

**Submission  
No 244**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Organisation:** Fizzics Education Pty Ltd

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Organisation: Fizzics Education  
Position: Director  
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**1) How long have you / your organisation been working with the Home Educating community?**

Two years.

**2) What kinds of activities have you / your organisation been involved in with the Home Educating community?**

Provision of science education enrichment workshops as per  
<http://www.fizzicseducation.com.au/Schools/schools.html>

**3) What comments would you make about Home Educated kids in your workshops/classes? (Behaviour, learning capabilities, learning styles etc)**

The home educated children with whom we've interacted through the Marrickville Home-school group have been not much different from a mixed group of Year 3 to 8 mainstream children. They've been inquisitive, socialised, and attentive throughout all of our workshops. The learning styles have been self-directed and they have generally operated in small collaborative groups to achieve learning outcomes in either guided learning sessions or station-based tasks. Behaviour has been adequate for what is expected for a fortnightly enrichment class (excitable but on-task). Several students are operating at an above-average level where as the others would fit their expected level for their learning stage.

**4) How do you find the interaction amongst Home Educated kids?**

They can be boisterous at times, but this is not unlike any other group of excited groups of students with a visiting guest. In contrast to a standard classroom the home school group more acts like an extended family, with older students working with younger students. This group has been working closely together for several years.

**5) How do you find the interaction of Home Educated kids with yourself (and / or your instructors)**

Respectful but they bring a robust discussion like any mixed stage 2/3/4 class. Like with any teacher-class relationship we have established boundaries and expectations and the students have responded in turn. I would describe this group of students as an average blended class in terms of ability, behaviour and interaction, not that much different from what you would see in a small rural school.

Due to the nature of science communication outreach I have worked with primary and high school students in over 700 schools for over 13 years; this group of students do not stand out in terms of difficulty in classroom management or lack of understanding of the presented lesson content.

**6) Are there any further comments you'd like to make about your experience with the Home Educating community?**

My interaction with the Marrickville home schooling community has been positive. The parents are very dedicated and the children have been great to work with. From an enrichment point of view it should be commended how they have engaged science outreach visits for fortnightly visits to their site. I cannot speak on their other activities but from a STEM point of view they are doing well at this stage. The home schooling community faces obvious challenges in terms of equipment and specialist access; if the parents regularly engage appropriate expertise as needed in varied social settings and students & learning spaces are assessed to accepted schooling standards & curriculum it can be expected the students will grow. Continued access to equipment and trained staff is critical however.