

**Submission  
No 194**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Name:** Mrs Suzanne Rosenberg

**Date received:** 8/08/2014

---

## **Submission to the Legislative Assembly Select Committee Inquiry into Home Schooling**

As a Home Educator I make the following Submission to the Committee.

### **Outcomes of Home Schooling including Transition to Further Study and Work**

While completing Year 9, our home-schooled daughter found it very easy to cope with the theoretical component of a Certificate IV in Dance that she completed, gaining a merit with distinction. She also sat the Year 9 NAPLAN tests with very high results, and completed three other Ballet exams, some at distinction level. Home Schooling has empowered her to pursue what she most loves. I have noticed a marked improvement in her enthusiasm since we engaged in Home Schooling and full-time dance. She has blossomed as a person and is much happier and more confident.

### **Financial Costs**

We spent a moderate amount of money on Home Schooling, and a large amount on the full-time dance course our daughter so much wanted to complete. Home Education saves costs to the Government if a child no longer needs to attend public school. I believe it would be right for Home Schooling families to be able to claim educational expenses via the tax system.

### **Demographics and Motivation of Parents to Home School their Children**

Our daughter wanted to study dance full-time and the only way for this to be possible was to home-school her. We are both trained teachers, my husband now working in IT and myself with five years experience in teaching and librarianship and now a home mother. My research and our experience has taught me that Home Schooling offers children a wealth of educational experiences, catering to multiple intelligences and differing learning styles and interests, and meeting a broad range of outcomes in a real world context. The research conducted by Alan Thomas (1998: Educating Children at Home) has been of particular interest to me. In particular I believe in the importance of meaningful conversations between adults and children as key to effective and rich learning.

### **Characteristics and Educational Needs of Home Schooled Children**

Our eldest daughter was always achieving well at school, but was not finding it stimulating or geared to her interests. Another daughter, whom I plan to home educate, has been described by several others as having a unique way of doing life. She is very artistic and has also tended to find school doesn't meet her interests, and has therefore reacted with a lack of enthusiasm.

### **Comparison of Home Schooling to School Education including Distance Education**

Home Schooling comes in many forms, and research (Thomas, 1998) tends to support the idea that parents who engage in meaningful dialogue with their children are very likely to achieve learning that is equal or better than that received in a classroom. Over the last year we have engaged in community events, watched relevant videos, discussed the news, talked over issues as a family, visited extended family including ageing relatives, and attended two funerals and a wedding, visited aged care facilities and played music for them, helped out on a farm, attended dance eisteddfods and productions.

### **Training, Qualifications and Experience of Authorised Persons**

I believe that the Approved Persons need to have a knowledge of the theory that underpins Home Education. Because learning can occur in settings widely differing from the conventional classroom, I see it as imperative that Approved Persons understand both the School setting and Home Education models. I have found Approved Persons to be very supportive and helpful, but I would have preferred them to be better aware of Home School models of learning.

### Adherence to Delivery of the New South Wales Syllabuses

I see these syllabuses as very comprehensive and helpful. I believe Home Schooling should be required to meet their outcomes, but that a very broad range of methodologies be recognised. With appropriate monitoring, Home Schooling can adequately cover the NSW syllabuses.

### Potential Benefits or Impediments to Children's Safety, Welfare and Well-being

Home Schooling offers huge advantages in that it caters to individual interests. With adequate monitoring, abusive home situations can be detected and the situations addressed.

### Representation

If I understand correctly, the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards does not currently have a home School Representative. I find this unacceptable, if the BoSTES is to monitor Home Education.

Thank-you for your attention to this submission.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs) Suzanne Rosenberg