

Submission  
No 5

## INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

## SUBMISSION TO HOME SCHOOLING ENQUIRY

Over the past few years it has come to our attention that there is a group of parents who enrol their children in Home Schooling because it is a requirement for the continuation of Social Security payments.

**They do NOT Home School but actively NON -School.** That means they positively do not teach their children anything. The belief is a child will learn if they want to! This includes the three "R'S". They can be very vocal in the fact they are Non-Schooling the child and the child may also be vocal as well (to the point of correcting you if you mention Home Schooling)

We believe this has huge impediments on the children's safety, welfare and well being. Often these parents have had a tertiary education, multiple qualifications and lots of experience with travel but for some unknown reason they are denying the same education for their children. We find this unfair and bordering on child abuse.

Some of these people live in remote areas with basic housing, isolate themselves and the children from grandparents or other family members and do not associate with others of differing views. The children consequently do not generally mix with children who attend school. It seems almost like a cult.

There have been two Non-Schooling conferences over the last few years that we know of. One was at Airlie Beach and more recently at Byron Bay. These run for about 5 days and workshops are held, including Government form filling (how to slip through the gaps?). Does the government provide any funding to run these conferences? Do the Non-schoolers, under the guise of Home-Schooling get paid to go?

We believe the motivation to Non-School is basically so the parents may live a certain lifestyle and the child's welfare is secondary. Other things that seem to allow them to continue this lifestyle is using cross border addresses. This is with split families. One may live in one state and the other in another state. This is confusing the authorities. The parents are also able to access extra Social Security payments because they are teaching their own children and it also means they are unable to attend job interviews or get a job. The Non-schooler allows them to continue to live the lifestyle they desire.

These children are not being given the basic right of education. Some children are unable to socialise or hold down conversations, they are frightened to ask even the simplest question. Children who start out bright, vibrant with an enquiring mind end up not even wanting to know, or do anything! We have grave doubts about these children transitioning into further education.

Non Schooling is big and growing. It seems to be driven from the US and Quinn Eaker ( a non-schooler) has been a guest speaker at least at one conference. What it also does is have a detrimental effect on the genuine person who is Home Schooling their child for legitimate reasons as Non-Schoolers are registered as being Home Schooled. The Home-schooling people should be worried about this. The Non-schooler teaches nothing. No reading, no numbers, no writing. There is no musical instruments, no sport etc. They require no support, except Social Security and actually hide from it. The Homeschooler will wait until the child shows an interest in something and then foster that interest, be it the piano, ballet, science, animals etc. Not so the Non-schooler.

Therefore we believe the check list for Home Schoolers needs to be very strict, the equivalent of what schools have...after all they are supposed to be educating our youth. Current registration processes do not seem to pick up the Non-schooler who is trying to pass themselves off as Home-schoolers. We know that at times when a child is supposed to hand work in for checking, the parents do it themselves and use their non-dominant hand. Everyone needs to be held accountable. If the controls are not in place we will have a generation where some children are under educated and on Welfare.

In summary Non-schoolers are passing themselves off as Homeschoolers and are not being picked up by any governing body. This needs to be stopped immediately because children under this dangerous group of parents are being damaged forever.