

**INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 13/08/2015

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Partially Confidential

12 August 2015

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Re: Vocational education and training in New South Wales (Inquiry)**

To the Director,

I am writing to urge you to consider the impacts on Home Educated students when conducting the Inquiry. As a parent who has recently needed to bring our child home and register with BOSTES for Home Education, I have the future educational needs of my child foremost in my mind.

The registration process within NSW is stringent and sufficiently ensures that each child is being educated at least to the standard of their peers. Additionally, it has been noted by many within BOSTES that they often succeed their peers in public education due to the tailored one-on-one educational approach afforded by Home Education.

Many home educated students undertake TAFE courses as a component of their home education program. As home educated students are ineligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate, many use a TAFE courses as a pathway to further study.

Home educated students receive no funding from the NSW government. Students who are registered for home education in NSW are meeting the compulsory education requirement of the NSW Education Act 1990 but they are not enrolled in a school and are not considered to be "school students" by the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) or TAFE. School students who wish to undertake TAFE studies are directed to school based apprenticeships or traineeships or TVET courses as a pathway to vocational education. Home educated students are excluded from these courses. Access to TVET courses and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships require that students be enrolled in school and therefore TAFE and DEC policy is that home educated students cannot undertake these programs.

Even were school based apprenticeships and traineeships available to home educated students they would not meet the needs students who wish to use TAFE as a pathway to university. This is because school based apprenticeships and traineeships are generally only to Certificate II and III level. While in theory a Certificate III is equivalent to the HSC, in practice a Certificate III is not an effective pathway to university as the ATAR it provides is very low. In contrast, a Certificate IV provides an ATAR that is sufficient to allow home educated students to access a wide variety of university courses.

If home educated students were considered to be "at school" it would be beneficial if being home educated was considered an "exceptional circumstance" that allowed home educated students to qualify for Smart and Skilled funding regardless of being "at school."

Trusting that you will view favourably the need for review to allow equal opportunities for home educated students as a result of this inquiry.

Yours Sincerely