

**Submission  
No 7**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Name:** Dr Emma Vieira

**Date received:** 29/06/2014

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JMJ  
June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Senate Committee Inquiry – Home Schooling

I wish to submit the following for consideration by the committee.

I was homeschooled for all of high school, from Year 7 (age 12) until the completion of Year 12 (age 17). My education was supervised primarily by my mother (a year 12 graduand) during this period, but extensively supported by my father, a builder. Both my parents were extremely supportive of my academic interests, and encouraged me to aspire to any career I wished to excel in.

On completion of my year 12 studies, I sat the SAT I, and also started studying some university subjects by distance education through Curtin University (WA), Monash University, and Griffith University. After completing over a year at undergraduate level, I had achieved a high distinction average, and applied to study medicine. Despite have been told not to even bother applying at the University of Tasmania (as I had not done the High School Certificate), I was offered an early place at their medical school in December of 2001. However, I was also offered a place at the University of Newcastle medical school in January of the following year, and decided to go there instead. I maintained an excellent academic record throughout my studies, and graduated with distinction and the University Medal in 2007. Since then, I have excelled at a postgraduate level and recently passed the written component of my fellowship examination for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (clinical component to be sat in the near future).

Over the last five years, I have balanced working as a doctor and continuing study, with marrying and having three beautiful children.

My experience of homeschooling was obviously very positive from an academic point of view. However, the home was also an invaluable early “school” for training in virtue, strength of character, and social ability. I am the eldest of four girls, and we were encouraged to make friends with people of all ages – an ability which we maintain to this day. We also grew very close as a family, and I still claim my sisters as my closest friends – a tremendous blessing in this age of widespread disintegration of the family unit.

Homeschooling provides children with a very “natural” environment in which to learn. Their primary educators are the people who love them the most in the world, and who have their best interests at heart. My own parents encouraged both me and each of my siblings to work hard, and instilled in us the belief that we could excel in any area we wished.

I firmly believe that the State has a responsibility to support and assist parents who wish to homeschool their children, and who are capable of

providing them with an appropriate education. Homeschooling, properly carried out, has the potential to give children an enjoyable, supportive, academically sound and socially beneficial education.

I am happy to be contacted for further information should this be required.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Emma Vieira  
General Practice Registrar  
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