

Submission
No 227

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Ms Naomi Scott

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Partially Confidential

Legislative Council Home Schooling Inquiry

I would like to make a submission to this Inquiry.

My daughter, [redacted] and son-in-law, [redacted], have been home-schooling their four children, now aged 20, 18, 14 and 12 for 14 years. They live on the Northern Beaches in Sydney and have a Christian faith. I have been in close contact with them over that time and visit with them every week.

I have found that home-schooling has been a very positive way of learning and character building for these children. They have benefitted from a wide range of educational material, but, at the same time, their individual interests and giftings have been detected and nurtured. My 20 year old granddaughter, [redacted], is now studying singing at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and my 18 year old grandson, [redacted] is studying IT and the Japanese language at TAFE colleges. [redacted] 14, is gifted in music, among other things and [redacted] 12 is very creative in a number of areas.

The children relate well with people in all age groups and don't suffer the negative peer pressure that teenagers and even younger children can undergo at school. They are also respectful of their elders. In this, I enjoy the fact that my grandchildren relate with me in a loving and respectful way.

Because of the flexibility of home-schooling, [redacted] and [redacted] and their children have travelled to various parts of Australia as part of their education programme, writing in their journals and taking photos etc. They have also taken part in a lot of educational activities eg opera, ballet, Shakespeare plays, art galleries, sports events, individually as a family and together with other home-schooling families. The children have also taken part in ballet classes, piano, singing, violin and guitar lessons pottery classes, gymnastics, tennis and fencing lessons, train club etc and have enjoyed a very rich and wide education. They have also been able to take up part-time jobs eg paper-runs, working in food outlets, fitting them around their educational programme, which doesn't necessarily have fixed hours.

Overall, my experience with my own family and other families who have chosen to home-school has been very positive. It is my hope and prayer that families will have this option and the freedom to choose what they believe will be most beneficial for their children, within wise guidelines, for many years to come.

Naomi Scott