

**Submission
No 210**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Mr Robert Menzies

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I am a product of the Public Education System and University.

I was a secondary school teacher in the Public Education System for 40 years before retirement, therefore while I am not intimately acquainted with home schooling, I do know some families which home school their children.

The family that I am most associated with home schools five children and I have found them to be excellent young people. I am associated with them through church, Kids' Club, Sunday School and just general socialising. Their general knowledge is very good and they are well adjusted.

Home schoolers are often accused of having poor social skills because of not mixing with other children at school. The children I know have excellent social skills because they are involved in sporting teams, learning music as well as the above mentioned church activities with other children.

I consider home schooling to be a very effective education system. As a high school teacher for 40 years I am well aware of what happens in many, not all, classrooms, especially with younger inexperienced teachers.

"Sit down. Stop talking. Stop walking around the room. Where is your book? Why didn't you bring it? Why didn't you finish your homework? If you keep doing that, you will be down to the Principal's office." These are all statements that can be heard coming from many classrooms and often only a minimum of teaching gets done. With home schooling these situations generally don't occur and so much more teaching can be done in a shorter period of time.

I believe parents should have the freedom to choose which form of education is best for their children, whether it be public, private or home.

Robert Menzies.