

Submission
No 86

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY

We began our home educating journey about 10 years ago. We began as one of our children was struggling in his Kindergarten class. We knew from the experiences of our friends that a child who struggles in Kindergarten struggles through the rest of the school years.

At the end of Kindergarten, the teacher suggested an intensive reading programme for my wife to commence with my son over the summer holidays and continue into Year 1. To me, this seemed like the school was saying that it was my wife's responsibility to teach our son to read. Hence, we decided that it would be better to take over the whole education of our son rather than do remedial work with him after school.

This was one of the best decisions we ever made. My son learned to read and write in a supportive environment. He was not assessed against his peers and as such his love of learning and confidence was not affected. Also, the many excursions, workshops and group activities that my son participated in allowed him to make many friends and enjoy his school years.

It is important that home education be made accessible to all parents who choose this type of education. The registration process should be transparent, simple and focus on whether the educational programme meets the specific needs of the child. Parents should also be supported in this choice.

In terms of registration, I feel that there needs to be an overhaul of the current system. A new Board needs to be established that reports directly to the Minister of Education. This Board should also have a support function. I am in favour of Tasmania model, THEAC.