

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 8/08/2014

Partially Confidential

I have been home schooling since the start of 2014. I currently home school my 6 year old child, however, I have three younger children at home as well.

I decided to home school because;

- after being an actively involved parent during my child's Kindergarten year at our local Public school last year I was left with

- a) no trust or confidence in the principal

- b) no faith that the school could cater for any learning support needs my children might have without being propped up (currently to the tune of \$45,000/year) by the hardworking P&C

- c) no belief that the Department of Education had any ability or will to resolve the above after my complaint was essentially ignored.

- funding cuts and a lack of proper funding in general to Public Education means that schools are less able to provide the education I know my children deserve.

- I am a qualified teacher and I know the impacts of funding cuts on education. Quality teaching IS the essential ingredient in a quality education, but I know how hard it is to deliver to a class of 30 when you are constantly being asked to do more with less. Teachers are always the ones who are going to have to provide the buffer and the vast majority of them do an outstanding job but I don't want the quality of my children's education to be at the mercy of the government of the day.

- I believe that education in NSW is being run like a business with a focus on the quantitative and students' test results rather than other aspects of child development and education that I believe are far more important in ensuring a fulfilling and successful future for my kids.

- after deciding to leave our local public school we found that

- a) three other local public schools were "at capacity" and not taking out of area enrolments anyway

- b) attending the closest secular independent school would be unaffordable for us and mean that our infant children had to spend over an hour each day travelling through Sydney traffic in a car

- I knew I had the knowledge and expertise to provide our children with a balanced and enriched version of the current Australian Curriculum

- we knew other home educators who were providing their children with an amazing education and had a wonderful balance of home/work/family life filled with many opportunities that would simply not exist for a system schooled child. That seemed very attractive.

- although the cost of homeschooling to our family means a loss of \$90,000/a in potential income (and yet another mother out of the workforce to the economy) that is actually economical for our family when weighed up against the cost of privately educating our four children.

Our children do not miss out on anything that system schooled children have through being homeschooled. They are always social, engaged and active. They are learning at their own pace. They are motivated. They are safe. They are comparing themselves to no one but themselves. They are happy and they are learning.

Being a teacher, I am not phased by the requirements of BoSTES for registration for home schooling. However, I can completely understand why other home educators would find it daunting, time consuming and essentially, a pointless paperwork exercise.

I do agree with other home schooling families who believe that home educators need their own independent Board which reports directly to the Minister. This Board should have a support role. Home educators need to be on this Board.

Thank you for conducting this inquiry and for considering my submission.