

**Submission  
No 40**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Name:** Ms Korina Ivatt

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2014

The Director  
Select Committee on Home Schooling  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY**

I would like to comment on the following terms of reference:

(a) the background of home schooling including comparison of practices with other jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand,

I would like to see a system similar to Victoria, one that is not so prohibitive to home education and restrictive to family choices.

(b) the current context of home schooling in New South Wales including:

(i) outcomes of home schooling including in relation to transition to further study and work,

My children have benefitted immensely from being home educated and I would never send them back to school; the system just cannot cater to them. My children have become more socially mature, competent and can follow and develop their interests while still receiving a first class education.

Home education works and my children have never been more motivated to learn nor my family or happier.

(ii) financial costs,

As we home educate we are saving the government money by taking the costs of education on ourselves and I believe their really should be some financial support from the Government, though even if there is not I will continue to home educate my children as the financial strain is worth it.

(iii) demographics and motivation of parents to home school their children,

We choose to home educate as the system failed m children, they had needs that the schools could not, or did not, cater to. We were initially forced to make the change to home school but now love it and would never go back to a school.

(iv) extent of and reasons for unregistered home schoolers,

While we are registered I find the registration system here in NSW onerous and certainly understand why many people do not register and if I had my time again, i.e. Had never put my children in the education system, I would of chosen to not register and just stayed under the radar too.

(v) characteristics and educational needs of home schooled children,

I cannot express enough the necessity of having homeschooling as an educational option, school is just not an option for some children due to for example anxiety, when my daughter left school she was so stressed and anxious she literally did not leave my side, except for once she was asleep, for three months. It was exhausting and distressing for our whole family. She is now, three years on, a confident, outspoken child who loves to learn. A home education success story.

(vi) comparison of home schooling to school education including distance education,

My children have various learning opportunities being home educated and these are very successful and child lead. It would be impossible to just restrict their learning to just our home, they learn every minute of every day, where we are does not change that.

(i) current registration processes and ways of reducing the number of unregistered home schoolers,

I am not satisfied with the current NSW registration process. It is far to onerous and should be moved to a system similar to Victoria. Homeschoolers should be consulted about the registration process and that the process should be supportive of homeschooling, something it currently is not.

(ii) training, qualifications and experience of authorised persons,

The AP's should support homeschooling, many do not. And at least one homeschool representative should be on the decision making board when hiring new AP's.

(iii) adherence to delivery of the New South Wales Syllabuses,

While I can link my children's learning to the syllabus I find it a complete waste of my precious time, time I could be spending with my children, facilitating their learning, quality of education is achieved without the syllabus.

(iv) potential benefits or impediments to children's safety, welfare and wellbeing,

Home education provided the opportunity to improve and protect my children's wellbeing and the environment I have created for them in our home schooling community is a good environment which helps them grow as individuals without judgment, bullying, physical or verbal abuse, and other forms of oppression.

One committee member, John Kaye, has expressed the view that home educated children are vulnerable to being abused because they are not being seen in school every day. This idea is beyond ridiculous, my children were abused in the system and being a home educating family means we, as a family, are open to much more scrutiny from the public as we are outside the box of normality. Home education is not the lazy parenting option; it is hard work and takes enormous love and dedication from parents.

(vi) appropriateness of the current regulatory regime and ways in which it could be improved,

I would like to see more appropriate regulation put in place, similar to the system in Victoria.

(d) support issues for home schooling families and barriers to accessing support,

I would like to be able to access support that is available to students in government and private schools but not to home educated children. Some examples include access to TVET courses, Open High School, School Sports Programs, Hospital School programs and support programs for students with a disability. In some other states home educated students are able to be part-time enrolled in school in order to access particular subjects, support or programs. I would strongly support these being available to those home educating families that feel they would be beneficial to them.

(e) representation of home schoolers within Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BoSTES), and

There are 23 members on the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards. They include teachers, principals, nominees of the Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools, an expert in early childhood education, an Aboriginal person and various others. There is no member representing home educators on the Board, even though BoSTES is responsible for the regulation of home education in NSW. I think that BoSTES should be required to have at least one member that represents the home education community.

Kind regards,

Korina Ivatt