

**Submission  
No 91**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

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## MY THOUGHTS ON HOMESCHOOLING

When my daughter first told me she would be homeschooling her children I was horrified. I could not imagine taking on such a huge responsibility and feared my grandchildren would be shy, inarticulate and unable to go to University or higher schooling. Now, 10 years later I have found, to my amazement, quite the opposite is the case. All my grandchildren are growing up to be confident, happy and very articulate. I have met many of their homeschooled friends and found them also to be amazing human beings.

The turning point for me was about 4 years ago when I joined a home schooling excursion to Canberra. During this trip I met about 14 adults and many children ranging in age from babies to teenagers. They were doing a history exercise on the two World Wars so the excursion was timed to include Anzac Day. We rose early in extreme cold to see the Dawn Service. We had front row seats for the parade later in the day. During the 3 days in Canberra we visited the War Memorial, Questacon and Parliament House. At Parliament House we learned how the political system and voting works. The children were very interested in all the activities and asked intelligent questions. I am sure they learned a lot during the 3 days.

The thing that impressed me most during that trip was the dedication and the passion of the parents and realised that children brought up in this way must have a good outcome. I was also impressed with the way older children interacted with the younger ones quite naturally taking on a caring parenting role. In school the children are grouped by age and do not so naturally interact with children older or younger than their class age. Whereas age is not a problem for home schooled children who socialise with all ages including adults.

My own five grandchildren are very confident, eager to learn and extremely caring to me and their other grandmother who lives with them. The teenagers are happy to sit with me and discuss world affairs and what they intend to do in the future.

My eldest grandson who is now 16 has embarked on a 6 month journalism course which can lead to other TAFE courses and university entry if he so desires. My granddaughter is a very keen ice skater and all the children have participated in gymnastics, music and choir just to mention a few of their many activities.

I am now a converted home schooling supporter because I can see my grandchildren growing into responsible, caring human beings eager to get on and succeed with their lives.

Your sincerely,

*W.A. Bennett*

Wendy Bennett