

## INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

**Name:** Mr Mark Watkeys

**Date received:** 28/07/2014

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Partially Confidential

20<sup>th</sup> July 2014

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY

My name is Mark Watkeys. I have a 12 year old son, \_\_\_\_\_, who is home schooled by his mother. My son asked me to write to you in support of him as a home schooler, which I am more than happy to do.

My son had a difficult time at school, both in terms of learning and socialisation. \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't learning anything at school in the 2.5 years he was there, and he was being very severely bullied as well by a number of other kids in his class. By the time his mother began home schooling him he was in pretty bad shape in terms of his lack of self-esteem from not being able to learn anything, and from being constantly bullied, harassed and ignored.

When \_\_\_\_\_ first started to home school I wasn't entirely sure about the long term viability of it, but I agreed to it because things had become so dire for him. I didn't know much about it. None of my family did either. My parents, \_\_\_\_\_ Grandparents, initially supported it in the beginning when they thought it was only going to be for 2 years. After that they felt that he should go back to school in order to be socialised and because they didn't think that he would be able to continue learning at home as he got older. \_\_\_\_\_ mum then provided my parents with lots of examples of \_\_\_\_\_ work, explained to them about all of the great opportunities that \_\_\_\_\_ had with the local home schooling community; about all of the friendships he had been developing; about all of the ways in which \_\_\_\_\_ learnt; and about what he learnt; & about how \_\_\_\_\_ learning disabilities could be so well catered to at home. \_\_\_\_\_ spoke to them about his perspective also, and together they both explained why he wanted to continue doing home school. Following all of that, grandparents are now fully supportive of \_\_\_\_\_ home schooling for his high school years.

\_\_\_\_\_ has now been home schooling for quite a while. The things which make home schooling so positive for him in my eyes are that he is in a safe environment now, which is paramount, he is learning effectively now at a pace that works well for him, and he has good friends. So from my perspective, it is a much healthier situation for him.

Thankyou so much for taking the time to read my submission. I hope that this helps to give you an understanding of how home schooling has worked for my son and how it has positively impacted his life.

Yours sincerely

Mark Watkeys