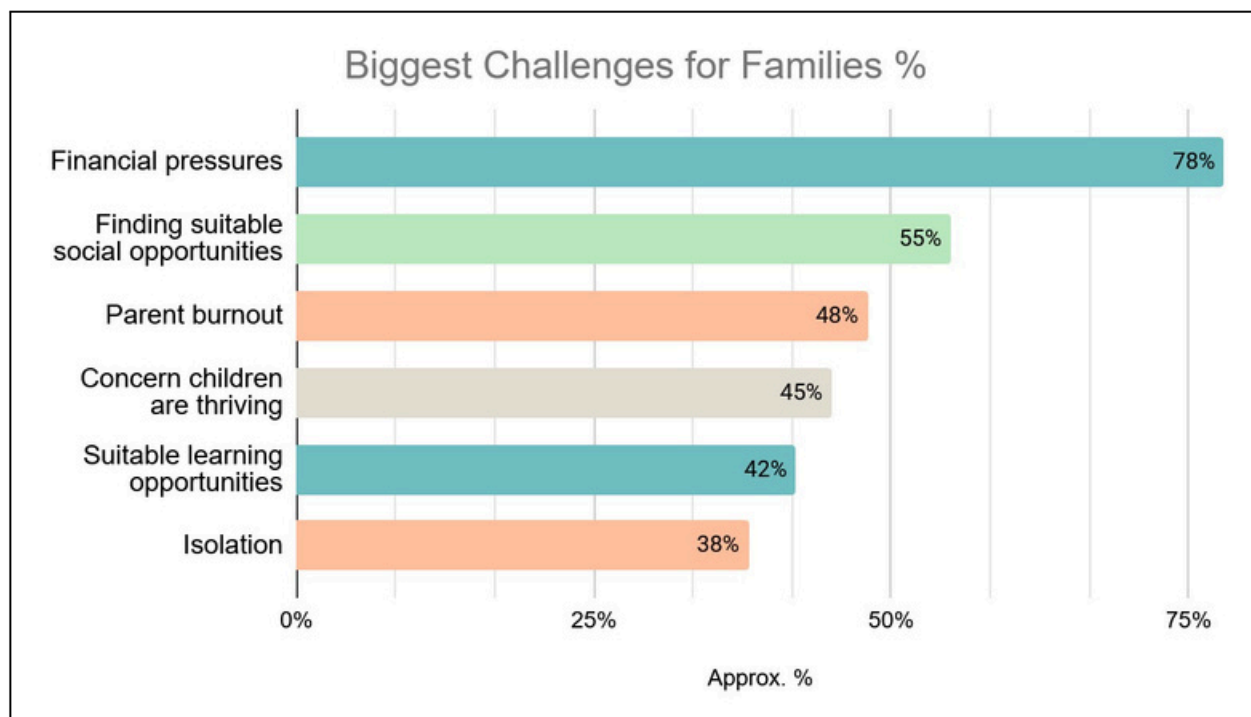




Current Challenges

Respondents selected up to five of their biggest current challenges. The data reflects that parents today are navigating a complex landscape of issues. Financial pressures stand out as the most pervasive issue at 78%, while over half struggle to find suitable social opportunities for their children. Nearly half report experiencing parent burnout, with significant concerns around whether their children are truly thriving and accessing appropriate learning opportunities. Isolation affects 38% of respondents, painting a picture of families under considerable strain.

Figure 5: Biggest challenges for Families.



Other commonly reported challenges included:

- Supporting children with additional needs
- Organisation and time management
- Finding curriculum and learning resources
- Registration and reporting requirements
- Senior secondary pathways
- Tracking children's learning

These findings indicate that families often experience multiple overlapping pressures simultaneously.

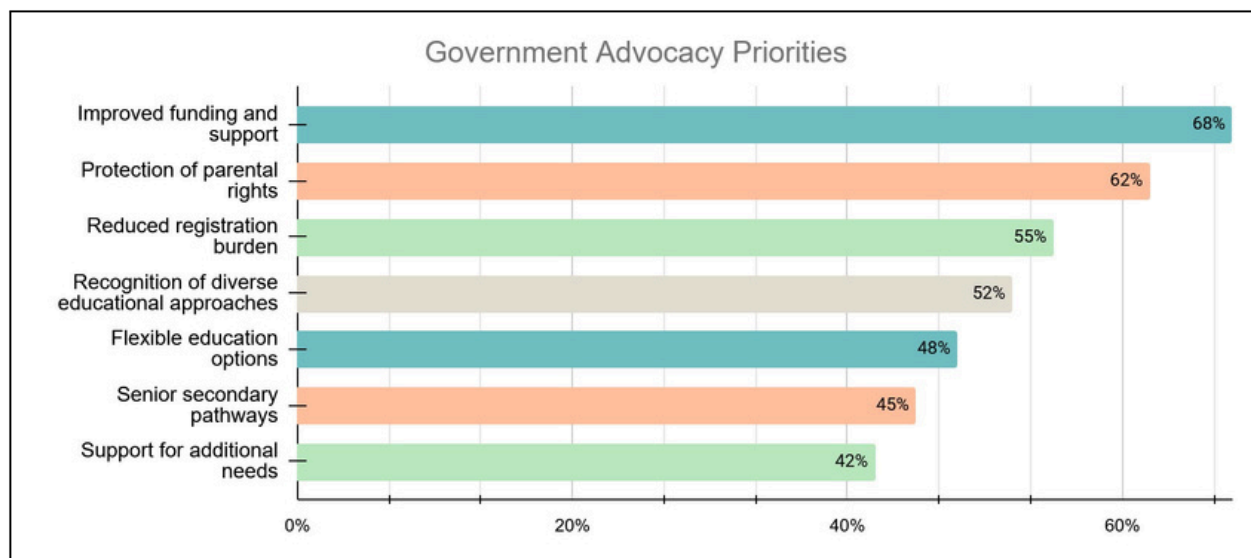




Government Advocacy Priorities

Respondents identified the issues they would most like HEQ Inc. to advocate for important areas for reform in home education. The strongest support was for improved funding and support, followed by protection of parental rights.

Figure 6: HEQ Inc Government Advocacy Priorities.



More than half of respondents also called for a reduced registration burden and greater recognition of diverse educational approaches. Other notable priorities included flexible education options, senior secondary pathways, and support for children with high needs.

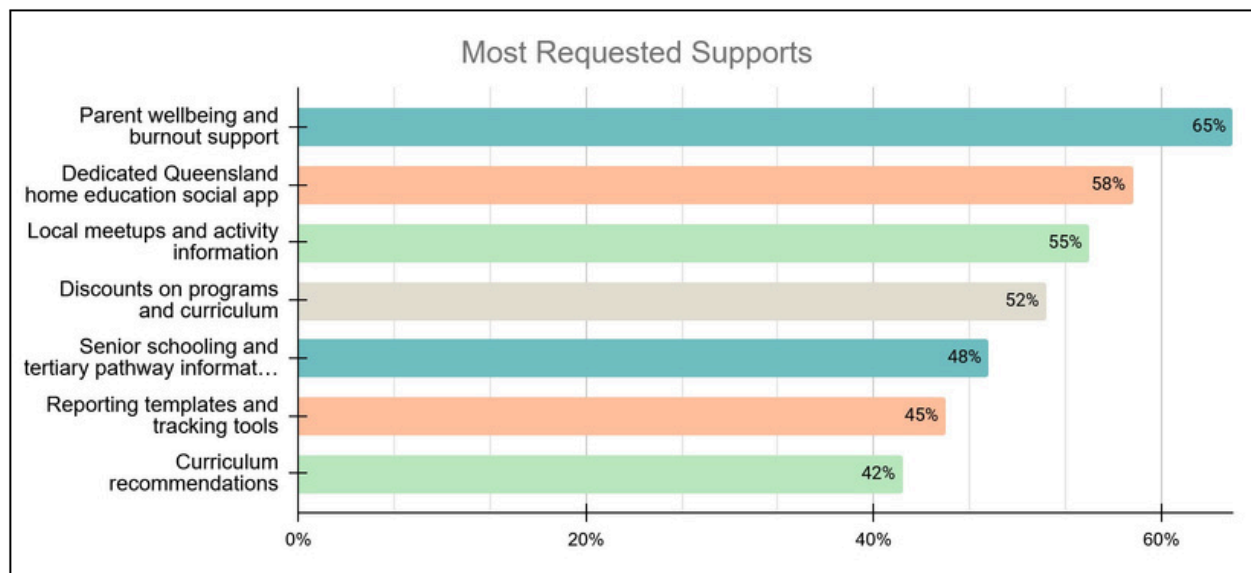




Most Requested Supports

Respondents selected up to ten supports they would find most valuable from HEQ Inc. Wellbeing and burnout support emerged as the clear top priority, with approximately 65% of parents indicating interest. This was closely followed by a dedicated Queensland home education social app, local meetups and activity information, and discounts on programs and curriculum.

Figure 7: Most Requested Supports



These findings demonstrate a preference for practical, accessible supports that reduce mental load and strengthen community connection. Parents particularly value practical, community-oriented, and personal wellbeing resources to sustain their home education journey.





Emerging Themes

Across all survey sections, four consistent themes emerge.

1. Financial Pressure

Financial stress is the most frequently reported challenge and is reinforced by requests for funding advocacy and discounts. All families have a significant reduction in their earning capacity when home educating. Two incomes often change to one with single parents struggling further.

2. Mental Health and Wellbeing

Parent burnout, isolation and concern about children's educational progress indicate significant emotional load among many families. A significant percentage of home education families consist of children with diverse needs.

3. Community Connection

Respondents consistently requested easier access to local activities, co-operatives, social opportunities and community networks. Sourcing what suits their children's needs is an often mentioned struggle.

4. Information Access

Families identified a strong need for reliable, centralised information about curriculum, registration, reporting, educational pathways and local services.

Implications

The preliminary findings suggest that improved access to trusted information, local connections and practical resources could alleviate several interconnected challenges experienced by Queensland home educating families. These findings indicate that a platform designed to meet parents' needs in one place would be helpful.

As such, the data supports the development of a centralised Queensland Home Education Directory and Community Platform that has the potential to:

- Reduce information overload
- Improve awareness of local services and activities
- Strengthen community participation
- Reduce administrative burden
- Improve access to senior education pathways
- Support parent wellbeing
- Connect families with specialist supports and peer networks.



Limitations

These findings are preliminary and based on the first 344 survey responses, primarily collected from families approached via Facebook. They are drawn from those families who completed a Google doc form anonymously online. Although HEQ requested that Queensland Home Education, Department of Education distribute the survey to registered families, this was not possible due to government survey approval constraints.

The survey remains open until 31 July 2026, and the results may change as more responses are received. Detailed statistical analysis of the data will be undertaken when the survey closes.

HEQ felt it important to capture Distance Education (DE) school families concerns as many families swap between Queensland Home Education registration and DE, and some families use both. Those families also need to be heard and 13 (8%) families identified as being with DE.

Where respondents could select multiple options, the percentages shown represent the proportion of respondents who selected each item and therefore do not add up to 100%.

Preliminary Conclusion

The 2026 HEQ Inc. Community Survey provides early evidence that Queensland home educating families experience interconnected challenges relating to financial pressure, social connection, parent wellbeing, educational administration and access to information.

The survey also highlights that many families commence home education following adverse school experiences, including school refusal/school can't, bullying and exclusion. Despite these challenges, parents report substantially more positive perceptions of home education after gaining experience.

Across all survey sections, respondents consistently prioritised supports that reduce mental load, strengthen local community connection and improve access to trusted information. Results reveal strong demand among home-educating parents for targeted support services.

These findings provide a strong evidence base for investment in a Queensland Home Education Directory and Community Platform, together with complementary wellbeing and community initiatives designed to improve outcomes for home educating families across Queensland.

Contact: info@homeedqld.org.au for more information regarding these results.

