

**Submission
No 275**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Mr Graeme and Dianne Young

Date received: 4/09/2014

Graeme & Dianne Young

Submission to Legislative Council Select Committee on Home Schooling

The Hon Paul Green MLC

Dear Mr Chairman,

We wish to write in support of Home Schooling as concerned Parents and Grandparents

At the outset we should say that our children were not home schooled, they attended both public and private schools. We took an interest in their schooling being on the P&C Committees and otherwise involved in support activities within the schools our children attended.

Whilst our children were at school and over the past three decades, we have known a number of families within our circle of friends and also in our neighbourhood who have chosen to Home School their children. We always felt we could not do this ourselves but were nevertheless interested to know what motivated others to home school their children. It seems that there are different motivations but, some common reasons all parents have expressed to us.

The current concerns of Home Schooler Parents seem to us to be that they must ;-

- 1) be registered and when registered teach a set curriculum that includes some material to which they have objections.
- 2) teach only between certain regulated hours, whereas they desire to work in teaching around family activities.

In our visits to schools and knowing school teachers within the public school system it is apparent that lack of discipline is a real impediment to learning. There also seems to be a lot of down time in schools and therefore, at home, the same amount of school work may be accomplished in less hours. These factors seem to motivate some parents to keep their children apart from schools. A parent understands the emotional and physiological needs of their child and is able to encourage and motivate their child better than a teacher who may not be able to give any special attention.

We can only state what we have observed. In one family both children were home schooled and entered the University of Sydney at the age of 16 and have completed their degrees. The older boy went on to do a Medical Degree and is now a Doctor at Campbelltown Public Hospital. The other home schoolers we know, that have finished school, have good jobs and are in full employment. We believe the young home schooled children we know are certain to do well in future life. There are so many opportunities for home schooled children to socialise in sporting clubs and other cultural activities to help them develop as well rounded and productive citizens in our society.

We submit therefore that if home schoolers must be registered the conditions of registration should not prescribe more than the basis three R's be taught and allow parents to move through a curriculum at a pace that suits the individual child. Our Society can only benefit by having the future generation educated in diverse ways and not all be clones of a monolithic system.

God Forbid