

**Submission
No 165**

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Mrs Carol Ordish

Date received: 8/08/2014

Dear Select Committee on Home Schooling

Having used the public school system with our first three children and then having experienced private schooling and home schooling with our last child I wish to identify areas of benefit and concern.

Public and private school systems areas of concern:

Three of our four children had some difficulties that were overlooked by busy and frazzled teachers e.g. illness related hearing loss, anxiety and learning difficulties. Even when we had expressed concerns we were told the children we doing alright.

Our children attended city and country schools and the difference was extreme. At the city schools the children were average students but in the country schools they were above average topping the class but within 6 months our children were struggling like the whole class.

Homeschooling however showed a far superior result:

Our last child was in a private school until year 5 and gradually deteriorated academically as no one realised he was suffering. He was a very likeable quiet child who outwardly seemed happy. The teachers remarked he was doing well but we did not agree as we could see the decline. Finally, the stress our child experienced in the classroom as he tried to cope brought on severe depression and eventually all the school's efforts failed to help our child and he had to leave school. We also tried another school after this one without success.

It took many years to undo damage that had been done which made homeschooling a challenge at first, but our son came through and passed Year 10 with an amazingly good result.

Recommendations for action:

Support financially for homeschooling parents is essential as they do an amazingly hard job as well as taking their children on excursions at a great cost and giving them sporting opportunities privately that children at school receive at little cost.

Children who are home-schooled are made to feel like a lower class and that their parents are abusive. For the sake of our children this needs to be corrected.

Home schooled children should be given more assistance with the Government Distance Education. The distance education teachers are spread so thin and asked to do more than is humanly possible. It almost cost our son his education in Year 10 because the teachers could not cope as they said they were too busy to give advice, so we managed ourselves. This should not happen.