****Expo 2016 — A parent’s perspective****

**Sitting round at the family dinner table certainly helped with both my children in working out well what direction do I want to take this in.**

**For example my daughter had a strong interest in forensic science and criminology, and at the time it was when, Lindy Chamberlain has just been given her official pardon, like 30 years on from when she was convicted of murdering her daughter. And this sort of piqued my daughter’s interest, ok what’s this about? And particularly the forensic and the criminology part of that. Again it was very interesting to her and of course to us ‘cos we’d been involved that back when we were younger so again lots of discussion about that was really good.**

**My son had an interest in sport, so again there was a huge diverse area and again there’s probably a lot of people here who do have a passion for sport. But what area do you look at? And again it just came up as a family talking about a news article at the time or something on the news about, the Indian cricket team not wanting to use the decision review system for cricket. He ended up talking to a former AFL player and a former Australian cricketer, so those things they’re really interested in, they’re going to to talk to you about as well.**

**You know you make suggestions about who your child could interview, who they could talk to and of course part of that is facilitating them to get there, you might be driving them out somewhere a long way away to interview someone.**

**You know you’d finding it too much information. Where do I go with this? I got so much information I don’t know where to go? Or I can’t find any information on this, what do I do now? Or there might be something that really particularly sparks an interest and so you change your sort of direction depending on what you’ve got and what road blocks you come to along the way, and that’s part of the actual research process and so you know I’d encourage my kids that, that’s ok, you know that’s part of your research process is working out what direction you’re going to take, changing direction along the way, and that’s you know I think that reassurance is really important, that’s part of what you might talk about on your evaluation and why you went this direction and why you chose something different or a certain aspect along the way.**

**Keep a journal of your discussions**

**You know keep a journal of those sort of discussions we had because they’d be talking about some of these difficulties or maybe I should’ve done that, I didn’t ask this particular question and you know encourage them look write them down and talk about what you did in response to that. Which, again, is part of what they’ve got to talk about in their evaluation.**

**Assist in finding survey participants**

**They, just about every student will do some sort of survey, so as a parent you will probably be asked to do a survey on your child’s area of interest. But again I think I’d encourage you as students or as parents to encourage them to not just send out great big Facebook group, you know answer my survey, ‘cos then you do tend to get that narrow group of just students in Year 11 and 12 and their perspective on your survey. So, and that was particularly important with my daughter who you know was looking at something that happened back in 1980, if she’d asked you know students of her age, they wouldn’t really know what she was talking about. So again I had to facilitate to make sure I sort of sent the survey around to people of my generation as well to get their perspective of what they thought when it was happening and what they thought now.**

**Keep asking questions**

**Ask them you know, what are you doing? What have you found? Why have you made that decision or how did you come to that? And then that starts getting along those, that sort of analysis of what they’ve done. From my perspective I guess it was nice to have a change to be able to talk to my children about what they are doing at school, instead of aw I don’t know, didn’t do much today and really opening up about the exciting things they were doing.**

**So you know it isn’t like any other subject that you’ll do. You do have to direct your learning and your parents are certainly the one who will help you along the way and hopefully keep track. You know the school will do a great job too but, but you know I certainly encouraged my children to keep track on their timeline, keep going, keep talking about what they are doing.**

**The value of the Research Project**

**And then my son the other day is now in year 12 commented how much it’s helped some of his other investigation type work that he’s doing in his year 12 subjects. You know he’s realised that you can’t just make the statement or opinion without backing that up with some evidence. You know to me I think is a really valuable skill that we want everyone to have as they grow up to be able to look at all perspectives and make a decision.**

**Yes enjoy the journey as a parent and again as a student keep talking to your parents as much as you can they’re going to help you along the way too. Thank you.**