

**Submission  
No 20**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Name:** Mr Jeremy Fox

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Jeremy Fox

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY

My name is Jeremy Fox, I am 20 and have grown up being homeschooled by both my parents. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to voice my opinions about home education and the wonderful benefits that it provides.

I would like to comment on the following terms of reference:

(b) the current context of homeschooling in New South Wales including:

(i) outcomes of home schooling including in relation to transition to further study and work,

I was homeschooled up to the age of 15 (mid 2009). After which I jumped straight into the TAFE system and completed a Certificate III in IT (Software Development and Applications), a Certificate IV in IT (Web Design) and a Diploma in IT (Web Development). All this I finished by 2011, which allowed me, at the age of 16, to enter the Bachelor of Information Technology at the University of Newcastle with a whole year's credit off my degree, and a scholarship, based on my TAFE results. I finished the program at the end of 2012, majoring in Digital Media and Entertainment. Since then, I have been employed full time for the last 18 months as an ICT Support Technician at Covenant Christian School, a private school on the Northern Beaches of Sydney.

Now, at the age of 20 with a full time job and a Bachelor under my belt, I am at a stage in life that barely anyone my age is at. I feel that home education is the main reason for this being the case, and I hope that this opportunity is kept for the current and future generations of kids going through the homeschooling process. I have had the opportunity throughout my life to interact with a diverse range of people across a wide range of ages. I personally feel that my homeschooling background has had a great impact on the development of my social skills.

(ii) financial costs,

Homeschooling families save the government money, as they provide all the educational materials and learning opportunities out of their own pockets. Their dedication and sacrifice should be acknowledged and supported.

(iii) demographics and motivation of parents to home school their children,

My parents are highly educated, and are dedicated to providing good education to my three youngest sisters who are currently being home educated. My other sister, who turned 18 in March, has completed a Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques, and has just recently been accepted into a Bachelor of Arts with a Bachelor of Science at Macquarie University.

(c) regulatory framework for home schooling including:

(i) current registration processes and ways of reducing the number of unregistered homeschoolers,

The current registration process is not supportive of parents home educating. On the contrary, it is onerous, burdensome and doesn't assist at all in the education of the child - personally, this makes me very angry. I hope that the future registration system will both involve home educating parents by consulting with them, and support and encourage those that choose to educate their children at home.

(iv) potential benefits or impediments to children's safety, welfare and wellbeing,

It is very important to ensure that children are raised in an environment that is both safe and provides them with the best possible education. I feel that active involvement in the community ensures that kids are being raised in the best possible circumstances. While I was being homeschooled, my family spent a lot of time with other people inside the homeschooling community and in wider society. We regularly attended church and youth group, swimming and gymnastics lessons, and participated in many other group activities and excursions. My sisters and I were always well supervised and looked after in everything that we did. I had a very happy and safe childhood, with many fond memories. I also have strong relationships with those in my family, most especially my sisters and my parents, because we spent so much time together.

(e) representation of home schoolers within Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BoSTES),

There is currently no member representing home educators on the Board, even though BoSTES is responsible for the regulation of home education in NSW. Personally, I feel very strongly that there needs to be both representation of, and consultation with home educating parents.

I hope that this inquiry is able to gain a proper understanding of the dedication of home educating parents, the high quality of the education their children receive, and the support they deserve.

Thanks again for allowing me to voice my concerns and opinions.

Yours truly,

Jeremy Fox