

Supplementary
Submission
No 253a

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 6/08/2014

Partially Confidential

I want to draw your attention to something I discovered recently from the Central Coast Montessori School. I discovered they had made an application for home-schooled children to attend one or two days a week to a separate part of the school, but that the application was rejected by the board. This greatly saddens me. There are a great many parents, including myself, who would benefit from having their home-educated children go to such an education centre on a part-time basis which not only gives the child an even greater access to resources, people and knowledge but it also lessens the pressure somewhat on us parents, freeing some time to work part-time or simply enjoy some quiet while running the household or take advantage of some one-on-one time with younger children. Why is it all or nothing?

Whilst I don't want my child going to school, a day or so a week attending a Montessori school where he would benefit from different learning and which would further enrich the learning he does at home would make a significant difference to the quality of our lives, and I'm sure other families' lives. Yes the responsibility to provide a quality education would still rest with us, the parents, but why not widen the net and give parents the choice of something extra?

I feel very disappointed this application was rejected and I admit I don't know the full story, but I would like the board to reconsider. There are many home-educating families whom you could support by providing this as a choice. One day in the not too distant future I would like to see some kind of homeschooling co-op or centre where children can go for the day or afternoon and pick and choose what they would like to learn more about. I would like there to be government funding because we are here educating the young people of Australia, and I really would like to see more support for what we do by listening to our needs and requests.

Yes I'm grateful that we can access so many wonderful classes but I would like for there to be a small funded home education centre run by great teachers who understand the whys and hows of home education, so that it provides a little space for us as parents and benefits everyone all round. Yes I'm deeply passionate about educating my children away from school and I'm very grateful that this is possible in this great country of ours, but it is 2014 and I would like acknowledgement of the great work we do by allowing us to be supported if and when we need it. Thank you.