

Submission
No 214

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 10/08/2014

Partially Confidential

Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into Homeschooling

I have been home schooling my 14 year old son for 18 months, and would appreciate the following points to be considered in your inquiry.

1. My son, like many, has ADHD and found concentrating on school work in a busy classroom near impossible. As a result he underperformed, even with the assistance of dexamphetamine, which he had been taking for 6 years. He is now functioning without medication, is completely calm, and his self confidence, which had been completely eroded by negative feedback at school, has returned. He still finds school work a challenge, and would benefit from access to TVET courses now denied to him as a home educated student. I feel he is being discriminated against through no fault of his own.

2. I have found the registration process in NSW to produce a phenomenal amount of stress, to the point of having a severe impact on my capacity to supervise school work in the weeks leading up to re-registration. I have observed this same level of stress in almost all parents registering in NSW. My sister, who home schools in Tasmania, finds the process there to be completely supportive and focused on assisting the parents to offer an excellent education, in comparison to the NSW system that focuses on compliance and assessment.

3. As a member of a large local home-schooling network, I have noted that only approximately 50% of parents have their children registered. As parents communicate to prospective home schoolers the stress of the increasingly regimented home schooling registration process (both face to face and on facebook) more and more parents appear to be choosing not to register.

4. The following online petition, requesting a restructure of home education in NSW, to remove administration from BOSTES in favour of an independent council (following the model of THEAC) gained widespread support.
<https://www.change.org/petitions/nsw-minister-for-education-adrian-piccoli-we-request-that-you-establish-a-council-independent-of-the-board-of-studies-to-oversee-home-education-in-nsw>
. I include it to give the Inquiry insight into the feelings of a large number of people regarding the current system.

Sincerely,