

**Submission  
No 151**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

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## Submission to the NSW Home Education Inquiry

“It is amazing how much kids learn in spite of their teachers.” This statement in an assignment nearly earned me a fail at university but put me on the 3<sup>rd</sup> yet oldest and most rewarding educational path.

As the president of the HEA I believe the HEA submission has done a thorough job of addressing the terms of reference and I have just one thing to add; **Home education applicants in NSW need 4 times more support from the Home Education Association than applicants in all other states.**

The HEA offers free support via phone and email. I have been a HEA support person for 5 years and the vast majority of the calls are from NSW. Of the calls from other states a single support response is generally all that is needed to find them a group, direct them to information or assist them with some templates to get started. However MANY people from NSW require ongoing support. First to help them through the legalities of withdrawing their child, sometimes how to handle the school (who will often tell them that they are not allowed to withdraw their child), then to interpret the documentation which is in complex edu-speak, then to show them how to write their program, and finally the HEA always offers to provide an experienced home educating parent to sit in during the AP visit for emotional and practical support. (I note some experienced NSW home educating parents are taking the option of a support person as well.)

In my long experience with home educated students, the outcomes are the same regardless of the amount of paperwork parents submit. Placing higher burdens on parents simply makes their lives more stressed and we can all do with LESS of that.

I encourage you to look towards the Tasmanian system which is run **by** home educators **for** home educators because home education is not school-at-home. It is an immersive and engaging learning experience tailored to the needs of the individual – something impossible in schools.

I thank the NSW parliament for the opportunity you are offering us to change a process which is not suited to the people it serves.

### **Tamara Kelly**

President

Home Education Association

Background: I am a registered teacher with 25 years experience in a wide variety of educational settings including:

- State School Classrooms (10 years P-12)
- Outdoor Environmental Education
- CSIRO Travelling Science Presenter
- English teacher in an Ecuadorian language school & for a Japanese cram & IT school

I have a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts (majors: Linguistics, Applied Linguistics & English Literature) and I currently work with a not-for-profit in social & economic development for regions in the lowest socio-economic quintiles.

### **Contacts:**

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