

**Submission
No 100**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 30/07/2014

Partially Confidential

Legislative Council Home Schooling Inquiry

I would like to make a submission to this Inquiry.

I am a mother of seven children who go to a Greek Orthodox School and I know three families that home school their children. The first family are family friends that we have met through our Church. The second family are an Anglo-Australian family that home schooled their children in Primary School and then sent their children to our high school. The third family are an Australian family of Chinese-African background with a disabled child who were introduced to my family because my daughter has a similar disability.

Despite my initial reservations about the wisdom of home schooling I have to say that my observations of the children from these three families are positive. They have a good work habits, they help with household chores and they perform well in their studies post-home schooling. For example the children from the second family who are of Anglo-Australian background came to our Greek Orthodox school and topped the class in Greek as well as many other subjects. Some of them are now at university and I have noticed how many University activities they have become engaged with and many of them do volunteer work in the community.

The children interact well with my children and some of them are good friends. I noticed with the third family that the children not only engage with their peers but they also enjoy conversations with adults. In sporting events they show sportsmanship and in any group activities they work well. They are not spoilt nor do they wish to work on their own. They are keen to interact and they do not try to dominate. We usually choose these children in our church activities for a variety of tasks because they are reliable.

Home schooling also has an impact on the parents and the quality of family life. When my friend started to home school I asked her how she was going and she described to me the changes in herself and the family. She described how it helped her reconnect with her children, even a simple drive to the local shops became an opportunity to engage with her children in new ways. All outings became a way to

look at the world in a new way.

I am a teacher in a Public School, my children go to an Independent school and some of my friends and acquaintances home school. Diversity in Education can only be positive in our community.