

## Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025

<b>Submission No:</b>	2
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Patricia Fitzgerald
<b>Publication:</b>	Making the submission and your name public
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

To the Committee,

As a long-term home educator and community advocate, I welcome and support the proposed home education changes set out in the *Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025*. I commend all relevant parties involved for recognising the concerns raised in the community, particularly in addressing the inequalities that have limited our home educated students across the state and their access to year 12 equivalent educational opportunities.

This change will provide potential access to fair and equitable opportunities for dozens of students who are currently missing out and even more who would in future years if this proposal is not implemented. I will be eagerly looking forward to these changes coming into effect and appreciate our requests being included in the Bill.

I do have some reservations about specific wording within the Bill that may inadvertently perpetuate certain inequalities. Schools provide an additional year of study upon application for students who have delayed their start or repeated a year, this flexibility is not clearly extended to home educated students and would be particularly ideal for those who have entered home education from a mainstream school beginning where they were already accessing their schooling on an adjusted plan. While this does not impact the majority affected by the proposed s. 206 and s. 229A amendments, it may still disadvantage a small but significant group, particularly students with disabilities who require more time to complete their education with adequate supports.

Considering these additional factors, further amendments, now or in the future, would provide fair and inclusive access to education for all home educated students and close this gap.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am excited for the significant reduction of the inequity, that had affected my own child, that this proposed amendment in Clauses 9 and 10 will provide for the home education community and feel privileged to see such considerations and equity acknowledged and introduced whilst I still have a student home educating.

Patricia Fitzgerald