

**Submission  
No 11**

## **INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING**

**Name:** Mrs Samantha Bryan

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To the Inquiry Committee,

I write as a tertiary educated woman who is currently home-educating 5 children in Queensland. Given the moves towards a national curriculum in Australia and the various benefits of a uniform system for families moving interstate, it seems reasonable to me that home educating families could expect a uniform registration system for home educating in the various states. Unfortunately, that is not the case. And sadly, the current onerous requirements imposed upon families registering for home education in NSW would make our family unlikely to contemplate a move to NSW, despite the majority of our family living there.

More than a decade ago, just before we began our home educating journey, Queensland conducted a review of home education. The review found that home education is a positive education choice and results in excellent outcomes both academically and socially. (I am assuming you have done your homework and already know about the excellent results of home education, attested by both empirical and anecdotal means, so I won't bore you with an apologetic for home education here.\*) Unfortunately, the preferred models for registering were not accepted by the government but the Home Education Unit was instituted and has certainly been a better model than was previously in place.

As an inquiry is underway into the registration process, I would strongly recommend that you investigate models for home education registration used in other states and also in New Zealand. Though I have not had the opportunity to experience them myself, I have heard very favourable comments about the registration processes in both Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand, with the former being particularly well regarded.

If someone goes to the bother to inform the government that they will be home educating, they are clearly not a negligent parent who is simply too lazy to send their child to school. Home educating parents are passionate about their children's education and make many sacrifices to deliver that education. More than most parents, they want their child to succeed – to the extent that they are willing to engage in a time-consuming endeavour and experience the disapproval and suspicion of many in the community. Parents who deny their family a second income, who get no breaks from the child (no dropping little Johnny at school for 6 hours of time to do what Mummy or Daddy wants, be that pleasure or work), who have no one else to blame when their child is still struggling with a maths concept, are the kind of parents that are highly invested in their children's education and outcomes. They will find the way to help their child succeed. These parents do not need strict regulations regarding curriculum or reporting. They need the support of a government (whom they are saving an immense amount of money!) and as simple a process as possible, so that they can get on with the job of delivering a quality education to their child.

I urge you to listen well to the submissions made by home educating families and provide a system of registering which shows respect and trust in these families who are willing to walk the road less travelled to give their children a quality education.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Bryan

\*As personal evidence of this I cite my eldest daughter, who was offered an academic scholarship upon sitting her first ever test at the age of 12 – the ACER scholarship exam. We did not accept it, in part because I figured her result was proof that I was doing a more than adequate job with her. I also mention my eldest son, who recently sat the NAPLAN test at our local high school and was commended by the principal as being a potential future school captain, should he attend the school. Hardly a comment one would make if he fit the stereotypical profile of homeschooled children as socially maladjusted.