

**To the Parliamentary Enquiry on Homeschooling
Questions on Notice and amendments to submission
From Michele Vieira**

Honourable Members,

Thankyou for the opportunity to gather more information and answer your questions.

Firstly, **could you amend my submission** to state that it is primarily the domain of Family and Community Services instead of *It is the domain of Family and Community Services to oversee child protection* .

Secondly, **in response to requested examples of politicians and political parties influencing** what our children are required to learn, history is a good example. Bob Carr, when he was premier of NSW, mandated History study to year ten. The Federal Labour government brought in the National Curriculum on which the NSW syllabus is based or being based as it is progressively introduced. The federal Liberal government have introduced a review of the national curriculum now they are in power.

Thirdly, **in response to the request to provide more information about the HSC and homeschoolers:**

Homeschoolers are not permitted to sit the HSC. As a self-tuition candidate, anyone (including homeschoolers) may sit some HSC subjects and then only the

actual exam mark counts, not the moderated score as is the case with students at school. The subjects available under this method do not include any subjects which require a practical component like any of the Sciences, Creative and Practical Arts etc...

From the Board of Studies website:

<http://ace.bos.nsw.edu.au/ace-8057>

HSC courses available for study

Only the following HSC courses are available for study by self-tuition:

English (Standard); English (Advanced); English (ESL); English Extension 1; General Mathematics; Mathematics; Mathematics Extension 1; Mathematics Extension 2; Languages (all courses); Ancient History; Business Studies; Economics; Engineering Studies; Geography; Information Processes and Technology; Legal Studies; Modern History; Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE); Software Design and Development; Studies of Religion I; Studies of Religion II.

However, this exclusion does not stop homeschoolers' entry into tertiary institutions. In many universities, there are a high proportion of students who are not fresh from the HSC in their first year studies: mature age students, international students etc... Our students just use other pathways to get into university than the HSC.

If you are interested in these routes – some use partial completion of a degree studied at home via distance education through Open Universities Australia or one of the universities offering distance education like Charles Sturt University, University of New England, Macquarie University etc... Alternatively, some students have completed a Foundation Year course offered by the university they wish to attend. Others have completed a Tertiary Preparation Course through TAFE. Others have completed a certificate 3 or 4 or Diploma or Advanced Diploma through TAFE or a private provider and then transferred to university. Others have used a portfolio approach. Others have used sitting the SAT or the STAT test. There are many options.

That is not to say that some homeschoolers would not appreciate access to some HSC subjects. In an attempt to provide a quality education to their children, many homeschoolers would value the availability of distance education of single subjects in areas in which the parents felt less able to provide a quality education. This would then be part of the education they provide their children and would also facilitate smooth transition from homeschooling to further study and work. I imagine most homeschoolers would put their children in school if the total HSC was required, but single subject study would be beneficial.