

Home Education Foundation

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Charities Commission Registration Nbr.: CC24585 G.S.T. Nbr.: 55-380-562

I, Barbara Elizabeth Smith, of Palmerston North, National Director, Home Education Foundation affirm:

That I have a great deal of expertise in the area of home education, also known as home schooling, wherein a parent or parents decide to take upon themselves the task of schooling their child(ren). My assessment is that home education is superior to conventional schooling in that it routinely produces children who are academically superior, way above average in being well-balanced and secure socially; outgoing and participatory in the areas that make up good citizenship: community involvement, positive work ethic, participation in political elections and local body issues, volunteer work, etc. This is based on personal experience, wide reading and research, counselling and conversations with participants in the field and leaders in the movement both nationally and internationally as the following facts illustrate:

- a. I have been home educating some combination of my own eight children (aged 33, 31, 29, 25, 21, 16, 13 & 8) continuously for the last 27 years and plan to be at it for the next 8 years at least (when the youngest turns 16). None ever gained School Cert or any NCEA, but the first became a qualified Legal Executive and then a family budgeting/shopping/cooking expert plus magazine editor, creating and managing a book/tape/clothing mail-order cottage industry at home; the second a Marketing Director for a multi-million dollar mail-order book firm in the USA; the third an Avionics Technician with the RNZAF; the fourth an artist / interior decorator / craftsman / photographer / musician / cook./ early childhood expert; and the fifth is a USA Marine Military Policeman who is now stationed in Japan.
- b. My husband was the editor of New Zealand's only national home education journal, *Keystone* (a quarterly), since March 1995 (16 years). *Keystone* has readers in NZ, Australia, UK, Japan, USA, Mexico and China. I am now the editor of this magazine.
- c. My husband was also editor of New Zealand's only national political / legislative / professional trends monthly newsletter, *TEACH Bulletin*, since January 1997 (14 years).
- d. My husband and I planned and staged six National Home Education Conferences between 1987 and 1994.
- e. My husband and I planned and staged an annual TEACH Forum for home educators between 1997 and 2010.
- f. My husband and I counselled by phone, email, letters and fax hundreds of home educators wanting to get started or who have had a vast array of questions about the task since 1987 (24 years). I have been continuing in these tasks the last 3 years.
- g. We have been invited to many home education self-development seminars and conferences as keynote speakers from Kaitaia to Invercargill.
- h. My husband was invited to speak (and actually spoke to) home education groups in Melbourne, Australia; Tokyo, Japan and Fresno, California. I have spoken to home education groups in Ballarat, Australia.
- i. We have personally met and stayed in the homes of and have a working relationship with the editors of the two largest home education magazines in the USA, *The Teaching Home* (Pat & Sue Welsh of Portland, Oregon) and *Homeschooling Today* (James and Stacey MacDonald of Houston, Texas).
- j. We have subscribed for years to the world's only journal of home education research, *The Home School Researcher* of the National Home Education Research Institute of Salem, Washington, and am personally acquainted with and correspond with its founder and editor, Dr Brian Ray. I am very familiar with the research associated with home education: academics, socialisation, citizenship participation.
- k. We are the founders of the Home Education Foundation in New Zealand, a charitable trust, and work

Serving, Promoting and Strengthening the Home Education Community in New Zealand since 1986

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for it full time as editors, researchers and lobbyists.

1. We are personal friends or personal acquaintances of some of the top advocates and experts of home education in the world: the late Dr Raymond Moore (Moore Foundation) of Camas, Washington; Dr Bruce Shortt (author, *The Harsh Truth about Public Schools*) of Houston, Texas; the late Marshall Fritz (Separation of School and State) of Fresno, California; the late Chris Klicka, J. Michael Smith & Michael Farris of the Home School Legal Defense Association near Washington, D.C.; E. Ray Moore (Exodus Mandate) of Columbia, South Carolina; Imre Szoke, president of the Hungarian Home Schooling Association; Mike Richardson of El Hogar Educador near Saltillo, Mexico; Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn (*Teaching the Trivium*) of Muscatine, Iowa; (the late) Dr R.J. Rushdoony and Mark Rushdoony (Chalcedon Institute) of Vallecito, California;

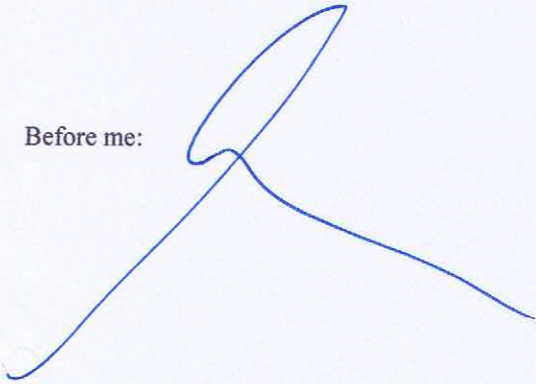
Signed: Barbara E Smith



Affirmed at Palmerston North *District court*

This *26* day of February 2014

Before me:



M. D. A. Campbell
Deputy Registrar