

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Submission for Home school inquiry

We started our journey into homeschooling after our second child had attended the local Public School for 2 ½ years. During those years he had cried on average 3 hours a day. He became increasingly withdrawn and unable to function. Even outside of school, he lost the ability to play creatively with his brother and was diagnosed clinically depressed at the age of 8, with an anxiety disorder. He was so anxious at school he didn't learn very much. His school councilor and year 1 teacher did advise us to find an alternative source of education for him. He has multiple learning disabilities. He went to the local public school, which was lovely. The staff were supportive but really he was a square peg in a round hole. He needed 1-1 teaching which was impossible in a class of 20-24 no matter how fantastic the teacher was.

We started to home school. The change in our son was remarkable. He returned to the happy, playful child from his preschool years within a month. I would love to say it was completely smooth sailing but that would be an exaggeration. We would have been helped by being able to access services/ advice or programmes for children with learning disabilities. Instead of having to spend thousands of dollars trialing programs & therapies that were not always the answer. After much effort he can now read & write. (Skills I had been told he would find almost impossible to do, given the degree of his learning disabilities)

I think the board of studies needs to be more supportive of homeschoolers particularly those with special needs who realistically cannot be catered for well in a class setting. Homeschooling is saving the government significant money by educating many students with extra needs outside of the school system.

Our child has had a wonderful opportunity to have his education catered to his interests and needs. He has been involved in the local home school community and attended many classes within that community.

Our Son is now a well-adjusted young man who loves learning. He has now re-entered the school system (albeit it a very small and supportive environment) and is coping well. We have no doubt this would not have been possible without the years of intensive homeschooling.