

Submission
No 27

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I would like to inform the commission of my experience observing one family of home schoolers over a number of years and having made acquaintance with a number of other home schoolers. I do not practice home schooling myself, however after my observations have only the utmost respect for parents that decide to take on the task. I believe that not only is this a viable and safe method for educating children for parents and carers that choose to take this on, but that government education institutions should specifically support and cater to this sector.

The family I have observed has constructed their home school with mother as the main teacher and six children ages ranging from 4 to 16 years old as students.

On my frequent visits to their home I have been impressed by the level of work each child is able to complete, from scale models of Giza pyramids (the older kids) to hanging mobiles decorated with days of the week (the younger kids), or planets in the solar system (a joint effort). Each of the students' independence is reflected in the topics they discover and take upon themselves to research. The children are taught across a wide range of subjects and have opportunities to experience a high quality education in a manner that the state system would struggle to provide. All the children are competent on multiple musical instruments.

The students are very active members of the local church, which I am also a member. I am aware they also have weekly sport sessions, regularly go out on excursions to visit places such as the fire station, library, or hospital visits. They are all very capable of socialising with all ages and are seen out of the house in different places most days each week.

The home schooled students I have met as acquaintances have impressed me with their above-average social skills. They have a self-confidence in expressing themselves that sets them apart from others, at least in my experience.

I believe that the success of home schooling depends on the earnest commitment of the educator, which in my experience has always been a parent. This same parent should have the right to bring a safe and balanced education to their children with the support of local schools and NSW government. I have no doubt as to not only the safety and wellbeing of home schooled students, but also their ability to move to the next level of education or workplace.