

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 8/08/2014

Partially Confidential

Dear Committee,

I have never been home-schooled. Two of my siblings have been home-schooled their entire lives. My other two siblings have been home-schooled for part of it. Our family therefore covers the entire spectrum of education relevant to this inquiry.

My experiences with home-education through interactions with my siblings and their friends have generally been extremely positive. They have access to incredible and varied education opportunities, they are socially advanced, they are emotionally mature and they will become well-adjusted members of society. In all respects, home-education is a valid alternative to schooling.

The topic of home-education is often polarising. Some strongly advocate that school is the best option for everyone, implying that the child should mould to the style of education that schools enforce. Others advocate the alternative position equally strongly. Both positions should be rejected. Home-education is not for everyone, and neither is traditional schooling. They both have their unique advantages and disadvantages, and they both benefit different sets of children.

This Inquiry should recognise that the education system is the servant of the child, and not the other way around. It should recognise the positive role that home-education plays in the lives of thousands of families and in society. Finally, it should ensure that there is support provided to parents who adopt education options aside from school.

Thank you and kind regards,