



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Mrs Dudley

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING HOME EDUCATION

Thank you for your e-mail message of 21 February 2014, raising issues about Home Education.

The DBE is aware of its obligations under the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 and is anxious to engage with the home education community and understand better the concerns of home educating parents and stakeholders.

Unlike many jurisdictions, our law makes explicit provision for home education, safeguards the rights of parents and the child in respect of home education and recognises the duty of the state to uphold the child's right to education under the Constitution. Until such time as amendments to the law are made or policy is changed the only national provision for home education is through section 51 of the South African Schools Act, 1996 and the only national policy on home education is the 1999 policy.

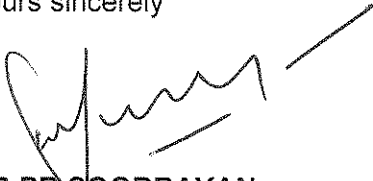
My Department has assigned a task team for home education matters which include stakeholder representatives, to manage the finalisation of a draft discussion document on home education which has been under preparation for some time. Part of the task team's work is to examine current provincial law, policy and practice concerning home education which will help to promote greater consistency and equity in the provincial management of home education matters. It is envisaged that the draft will be ready for public consultation by August 2014. The issue you have raised and the questions posed, constitute an integral part of the policy review process being conducted by the Task Team led by the DBE.

The task team will consult with Umalusi in order to understand its role with respect to curricula, the quality assurance of home education and the certification of home educated learners. The task team is keen to consider all relevant research and would welcome being directed to research studies and findings on home education that it might not be aware of.

I appreciate that you have listed some of the issues about home education that have been raised by your constituents. Your input to the DBE Task Team, arising out of your engagement with stakeholders in Western Cape, will be both welcomed and appreciated

Your co-operation in this regard is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



**MR PB SOOBRAYAN
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 13/03/2014