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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**at the Select Committee on Home Schooling of the Parliament of NSW on**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014, by Michael Brearley, Consultant to Cardinal**  
**Newman Catechist Consultants.**

**AND CLARIFICATION TO THE TRANSCRIPT**  
**in regards to Cardinal Newman Catechist Consultants**

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## QUESTION ON NOTICE 1

The Hon. Adam Searle stated:

*...there is no hard data about the total experience from the homeschooling sector, is there? We do not have any reliable and factual information in particular in reference to New South Wales that we are able to base any conclusion on.*

### RESPONSE

Our Submission p2 said:

*“The **NSW Parliamentary Research Service**, in August, 2013, published an e-brief, Issue 7/2013, **HOME EDUCATION IN NSW**, by Talina Drabuch. In 15 pages it documents with succinct thoroughness the state of Home Education in NSW and the other Australian states, with briefer coverage of UK and USA. It concludes: ‘Ultimately, much of the division of opinion centres around whether the greatest right and responsibility for a child’s education rests with the state or with parents’.”*

This research suggests Home Education in NSW is satisfactory.

There is also the submission prepared for this select Committee by Glenda Jackson of the Faculty of Education, Monash University, “Summary of Australian Research on Home Education”. She documents a vast set of surveys in Australia and points out that there is no need to quote precedents from other countries, where similar research has found favourable for Home Schooling.

But best of all would be interviewing volunteer or selected...

- Home schooling families
- Their graduates
- Their records of achievement in higher studies, and
- Assessment from their employees

The Board of Studies Teaching and educational Standards (BoSTES) could commission this research but has not as yet done it. Also there is “no hard data about the total experience” of schooling from Government or Private Schools with which to compare it.

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## QUESTION ON NOTICE 2

The Hon. Trevor Khan asked:

***Are you able to enlighten as to what percentage of homeschooling parents take their kids out of the normal schooling system because of PDHPE?***

### RESPONSE

No, I can't enlighten you on such a percentage. It would require the BoSTES or someone with the personnel and funding to conduct the research indicated in the second last paragraph of Answer to Question on Notice 1. The Cardinal Newman Catechist Consultants provide free help on request. It has no funding and it is for others to do the surveys and to document the research.

Many reasons for not exposing their children to PDHPE have been given to our consultants from a spread of home schooling parents. Indeed, PDHPE can be false teaching when it purveys the untruthful, unscientific view that promiscuity or sodomy can be "safe practices". Many parents choose to avoid these false teachings (refer response to Question on Notice 3) by removing their children from PDHPE in the normal schooling system, and by teaching their children at home.

Dr Miriam Grossman MD, a Jewish psychologist, on her website (<http://www.miriamgrossmanmd.com/>) says,

*"After twenty years of practice, I'm tired of seeing the wounded...You see, lots of biology is not politically correct. Sex education promotes the 'anything goes, women are just like men' way of thinking. But medical journals are filled with discoveries that blow that vision sky high. What's so troubling is, they're ignored. Denying biology can be perilous, even fatal...My books expose the fiasco and the staggering price paid for it by individuals, families, and society. The response has been worldwide."*

A precise survey into reasons that parents homeschool their children might reveal the percentage of parents that take their children out of the normal schooling because of PDHPE, but it would be of academic interest. It would not alter the fact that it is a substantial reason for avoiding systemic schooling, whether Government, or compliant religious schools.

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## QUESTION ON NOTICE 3

The Hon. Trevor Khan asked re our Submission p6 :

***What are the false teachings and attitudes?***

### RESPONSE

The false teachings are the immoralities contrary to the Natural Morality. They were summarised in our Submission in the last two sentences of “A Religious Curriculum”, top of p6:

“Natural morality is common ground for all legitimate religious curricula. Natural morality observes and upholds **freedom of religious belief, the rights and duties of parents, and respect for life, marriage and property of others, and telling the truth about them.**”

*(Bold type added for emphasis)*

The emphasis in bold type abbreviates the Ten Commandments. Note the hierarchic order, that God comes first. In essence, it is a rejection of God and the relativising of morals to each individual’s whims, which results in a distortion of an individual’s “moral compass”.

Earlier assertions by the Hon. Adam Searle, which immediately preceded his query in Question of Notice 1, challenged our Submission p6 on “natural morality native to all human beings” and the “Ten Commandments” and “a lot of backsliding”. He rejected our explanations of “natural moral law”, “natural moral good”, “natural moral virtues” and said, “*That is not what your submission says but I will move on*” and following it with what is numbered above as Question on Notice 1, which is answered above.

The Ten Commandments as revealed by God to Moses are found in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. They are unsurpassed as the most noble standard for morals for any set of people in the ancient world. The history of ancient civilisations shows how fitting it was that God the Creator reinforced His “Maker’s Instructions” built into the human consciousness as natural morality with direct revelations backed by miracles as the signature of God Himself.

And of course there was a lot of backsliding! However, the Chosen People had a clear standard of morality. They were given a “moral compass”, hence they knew and sometimes admitted when they were doing wrong. They did not use verbal engineering or relativism to redefine wrong as being right.

The natural moral law is not limited to Christianity. A great pagan philosopher, the Roman Lawyer Cicero, 106-43 BC., spoke of TRUE LAW AND RIGHT REASON (Republic III, 22):

*There is in fact a true law-namely right reason- which is in accordance with nature, applies to all men, and is unchangeable and eternal. By its commands this law summons all men to the performance of their duties; by its prohibitions it restrains them from doing wrong. Its commands and prohibitions always influence good men, but are without effect upon the bad.*

*To invalidate this law by human legislation is never morally right, nor is it permissible ever to restrict its operation and to annul it wholly is impossible. Neither the people nor the Senate can absolve us from our obligation to obey this law, and it requires no Sextus Aelius to expound and interpret it. It will not lay down one rule at Rome and another at Athens, nor will it be one rule today and another tomorrow.*

*But there will be one law, eternal and unchangeable, binding at all times and upon all peoples; and there will be, as it were, one common master and ruler of all men, namely God, who is the author of this law, its interpreter and its sponsor.*

The Hon. Trevor Khan's Question on Notice n3 seems to bear particularly on same sex attracted school age pupils.

'Same sex attraction' is a natural part of growing up for many adolescents, only recently has it become sexualised. In the past it was seen as 'having a crush' on an older person of the same sex who was admired – hero worshipped – by the younger person. By late teens that has in most cases developed into a natural attraction to the opposite sex. This natural attraction to the opposite sex can be perverted by false teaching from the PDHPE syllabus.

Catholic parents in particular and other Bible Christians, uphold the complementarity of the male and female sex and its relationship to the biology of the physical organs and their role in procreation.

The Hon. Adam Searle on page 5 of the uncorrected proof challenged our submission (page 4) on its reference to the family as biological:

He asserted: *...the notion of family is limited to biology...*

However, our Submission p4 does not thus limit the notion of family but uses the word **normatively**:

*The natural family is normatively made up of children of a marriage. Each child is the "two-in-one-flesh" of the marriage of a father and mother. Father, mother and children are bonded to each other in a truly unique way, not only socially and psychologically, but biologically. Hence the family is the natural social grouping and foundation of any society.*

"Normatively" is the basis for extending the term "family" to such situations as "blended and adopted". Without some such foundational meaning of family as biological, "family" cannot be extended in this fashion. Note that there are parents who have adopted children, and those who raise children in single parent situations, who would quite happily admit that it is not the same. Their family situation, whilst being a loving environment, only approximates to the ideal, and does not imply that other forms of family are aberrant or are a deviation.

The Cardinal Newman Catechist Consultants uphold the teaching of the Catholic Church as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (hence CCC) 1992/2000. On the subject of matrimony, this teaching is:

#### THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

CCC 1601 "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptised persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."

Australian law on marriage is similar to that of the Catholic Church: *"Marriage (is) the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others voluntarily entered into for life."*

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## CLARIFICATION

Dr John Kaye's question on Page 4 of the uncorrected proof asked:

***Who are the Cardinal Newman Catechist Consultants?***

This could have been answered:

*The letterhead has the answer, including also the information that it is a "Free Service...not a business, no sales, no cheques"*

As for his questions by way of statements:

*It is not formally part of the Catholic Church?*

*It is not formally affiliated with the Catholic Church?*

Our answer, "It is a loose association" is accurate since The Official Directory of the Catholic Church in Australia 2014-2015, p2 says:

*The category 'Other Organisations' includes societies or organisations for the purpose of spiritual development and /or apostolic activities of their members. They have been approved by ecclesiastical authorities either formally or implicitly by the appointment of a priest as chaplain or spiritual director. To be included in this Directory, an organisation of this kind should be at least Diocesan-wide. It may operate in one or Diocese or in a number of Dioceses in the same state or on a nation-wide basis.*

In the list of Other Organisations in the Archdiocese of Sydney, p553:

***Cardinal Newman Catechist Consultants***

*"Laurleigh"*

*H Tierney*

Our answer to is accurate, however the addition of:

*There are half a dozen or so...*

is an understatement. Depending on the subject matter, more consultants are called for help. **At least two dozen were consulted to develop our submission.**

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