

Submission  
No 82

## INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOME SCHOOLING INQUIRY**

I am currently in Year 10 and have been home schooled since Year 1. My goal is to study Engineering at UNSW when I finish Year 12. I am planning on finishing my education in the home school environment.

Home schooling to me has given me opportunities that school could not give me. My mother decided to home school me at the end of Year 1 because I struggled at school to learn to read. To be honest, I did not realise that I had any difficulties and just did the work that she gave me. I did not realise as I was so young that it was a very tailored programme that took into account my learning style and also did not rely on reading to teach all subjects. For example, I can remember learning about animals and doing projects on animals but my mother would read to me and we would watch DVDs about the topic. As the years passed, I became a competent reader and writer. In Year 7, I sat NAPLAN and my results were in the top 20%. I felt very proud with these results.

This shows one of the greatest benefits of home schooling - a child is given time to learn basic skills without feeling that they can't keep up with the class. I have friends who are at school and find it difficult. The constant homework and testing is having a negative effect on their self-esteem and they stop wanting to learn. As for me, I enjoy learning new things and school is not a negative in my life.

My primary school years were fantastic! Apart from the English and Maths which we did at home, many of the other subjects were done in groups which was fun. We also went to weekly social groups and excursions. One big advantage of home schooling is that you can finish the work quicker and have more time for the things that you enjoy.

In the last couple of years I have increased the time I spend doing "bookwork" at home as I am working towards meeting the entry requirements for the University of NSW. I still attend social groups and participate in group classes. Over the years, I have made many wonderful friends from these groups.

I am really enjoying the lifestyle that home schooling is providing and am grateful to my mother for giving me this opportunity.