

## INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 7/08/2014

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Partially Confidential

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY**

Our names are \_\_\_\_\_ and we thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and participate in this inquiry. Through our 13 years of experience home educating our children we believe the current changes and further proposals infringe on the rights and abilities of parents to home educate their children in NSW.

We would like to comment on the following terms of reference:

In our experience the process for registration up until recently has been a helpful experience with the approved person being very positive towards home schooling and offering advice and tips to further improve our delivery methods and outcomes for our children.

As we have older children now who have and are entering tertiary education we have found that homeschooling has well prepared them for adult life, independent learning, for the social skills required to fit in and thrive and for them to be able to handle the workload required to complete their chosen courses. Our eldest son, for example, has been homeschooled throughout his whole life and has successfully entered an Undergraduate Engineering degree at Macquarie University, which he is thoroughly enjoying and performing well in.

We are both university educated ourselves being holders of Bachelors of Applied Science of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy from the University of Sydney. We have chosen to home educate for a variety of reasons but in particular we enjoy the ability to individualise the education curriculum and delivery to the particular needs and learning styles of each of our 6 children. We find that our children's social, cognitive and spiritual needs are also better served in the homeschool environment.

We have had children with diagnosed learning difficulties who have thrived in a structured homeschooling environment which has catered to their specific needs in a safe nurturing environment. Thus allowing for them to learn at their own pace eventually reaching and exceeding age appropriate levels.

We accept the responsibility that homeschooling presents its own financial costs and that we have borne those costs ourselves at no direct expense to the NSW government which in turn gives us the freedom to choose how to educate our children while still meeting the outcomes of the Key Learning Areas as set by the Board of Studies. We do not expect the government to bear a financial cost for our children and in return we expect the freedom to educate our children according to their individual needs within and not exclusive to the BoS guidelines. However, recently the process has moved towards us conforming to a highly detailed set of criteria within the KLA's and then being heavily scrutinized against them, requiring a large amount of recording and cross-referencing to the KLA codes which is an onerous task that takes away from the actual teaching of our children. We understand that recording is an integral

part of home educating and ensuring the development of a child's academic progress and we have been satisfied with the system previously set by the BoS as both thorough and not onerous. We do believe through our research of the changes that this is going to change even more in a negative way that does not serve our children's learning well, nor our delivery of the education.

We feel that any changes to the registration must be done in conjunction with homeschool representatives who would properly represent the specific needs of the homeschool community. This community is committed to the positive educational outcomes of our children and would like the support not hinderance of the government in this challenging and rewarding process.

Thank you for your time in reading this submission

Yours truly,