

Submission
No 56

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 22/07/2014

Partially Confidential

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY

Five years ago I was invited to teach a class made up of home educated children aged 5-8 years of age. I accepted this invitation and enjoyed teaching this group of children immensely. I was then offered a primary school class as well as a high school class which I accepted.

I currently teach four classes and enjoy that time immensely. I find the children eager to learn, enthusiastic, cooperative and able to engage meaningfully in classroom discussions. These classes are all group based and the social skills of the children are self-evident. They are able to form smaller groups within the larger group and work together to achieve the required outcome, communicate their ideas to each other and to myself and generally work together in a way that shows respect for one another.

I have also met the parents of these children and find them to be passionate about their child's education. The group classes that I run are just one element in their home education programme. These children truly receive a rich education.

I write my own programme for each class based on the relevant NSW Board of Studies syllabuses with attention to the outcomes. The children receive both oral and written instruction and complete worksheets and the like as part of the classwork.

In late 2014, I was informed by the parents that the then Board of Studies no longer considered classes such as mine to be part of the educational programme of the child. I am at a loss to understand the reasoning behind this decision as the content is based around the syllabus and the outcomes for the Key Learning Area taught. Despite the Board of studies deciding that these classes no longer constituted "learning", the parents decided that the learning occurring is real, valuable and meets the outcomes of the syllabus and as such they have chosen to continue with these classes.

It is truly a pleasure teaching these children.