

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 19/06/2014

Partially Confidential

I saw that you are conducting an enquiry into home schooling.

I wanted to make a submission regarding my brief experience as a teacher's aide for a home schooling program.

When I worked at Moss Vale HS in 2011, I was seconded by a church group to provide assistance to a tuition program for students who were ostensibly home schooled. It was explained to me that in the area (Southern Highlands), home schooling was a euphemism for truancy. Parents who lacked the will or objected to sending their children to school would claim to be homeschooling them so that the local truancy officers would leave them alone. The church had set up a tuition program in response to this.

The child that I tutored (along with an ex-teacher) had very poor concentration skills. The mother was reputed to be very controlling (and I was told that she kept her daughter at home to keep tight controls on her). The mother also attended and kept a very close eye on her daughter. The daughter was doing distance ed. which in my opinion is next to useless as students are not provided with adequate learning materials. The program was a bit of a waste of everyone's time and I don't know if it continued.

My head teacher at the time was . He may be able to put you in touch with the program. I hope this helps in your investigation.