***What About High School?***
*by Bruce & Karen McNeice*

***Parental Concerns***

Many parents new to home-based education, have concerns about the high school years. Some have the misconception that once their children reach eighth or ninth grade, they must enrol them in a conventional high school. However, with home-education, you can start and end your home-learning journey whenever you feel it is appropriate for your child. Children can be educated at home from the day they are born all the way through tertiary studies (refer to section/article: 'What About University?’).

Another common question is: *"O.K. I know other folks have home-schooled right through; but how in the world would I go about home-schooling my high-schooler?"*

Perhaps you have concerns about not being qualified in all the specialised subjects (Chemistry and Physics for example). Perhaps you fear the record-keeping, or that you may not adequately prepare your child for tertiary studies. You aren't the first to pose these questions. Some parents, while enjoying the enormous benefits of primary level home-education, needlessly live in dread of the day they will have to face the issue of what to do for high school.

In working through this issue, some folks will benefit from a Distance Education program. The important thing is to ensure such a school is sensitive to your children's gifts, talents, interests, and/or special needs; however, many schools of distance education will merely have a lock-step progression based on the Australian Curriculum that does not adequately cater to individual needs that are outside the box.

There is another option - a non-government customisable correspondence program. At ‘Homeward Education Support’, we aim to provide a broad generous program, that also has individualised options to suit the needs of your family right up to graduation and tertiary preparation. It can also be individually customised for your family, and adjusted according to the unique needs of each child.

***Individualised High School Courses***

Your child’s high school plan is a preparation for careers, tertiary study, and for life in general. A ‘Flexible Arrangement’ program can be further individualised with one or more of the following aspects:

• Specific subjects that are a prerequisite for future tertiary studies in an area of interest;

• Specific texts that are typically used in the first year of a tertiary course;

• Part of your program can be based on apprenticeship-style work experience (paid and/or unpaid);

• Credit given for time spent on extra-curricular courses, hobbies, clubs, etc.;

• The student's and parent's own initiatives regarding how they will research, study and prepare for a particular career or multiple careers;

• A general research guide, which trains the student in methods of conducting research and presenting information within their chosen field of study;

• A custom designed plan of learning activities specifically related to your field of study.

***School-Based Traineeships & Apprenticeships***

‘Homeward Education Support’ assists students by arranging ‘School-Based Traineeship or Apprenticeships’ in an area of interest while completing their final years of home-education. This means that we can custom-design part of your high school program to prepare you for a certain profession or trade while you also gain work experience with an employer, do specific T.A.F.E. training if required; and gain accredited qualifications as well as your Graduation Certificate.