

**Submission
No 191**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY

Firstly, I would like to stress that I am very happy with our local Authorised Person. He has been very supportive, available and informative.

There are, however some aspects to the NSW BoSTES homeschool registration process that I find difficult and counter-productive as follows:

- the level of daily documentation required is too much for me and distracts me from my task of being fully present with my children. My memory is not good and so to accurately document our conversations as they weave themselves into our day means that I must halt the flow of creative thought with "hang on, I have to write that down before I forget!". Clearly this is quite disruptive and I do not think there is sufficient value in this type of record keeping to warrant the loss of flow in our learning day. Also, my children dislike the idea that someone or something is watching their every (learning) move. For them, it is a disincentive to learning and quite an unnatural way to live and learn.
- The registration process looks for proof of learning. This is not always easy to supply as children have different learning styles and not all are able or willing to supply the necessary proof. For example, my 14 year old son's spelling and grammar are both excellent, but it is a very unpleasant process requiring him to write a page of "proof" for the registration visits. I much prefer a culture of trust in the parent who cares enough about their child's education that they are willing to engage personally and not to abdicate responsibility to an outside agency.

On the positive side, there are aspects to the registration process that I am quite happy with as follows:

- I am very happy to check my childrens' educational progress against the BOS outcomes and to tick them off as we achieve them.
- I am very happy to write a report for each child periodically that clearly shows their progress in each key learning area.

Additional thoughts about homeschooling in NSW:

- I am aware that schools receive substantial funding from the Government to education children in the classroom situation. The funding allows the children to have educational opportunities that they might otherwise miss out on. It is hard to understand how the Government can feel it's ok for homeschooling families to do what they do entirely self-funded without any Government assistance. Is it only a wealthy person's right to educate their own children? Additional funding would enrich my childrens' learning experience in many ways and provide them with higher quality leaning tools and richer experiences.

Our learning style may best be described as natural learning and has been adopted by my children as their preferred way to learn. This means that they do not sit down at their desks with a maths text or an English text for set periods of time each day. The learning that takes place each day can be broad and also can reach levels of detail that are be surprising. It results in children whose performance across the key learning areas is very good due to their ability to follow their instincts and to go deeply into and explore what interests them. I would appreciate a registration process that seeks to support the

education of each child and which takes great care not to impede or impose in any way that is detrimental to the final educational outcome.

Thank you.

Helen Lynne