

INQUIRY INTO HOME SCHOOLING

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 8/08/2014

Partially Confidential

I have been asked to share this letter to the inquiry.

I am an unregistered homeschooler. I have 3 kids. I homeschool my 11 yo, my 6 yo attends the local school and I have a preschooler.

I chose to homeschool based on my sons special needs and the lack of support available for him in the school system. He has a neurological disorder that affects his speech, emotions, auditory and receptive processing, memory and sleep. He has extreme attention difficulties and a learning delay.

The best thing about homeschooling is that I have been able to teach him at his pace and I have had an opportunity to help him in his emotional development and to put him in an environment where comparisons are not made and he can enjoy learning. He thrives because of homeschooling. The paediatrician, psychologist and neuologist are amazed at his development as he has far outshone their expectations. I attribute this to a supportive, loving and consistent environment.

The reason why I don't register is because we have gone through periods where our main focus has had to be on his emotional stability. When my son is stressed, depressed or anxious he cannot learn. Sometimes he is unable to sleep for nights on end. His brain just can't cope at those times with structured learning too. I feel like the BOSTES would not understand my sons unique needs and might refuse registration or give me a shorter registration period.

Also not having the pressure of the BOSTES allows me to truly tailor the learning plan to my sons needs. I would feel stressed feeling he has to achieve normal milestones when it clearly not possible. Even if I was the best teacher in the world he would not.

I have had to pay for psychological testing which is free to children in school. I would like access to all other services available to school children that may benefit my child.

I would register if I trusted the registration process, I knew it would be unstressful and that I could homeschool my son according to his needs. I would prefer a supportive system that was more interested in my son achieving his potential than compliance with

documentation. The BOSTES is too closely related to the school system and does not truly support or understand home education.

I would favour an overhaul of the system so as to have remove all involvement with the BOSTES and instead an independent body set up with support of home education as its primary goal. The system that exists in Tasmania sounds like a system that I would register under.

Regards