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TO :
Ms. N. Tom
Department of Basic Education
Sol Plaatje House
123 Schoeman Street, Pretoria, 0001
Fax: (012) 328 9828
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Dear ms. Tom

The Revised National Curriculum Statement (NCS) introduced an outcomes based approach to education. It also changed the focus of education from the transfer of knowledge and skills to the transfer of values (purportedly "*the values of the Constitution*") to the next generation.

These two aspects of the NCS has caused South Africa as a country immeasurable harm, for the following reasons:

- 1) Outcomes based education as a educational system has failed all over the world. During a symposium in October 2008, former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor and World Bank director Mamphela Ramphele has said that outcomes based education has failed the nation. It should not be strengthened and refined, as the Department of Education suggests, but it should be done away with.
- 2) The change of focus from knowledge and skills to values, has created a skills crisis in South Africa that is costing the country billions of rands. This change of focus is the reason why the World Economic Forum ranks South Africa's maths and science education 121th compared to Zimbabwe which is ranked 71st.

It is therefore the opinion of the Association for Homeschooling that the National Curriculum Statement should not be strengthened, but it should be abandoned, and parents should have the freedom to decide for themselves what knowledge, skills and values should be transferred to their children.

Yours sincerely

Bouwe van der Eems
(Chairman : Association for Homeschooling)