

**Submission  
No 228**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Name:** Ms Hannah Cox

**Date received:** 28/09/2014

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To whom it may concern,

Hello,

My name is Hannah and in light of the recent NSW Senate Home Education Enquiry I felt it would be appropriate to share my home-education experiences with you.

I was home-educated from Kindergarten to year Seven. During this time I was taught by my mother, who was also home-educating my four other siblings. She did this with the never ending support of my father. During this time I not only completed the curriculum requirements for my age group but was able to develop and pursue a keen interest in Music and Art, winning the Conservatorium of Music award for most outstanding student two years running. Along with two other siblings I also studied French with a native speaking tutor who was a finalist in the Nestle Write Around Australia creative writing competition in 2005.

Upon applying to school in Year Seven I won the school Music and Art scholarships consecutively, as well as finishing in the top five students overall in both years Seven and Eight. (Achievements I accredit to my advanced academic standing upon entering the school system). During this time I also completed my 6th grade AMEB Music Examination with Honours.

At the age of 14 I moved with my family overseas where I attended the British International School, Jakarta. Despite changing curriculums from the Australian education system to the British one I achieved an A grade average in my GCSE examinations as well as winning the school prize for Theatre, the Young Musician of the Year award and the Young Artist of the Year award. Following this I undertook the International Baccalaureate graduating with an IB score of 40, (equivalent ATAR of 98.05), the school prize for Theatre and the CIS International Student of the Year award.

I am now an Undergraduate Student at the University of Sydney and run an Art Commission business.

The foundation of my education in a home-education environment not only allowed me to fulfill my potential as an artist and musician, but provided the opportunity for me to excel in both creative and academic areas which were of interest to me. (I was the only child in my first year of school-year Seven-to have read over ten of Shakespeare's plays and familiar with the concept of self disciplining myself for the sake of achieving academic success.) Not only did being home-educated allow me to achieve academic success, it also enabled me to create and maintain strong bonds with both my parents and siblings; the foundation of a strong family unit that has allowed me to be confident, self assured and supported throughout my social and academic development. Home-education has also allowed me not to fear committing to striving for the highest level of achievement, as my biggest competition was always myself, preventing me from cruising through the most important developmental years of my life. Finally, being home-educated meant I was taught by the people who knew me best and loved me most, meaning every lesson was moulded specifically to suit my personal developmental needs and intellectual ability. I was never under-stimulated or without support. Having two siblings with learning disabilities I learnt, through home-education, to work with varying levels of academic ability in an environment that was supportive, inclusive and maximized the potential of every child individually. Through home-education I developed the crucial social skills which I value today.

Home-education is a blessing and has without a doubt made me the high achiever that I am today, but more importantly it has instilled within me a passion for learning and the confidence to pursue an education and career that challenges and fascinates me.

Should you wish to speak to me further I would be happy to oblige,

Hannah Cox