

Submission
No 23

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

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Partially Confidential

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My name is Anastasia Ur. I am the grandmother of a home schooled child.
home schools my grandson, .

I wanted to write to you to tell you my thoughts on home schooling.

Before my grandson attended school, he was so jovial, confident and content. But school changed him, and he lost all his happiness and confidence. I remember seeing him during that time and I felt very sad for him.

When told me that she was taking out of school and home schooling him instead, I was glad. I didn't know much about home schooling, but I thought that anything was better than what he was going through at that time. I remember pleading with his mum to not send him to school every day. He was so worried all the time, and when he would come home every afternoon he was so angry. He was a changed boy.

So he started home school, and for a while nothing much happened. He couldn't ever seem to stop talking about a particular boy that had bullied him very badly, and he still felt worried for a very long time, still having lots of nightmares, even months later, and he was always talking about feeling stupid. would tell me that he couldn't really concentrate on anything much and was struggling with learning even the simplest things, so she decided to just let him have a lot of rest time, and she reassured him all the time that he would eventually be able to start learning. In the meantime we took him to beautiful places, like the beach, and played lots of games with him and I read him lots of stories, which he loved.

After quite a while started to seem much calmer and happier, and he began to smile more. I have a lovely memory of him being in a bubble bath singing songs about the times tables (the chart was on the bathroom wall in front of him). He was starting to learn slowly at last. When taught him to tell the time and to read, we were all overjoyed and was so happy that he was managing to learn things - he felt that he wasn't stupid after all. It was a time of celebration!

I think that home school suits much better than school. Some children can do well at school, my daughter did well at school. But I feel it is not the right place for . He is so happy and confident again now, he does wonderful things to learn now, he goes in plays at the local theatre, he looks after animals, he has plenty of friends who like him, and he is a busy bee and not stressed out anymore. I don't think this is how the story would have ended up if he had stayed at school. I think staying at school, for , would have cast a shadow over the rest of his life, because it didn't work for him - it made life so horrible for him. I am so glad that my daughter has been able to do this for him. I feel so proud of them both.

I thought you should know that it has also been so much hard work for . I know she loves to do this for , and I know that she enjoys it too, but it has been very hard because she is a single mum, and hasn't had any help with anything. also studies at uni and looks after my needs a lot too, so it takes a lot of energy and she doesn't have any time for herself.

I hope that this committee can see how worthwhile home schooling is, and that it makes a big difference in the lives of the children who do it. Please make sure that you support home schoolers because they are giving us a huge gift - these home schooled kids are going to be a force for good in the world, I am sure.

Yours Sincerely,

Anastasia Ur