



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOME SCHOOLING

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REPORT INTO HOME SCHOOLING RELEASED**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**5 December 2014**

The Select Committee on Home Schooling has made a number of recommendations that aim to improve the registration process and educational opportunities for home schooled children. The inquiry and report followed a 10,000 signature petition submitted to Parliament in May this year, in which many people in the home schooling community voiced concerns about the regulation of home schooling by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards.

“First and foremost this inquiry has provided a forum for home schooling families to have their voices heard” said the Chair of the Committee, the Hon Paul Green MLC. “The inquiry received over 270 submissions and I believe that the information that has been provided to the inquiry, and which is on the public record, can help to debunk some of the widespread misconceptions about the home schooling community and their practices.”

The committee has recommended a comprehensive review of the requirements and registration process for home schooling, in order to improve rigour, consistency and transparency (recommendation 8). “Recent changes to the registration requirements were implemented without comprehensive consultation with the home schooling community. This led to widespread dissatisfaction, so much so that it culminated in a petition being lodged with Parliament”, said Mr Green.

To promote greater stakeholder engagement in the future, the committee has recommended that the Board establish a consultative group that will include at least four home schooling representatives (recommendation 12). The Chair said “To move forward, and to enhance the regulatory model for home schooling in New South Wales, the Board and the home schooling community must actively engage and consult with each other, particularly with the development and implementation of all policies”.

“While the report does not go as far as all in the home schooling community would have wished, the recommendations made in the report aim to maximise the educational opportunities for home schooled children” said Mr Green.

The summary of recommendations from the inquiry is attached. The report is on the committee’s website: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/homeschooling](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/homeschooling).

-ENDS-

*For further media comment, please contact Committee Chair the Hon Paul Green MLC, on 9230 3484.*