

**Submission
No 256**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

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Independent USA based research continually reveals that the average homeschooled student does better academically and socially than the average public school student.

I homeschooled each of my children. They are all grown now. One is a successful software developer. Another a pastor who, based on his academic success, has been offered the opportunity to do a doctorate. Another is a Senior Engineering Specialist and Communications Specialist and holds a very responsible position. Another has a PhD. The last of these five children is developing a career in media.

I think that if my children went to public school and achieved the above, it would be considered a 'success'. How about recognising the success of homeschoolers - you might be surprised. Homeschooling parents *want* their children to succeed. They don't sit round singing kumbaya, eating raw turnip, and wearing flowers in their hair - *they actually commit themselves to something most parents aren't prepared to commit themselves to - the education of their children and all the time that demands*. It's a big challenge that they rise to. Why make it harder for them by creating more hoops for them to jump through?

I know many homeschooled students and adults, all of whom are doing well academically and socially.

Why the need to even 'inquire' into home schooling? It's successful - MORE successful than public schooling.

Homeschoolers have been doing fine without government intervention and interference, so why does Big Brother feel the need to interfere now? If you must continue the inquiry, would you please let sanity rule? What on earth is it that to fear of homeschooling? On *average* homeschoolers turn out to be better citizens, better educated, more socially adapted, less influenced by the bad behaviour of peer s, more able to learn independently - and it's nearly all at parents' expense.

Isn't that the kind of citizen that would benefit our country? Stop this insidious creep of legislation, restrictions, fear mongering, and ill-informed decisions. Homeschoolers are simply people who 'do' school differently and who are successful at it. Leave them to do their job.

Your time would be far better spent inquiring into things that effect all Australians - like bank predatory lending and illegal possession of homes when the bank no longer has legal title as they sold it to make \$squillions in the securitisation industry. But then, I guess the innocent, law-abiding homeschooling families of this nation are a much easier target - and those big banks and their illegal activity ... well, it's easier to close your eyes to their crimes than to try to tackle something *that* big.

Sincerely,
Susan Field