

**Submission
No 12**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Mr Brian and Mrs Ruth Bosveld

Date received: 5/07/2014

The Director
Select Committee on Home Schooling
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax: 9230 2981

5th July, 2014

We write with regard to the parliamentary enquiry into home-schooling in NSW.

We are home-schoolers in Tasmania. We have ten children and we commenced home-educating our eldest child in 1998. None of our children has ever attended a regular school.

In this state, the Tasmanian Home Education Advisory Council (THEAC) was established to monitor and assist home-educating families. THEAC has always been very helpful. Every two years, its representative visits our home and thoroughly checks each child's progress. Following their report, and the deliberation of Council, we receive a letter from the Minister for Education acknowledging our home-school program. This minimal oversight provides us with encouragement in our efforts and also the assurance that we are achieving acceptable standards. Our children have access to the NAPLAN testing through THEAC. We are also able to take part in the University of NSW ICAS tests/competitions following verification of our registered status. We have no problem receiving Centrelink benefits for our years 11 and 12 students, because we are registered with THEAC.

The curriculum we base our children's schooling on is Accelerated Christian Education. It provides a thorough academic and Christian framework. Annual ACE state and national conventions provide competition in key areas such as academic, art, craft, platform, sport, photography and music. Our older children have also been able to access additional courses through the state government's Flexible Learning program. Home-education has enabled us to meet each child's needs in a way we could not have done had they gone to school. The acceptance of home-schooling in this state means there are a number of active groups where children can get together and do different activities with other home-schoolers. These excursions have been a great resource for us over the years. Most recently, our younger children have enjoyed a learn to swim program.

Our eldest daughter was accepted into a Bachelor of Music course, majoring in piano, as the result of an audition, while she was still in year 12, as part of their High Achievers program. Our next child was accepted into a Bachelor of Surveying and Spatial Sciences directly without the regular state qualifications.

We hope that the evidence of how well the Tasmanian model works will encourage the NSW government to pursue a similar course.

Yours sincerely,
Brian and Ruth Bosveld